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One Life at a Time

“You get called everything but your actual name,” she said. Her soft smile radiates strength while explaining her job and the importance it holds. Liz Williamson, a survivor and member of Truckers Against Trafficking has experienced the horror of trafficking and uses that as her motivation to encourage others to do something.

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) aims to equip and encourage members of the trucking industry to be aware of signs of human trafficking and what to do if a situation occurs. Truckers have an interesting advantage due to having eyes where law enforcement does not. The resources TAT provides consist of posters with phone numbers to different hotlines and business cards with helpful information. TAT also has free classes that educate those interested in ways to help combat human trafficking. TAT started off as a family organization and has now expanded to a national resource that has over 1.3 million members trained and is supported by large corporations such as Walmart and FedEx.

Williamson recalls the moment that made her feel hope during her years of entrapment, “when I was being trafficked there was a truck driver who was very kind to me and it made a huge difference,” she said. The act of offering her a place to sit or a sandwich and even asking her name allowed her to see a sense of hope. Richard, the trucker that noticed her in her time of need became the reason that she would fight for more.

Antoine Sadler, a driver for Walmart, joined TAT after realizing that his occupation could be used to save lives. Afraid to intervene because he felt as if he did not know enough about trafficking, he now works on the board and urges more people to get involved. In an interview with Walmart, Sadler mentions that getting educated “changed a lot of [his] thinking,” he said. Sadler is one of the many truckers that joined Truckers Against Trafficking and is defending lives.

Truckers Against Trafficking has future plans to spread globally to provide even more help. Liz Williamson also plans to continue to use her voice for justice. Human trafficking is a worldwide issue and even a brief glimpse of information can help save a life. Liz Williamson and Antoine Sadler are an example of two people using their power for good and how more people can do the same.