



Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition

www.centralohiorescueandrestore.org

May 5, 2010

CORRC Meetings

- Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition June 2 at 1:00pm, Columbus Public Health
- Social Service Committee, May 26 at 1:00pm, The Salvation Army
- Public Awareness Committee, May 14 at 1:00 pm, Columbus Public Health
- Legislation and Lobby Committee, May 21 at 1:00pm, Columbus Public Health

Face book and Twitter fans link with the Central Ohio Rescue & Restore Coalition pages.

facebook [http://](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Ohio-Rescue-and-Restore/177438139489)

www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Ohio-Rescue-and-Restore/177438139489



<http://twitter.com/CORRC>

Living Without Violence & Exploitation

Mara Gay Contributor
AOL News
(April 27)

Nearly one-third of Craigslist's revenue comes from advertisements for sex and prostitution, according to an independent report, despite the fact that the company had promised to rein in such ads.

While news organizations and other companies struggle to eke out a profit in the world of new media, Craigslist has found success by relying on an old adage critics say it intimately understands: sex sells.

The company will earn \$36 million this year from "thinly disguised advertising for prostitutes," according to a report by Advanced Interactive Media Group that has many concerned that the popular website has become the destination for online sex exploitation.

AIM Group said Craigslist's sex ads are highly profitable.

"We're astonished at the explosive growth Craigslist continues to show, even in a very tough economy," said Jim Townsend of the AIM Group. "For 2010, its 'adult services' revenue will be three times the revenue it

generated in that category in 2009."

The company's financial success is attracting a new round of scrutiny from law enforcement officials across the country who say Craigslist is profiting from ads that offer illegal activity. For years, the company has claimed protection under the Communications Decency Act and said it has little or no liability for what its users post. But in November 2008, under pressure from over 40 attorneys general across the country, Craigslist agreed to more closely monitor the ads for human trafficking and child prostitution. It also changed the name of the sex advertisements from "erotic services" to the less-explicit "adult services," and vowed to give all the money it earned from the ads to charity.

"Human trafficking and child exploitation are despicable crimes," Craigslist President James Buckmaster said in 2008 at the time of the agreement. "In addition to working diligently to prevent such abuse, we want to do everything we can to raise awareness among Craigslist users so that they will be even

more vigilant."

According to the AIM report, law enforcement agencies and human rights groups, Craigslist has broken that promise and is profiting off the ads.

There is no public record of Craigslist donating any of the money it earned from the sex ads to charity, The New York Times said. Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has been especially critical of the company. In a letter to Craigslist lawyers last week, Blumenthal said the ads "remain blatant solicitations for sex" and suggested that the company had failed to hold up its end of the 2008 agreement in good faith.

"I believe Craigslist acted irresponsibly when it unilaterally decided to keep the profits from these posts, after finally agreeing to change the name of the section of the site from erotic services to adult services," Blumenthal wrote.

"Craigslist has not given any indication that they are outraged and disturbed that their site is the primary way children are bought in the country," Rachel Lloyd, executive director of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, told the Times. "All they have done is made cosmetic changes."

May 11: Human Trafficking Overview/CORRC Volunteer Session

This session will equip interested volunteers with the knowledge to combat modern day slavery in Central Ohio. Additionally, it will provide participants with opportunities to be involved in local efforts to end human trafficking. The Salvation Army; 9am-noon. <http://humantrafficking101corrcc.eventbrite.com>

June 2: All Coalition Meeting

The Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, our community's local response to the problem of human trafficking, meets at 1:00 p.m. at Columbus Public Health.

May 14: Public Awareness Committee

CORRC Public Awareness Committee, awareness and education campaign focused on increasing our community's ability to identify & respond to HT, 1:00 pm at Columbus Public Health.

May 26: Social Services Committee

CORRC Social Service Committee builds community capacity to better serve trafficked persons. The committee meets at The Salvation Army, 1:00 pm.

Living Without Violence & Exploitation

The company denies any wrongdoing but refuses to disclose the amount of money it receives from the ads, or how much of those earnings has been donated to charity.

"Of the thousands of U.S. venues that carry adult service ads, including venues operated by some of the largest and best known companies in the U.S., Craigslist has done the best and most responsible job of



combating child exploitation and human trafficking," Buckmaster wrote in an e-mail to the Times.

Some think the 2008 agreement actually backfired and allowed the company to profit further off sex ads, by re-branding them as "adult services" and doubling the price from \$5 to \$10 per post.

It's clear that the website is being used to sell the sexual services of women and children. Last week, the infamous Gambino family was charged with running a child prostitution ring on Craigslist, in a move a U.S. attorney general called "a new low."

Craigslist will generate an estimated \$122 million in revenue this year, which comes out to about \$3 million in profit per employee, AIM Group says.

Street Outreach: We are going out to the streets on weeknights and bringing outreach kits to women working the streets. The outreach kits will include the following items:

- Soap
- Mouthwash
- Pre-packaged snacks and juice
- Alcohol wipes
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Feminine products
- Other hygiene supplies
- Condoms
- Band-aids
- Brown lunch bags
- Contact Trish for more information.

More on Craigslist and Its Adult Services Ads

By BRAD STONE

As I wrote in The New York Times on Monday, Craigslist, the largest classified advertising Web site in the United States, is making a lot of money from its sex advertisements. What's not exactly clear is what the company is doing with the money.

First, some background: In late 2008, under pressure from 40 state attorneys general, the company, based in San Francisco, agreed to start charging for what was then called "erotic services ads," and to donate that money to charity. In mid-2009, it shifted course,

changing the name of the forum to "adult services," raising fees for initial posts to \$10, from \$5, for a new ad, and stating that it would no longer commit to giving that money away. In my article this week, I reported that revenues are now flowing in at Craigslist. The 30-employee company, which eschews traditional corporate aims like maximizing profits and styles itself as a community service instead, is on track to make \$122 million this year, including \$36.3 million from adult ads.

