



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

August 12, 2025

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Hannah Arrowood, Founder and Executive Director, Present Age Ministries

by **Layne McGuire**

Hannah Arrowood, founder and executive director of Present Age Ministries, a Charlotte-based nonprofit dedicated to combating human trafficking, spoke on Tuesday. With over 16 years of service in the region, Present Age has become a cornerstone in advocacy, prevention, and survivor support. Ms. Arrowood is also president of the Charlotte Metro Human Trafficking Task Force, which brings together multiple groups and agencies in the battle to fight trafficking. She shared powerful insights into the realities of trafficking in our community. North Carolina ranks among the top 10 states for human trafficking, with Charlotte leading as the most affected city in the state. The presentation emphasized that trafficking is not confined to specific neighborhoods but spans 38 zip codes across Mecklenburg County.

Key takeaways included:

- Human trafficking involves both labor and sex trafficking, with sex trafficking being most prevalent in Charlotte.
- Minors cannot legally consent to commercial sex, making any such exchange a federal crime.
- In 2024 alone, 106 youths were identified as suspected or confirmed trafficking victims, which is more than the city's homicide count.
- 98% of victims were female, and nearly half were 15 years old or

younger.

- Traffickers exploit vulnerabilities such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), including abuse, neglect, and household instability.
- Present Age Ministries served 206 girls in 2024, offering prevention programs, long-term case management, and emergency support.

Rotarians were urged to raise awareness, educate themselves, and use their influence to increase the risk for traffickers by making trafficking harder to hide. “No child should be raped. Especially not for profit,” she stated, leaving a powerful call to action.

For more information or to get involved, visit [Present Age Ministries](#).

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

Video with slides: <https://vimeo.com/1111730552?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Video without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1111736039?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Hannah’s introduction begins at about 25 minutes.