

Ontario County raises awareness of human trafficking

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CANANDAIGUA – The Ontario County Courthouse will be illuminated in blue each evening through Jan. 17 as part of an effort to raise awareness about the pervasive issue of human trafficking.

This week of awareness coincided with National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on Jan. 11, also known as #WearBlueDay, and the Ontario County Board of Supervisors' designation of January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

In 2024 in Ontario County, 42 people were identified as trafficked or at risk for

trafficking and 27 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children referrals for people 21 and younger were made, according to Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes.

Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes and the Child Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes have provided trafficking prevention and awareness training to 261 pro-

fessionals across the county.

For more information about human trafficking awareness, including how to identify the signs of trafficking, visit Safe Harbour: NY of Ontario County at <https://shflny.org/trafficking>. If someone is being trafficked and needs help, contact Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes' 24/7 number at 1-800-247-7273.