In researching the fiercely private company, I also

found it had created a new charity, the Craigslist Charitable Fund, which it capitalized with \$2.7 million at the end of 2008. As I prepared the article, Craigslist's chief executive, Jim Buckmaster, declined to sit for an interview, via a spokeswoman, but agreed to answer questions over e-mail. Asked about the charity's mission, he wrote that it was a "grant making foundation established and funded by Craigslist." On Wednesday, in a blog post, Mr. Buckmaster got a little more specific. He said the foundation would

More on Craigslist and Its Adult Services Ads

focus on 10 causes, including peace and disarmament, United States military veterans, and human trafficking and child exploitation. The fund, he wrote, will focus on supporting organizations with annual budgets of less than \$5 million.

On Thursday morning, I emailed him two additional questions about the charity: whether it is being funded with revenue from sex ads, and whether the fund has made any disbursements yet. He has not yet responded to these queries, but we will update this post if he does.

A larger question is whether these added philanthropic efforts will alleviate the concerns of organizations that work against human trafficking, which I discussed

in my article. I talked to three such organizations while researching my article; all three asserted that Craigslist's adult services category was one of the foremost venues for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in the United States.

When asked on Thursday about Craigslist's philanthropic effort, one advocate suggested that her organization would not take donations from it.

"As a nonprofit service provider who is continually in dire need of funding — and please quote me on that — I would not accept money from Craigslist," said Rachel Lloyd, executive director of Girls Educational and Mentoring

Services, which provides services to sexually exploited and trafficked women. "That money has come from pimps and traffickers who have sold many of the girls who will then walk into my door."

Mr. Buckmaster addressed the issue of human trafficking on the Craigslist blog this week. "Of the thousands of U.S. venues that carry adult service ads, including ones operated by some of our largest and best known companies, Craigslist has done the best and most responsible job of combating child exploitation and human trafficking," he wrote.

April 29, 2010

Nonprofit to Craigslist: Keep Your Money

By KATHARINE MIESZKOWSKI

May 2, 2010

If you've been following the controversy over Craigslist's sex advertisements, do not miss the latest from The New York Times' Brad Stone. The piece, posted on the Bits blog on Thursday, looks at the company's charitable giving.

Rachel Lloyd, execu-

tive director of Girls Educational and Mentoring Service, which provides services to sexually exploited and trafficked women told the reporter: "As a nonprofit service provider who is continually in dire need of funding — and please quote me on that — I would not accept money from Craigslist. That money has come from pimps and traffickers who have

sold many of the girls who will then walk into my door."

Among other causes, the Craigslist Charitable Fund supports groups that work to end human trafficking and child exploitation. The San Francisco-based company's "adult services" advertisements are expected to bring the fiercely private company \$36 million this year.

May 7: Flyer Committee

Meet as a group the first Friday of every month at 1 p.m. at The Salvation Army, and go for drives or walks distributing outreach materials. Then, at 5:15 on that very same day, we meet at a local watering hole to talk shop. For more information contact Kae for details at kae@stopmodernslavery.org

May 13: Cell Phone Training

The local Human Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline 614-285-4357 (HELP) is a crisis hotline, operated by the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition (CORRC). The training is from 1pm to 4 pm at The Salvation Army. <http://humantraffickingcellphonetraining.eventbrite.com>

May 21: Legislation and Lobby Committee

CORRC Legislation and Lobby Committee meets at 1:00 p.m. at Columbus Public Health to track and maintain up-to-date information on all local and national human trafficking laws. Here is a link to the site: <http://ochla.ohio.gov/ohla/ipb-humantrafficking0903.aspx>

May 26: Social Services Committee

CORRC Social Service Committee builds community capacity to better serve trafficked persons. The committee meets at The Salvation Army, 1:00 pm.

Upcoming Anti-Human Trafficking Events



Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition
Mission:

To end Human Trafficking through public awareness, services to trafficked persons, advocacy, and resources and training support to law enforcement.

Save the Date: CORRC's Annual Unlocking the Chains Conference:
June 18, 2010
From 9 am to 4pm
Justice: What is your Role?

The Salvation Army
966 E Main Street
Columbus, Ohio
43205
The Salvation Army coordinates the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition.

CORRC 24-Hour
Human Trafficking
Hotline
614-285-4357
(HELP)

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May 13: Cell Phone Training

The local Human Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline (1.888.881.5465) is a crisis hotline, operated by FIRSTLINK for the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition (CORRC). The training is from 1pm to 4 pm at The Salvation Army. <http://humantrafficking-cellphonetraining.eventbrite.com>

May 14: Public Awareness Committee

CORRC Public Awareness Committee, awareness and education campaign focused on increasing our community's ability to identify & respond to HT, 1:00 pm at Columbus Public Health.

May 19,: Street Outreach Training

Training will be from 5:30-8:30pm at The Salvation Army. Pizza will be served so please RSVP to Trish Smouse. The training will equip interested volunteers to conduct street outreach on a weekly basis. The training will include: safety protocol, general procedure, how to identify someone, techniques for engagement, and some basic information on the population.

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June 18, 2010: Annual Unlocking the Chains Human Trafficking Conference - Justice: What is your Role?

At this interdisciplinary conference participants will:

- Learn how to mobilize their communities and work in partnership to combat human trafficking.
- Build skills to identify and rescue trafficked persons and help them restore their lives.

Location: Hilltop Complex & Conference Center, 1980 W. Broad St. Columbus
The registration packet can be downloaded from the website and interested participants can register online at <http://utjusticewhatisyourrole2010.eventbrite.com>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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