

REPORT OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY
NOVEMBER 3, 2017

“In industry after industry...immigration is helping America and American workers.” Montana immigrant Status from new American economy.org



At our Spring Gathering in Billings and Bozeman Carol Day a participant in the 2016 USA Mission Experience presented a program about forms of HUMAN TRAFFICKING, IMMIGRATION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE .

The goal was based on John 1:5. (2016 USAME Bible study series). In San Francisco they visited 8 organizations, attended two church services and heard from 20 speakers. The job was and is to teach us about the experience. Carol Day, the participant sent from the Synod of the Rocky Mountains came to Bozeman and Billings at the invitation of PW of the Yellowstone.

Currently, nearly one-third of Bay Area residents are immigrants from countries spanning the globe. Approximately 20 percent of immigrants are undocumented and along with documented immigrants make up one-third of the labor force. "Faced with a number of limitations, many immigrants work where they can--often in low-paying, exploitive occupations, including construction and service industries. Human trafficking is increasingly common in restaurants, on farms and fisheries, in private homes, and of course, in massage parlors and strip clubs....."

"Human trafficking is one of the most egregious injustices of our time." It is a form of modern-day slavery and the purpose is exploitation. It still happens on the streets but it is increasingly moving to the internet. Much of this is foreign to us as a small, tightly knit community but trafficking is found in industry in all metropolitan cities. These are: custodial services, restaurants, nail salons, sales crews, construction, agriculture and skilled nursing facilities. The Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition (BAATC) is the source of the information provided to Horizons Magazine, the magazine for Presbyterian Women. All workshop participants learned the red flags of a human trafficking situations

#WeChooseWelcome is part of a much broader ecumenical and interfaith effort and in Missoula refugees from Syria, Iran, Iraq, South Sudan and other war torn countries are being resettled. The hashtag will take you to the international Rescue Committee office in Missoula called Soft Landing with a small staff to coordinate volunteers to support incoming refugees, including families that help orient refugees to their new home.

Peace Pals are little soft dolls that are sent to children in areas of conflict around the world, 57 countries including the United States and they are urgently requested for distribution to children in hospitals, orphanages, and refugee camps. Knitting4Peace in Denver is the organization which distributes these dolls. If you are interested, email Kathy at humphrey@wispwest.net for the pattern.

Presbyterian Women from the Yellowstone Presbytery are supporting the Mission Pledge of Presbyterian Women in 2018, as partners of PCUSA. Through the Office of Immigration We include nine active groups. Please see our website by clicking PW of the Yellowstone on the Presbytery website. Merry Lee Hooks, moderator