



Bill and I met Dan and Nita Belles, the Director of In Our Backyard, at the MPMCSA annual meeting in August 2019. We sat with them at the meet and greet poolside doing the normal, hello, who are you, what you brings you here.....then Nita started sharing about In Our Backyard. Nita had such a passion for this work that we could not have been anything but excited to find out how we could help.

Bill and I knew we had a great interest in what she was promoting and we were hopeful that with our contacts and the right words, we could help in spreading the mission of In Our Backyard. In particular Convenience Stores Against Trafficking. It truly just seemed like a no-brainer. *An easy, efficient, free to the convenience stores way to help in the fight against human trafficking.*

Convenience Stores against Trafficking (CSAT) is part of In Our Backyard which is a 501(3)C organization. CSAT equips convenience stores with training on human trafficking for their employees and provides life-saving materials to stores. CSAT partners with c-store retailers, petroleum marketers, state associations, and industry suppliers in 47 states, representing nearly 19,000 locations.

Convenience Store restrooms are one of the few places where a person being trafficked is not with their “handler”. The sticker provides an 888 phone number for the person to call to get help.

The CSAT program is as simple as putting Freedom Stickers in restrooms at convenience store locations. There is a short training video for employees. In Our Backyard sends out a packet with all information concerning the expectations of the C-Store operators. They in no way expect intervention on part of the convenience store, just a way to get information to those persons being trafficked in a quiet, easy, effective manner.

Several TFCA Marketing Members have already joined the fight to help stop human trafficking. Thank you to those who have.

Please visit this link for how you can help <http://inourbackyard.org/csat/> and to find videos about the CSAT program and training.

Bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about this program. Please feel free to reach out to us.