



Saturday, June 7th General Meeting

Time: Doors open at 9:45 am

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall
Mogadore, OH 44260
2697 Waterloo Road
(next to Saint Joseph church)
Parking is in the front of building

Host: Country Piecemakers Guild

Ohio has some of the highest rates of sex trafficking due to its intersections of major interstate highways!!! The Safe Harbor organization *provides a safe place for rescued (previously) trafficked women of many ages*. Country Piecemakers Guild supports the work of Safe Harbor through donations of member-made quilts.



Safe Harbor
Ohio

Speaker: Melissa Brown



Melissa first heard about sex trafficking in 2013 when she attended a conference in Atlanta, Georgia, which was designed to connect and empower an emerging generation of leaders to be changemakers. The woman on stage began to talk about how each person represented someone who would be trafficked in the city that day. She talked about girls who were being sold as a commodity. Melissa was shocked and her heart was instantly broken. She began to ask herself... *How could this happen? How could the innocence of children be stolen and sold to make money?*

Upon returning to Ohio, Melissa began to investigate human trafficking. Asking.... *Does it happen in Ohio? If so, where does it happen? Who are the good guys fighting this?* The answer was, yes, it happens in Ohio, and it happens in plain sight. Ohio currently ranks #5 in reported cases of human trafficking. Melissa researched organizations in her local community that work to eliminate sex trafficking, to educate the community, and to assist survivors. She began to volunteer in organizations that are making a difference. She has mentored two survivors and currently sits on the Stark County Juvenile Human Trafficking Task Force. Even so, there is much to be done!

Melissa lives by the belief that she has been placed on earth *for such a time as this* to help make an impact in this fight against evil. She knows that God has blessed her with a voice to speak up and fight for those who cannot speak for themselves.

"May my legacy not be what I have done, but rather whom I have served." – Melissa Brown