



ADVISORY BOARD

BEST has two boards that are committed to furthering the mission of BEST to align and equip leaders to use the power of business to prevent human trafficking.

The Advisory Board is a group of influential community leaders that meets two times a year and helps advance the mission of BEST by (a) advising on the strategic plan and (b) helping to mobilize financial and networking resources to advance the strategic plan. The Governing Board is a working board that meets monthly to oversee the strategic planning, operations, and fiscal responsibilities of BEST. The governing board also commits to work 3-5 hours/month to advance the mission of BEST in a variety of volunteer capacities.

Benefits of Joining the Advisory Board

Human trafficking is one of the worst human rights violations taking place in the world AND it is happening in our own communities. ***The Advisory Board provides a way for community leaders to help prevent this horrific crime by advancing the mission of BEST with only a minimal commitment of time.*** It also provides opportunities to network twice a year with other community leaders with similar interests. Finally, through participation, you will be informed about educational opportunities or volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Commitment of Advisory Board Members (or 'Advisors')

1. **Mission:** Advisors are committed to advance the mission of BEST, to align and equip leaders to use the power of business to prevent human trafficking.
2. **Meetings:** The Advisory Board will meet two times a year in the Seattle area. One meeting will provide an opportunity to give input on the overall strategy of BEST. The second meeting will be an educational or a social event, as decided by the board. Advisors may also attend some meetings of the Governing Board. Advisors will be informed of various educational meetings or volunteer opportunities throughout the year.
3. **Networking Resources:** Advisors will help to connect the Executive Director with key people in the community who will help us to accomplish our strategic plan.
4. **Financial Resources:** Advisors will pledge to raise a minimum of \$3000/year, with a goal of \$5000/year, to provide a stable financial foundation for BEST to accomplish our mission. The Executive Director will provide support for the advisor to raise these resources through a variety of means: personal donation, business donation, business sponsorships for events, a letter to friends, introducing the ED to other donors in the community, an advisor-hosted fundraising event, or other opportunities.
5. **Length of Commitment:** BEST requests a two-year commitment by advisory board members. After two years, advisors may continue to serve on the board with a year-to-year commitment.

This is the question I often hear: "What can I do to prevent human trafficking?"

As a community leader you can do more than you may think. Here are some great stories about what leaders have done to help BEST accomplish its mission to prevent human trafficking.

Emily Nielsen Jones is a philanthropist who met Mar at a human trafficking event in Cambridge, Massachusetts before BEST had even been born. Mar told Emily about her idea to reach out to the business community to involve them in the fight against trafficking. Emily was supportive of this work from early on and she introduced Mar to a friend in the philanthropy community whose foundation was looking for a group to create a business-facing initiative with a code of conduct for businesses. Out of this group, the BEST Principles were written and BEST received a major grant for the first year of our work. Thank you for providing this important introduction, Emily!

Mark Barbieri is a businessman in Seattle who works in commercial real estate and who is well-connected with the lodging industry. Mark told some of his friends about BEST and provided introductions to key leaders in the lodging industry. As a direct result of these introductions, BEST was able to forge a relationship with the Washington Lodging Association and the Seattle Hotel Association and the Inhospitable to Trafficking Steering Committee was born. Mark chose to participate in the steering committee and he contributed valuable advice to our group. In October of 2012, the Board of Directors of the Washington Lodging Association voted unanimously to support an initiative to raise awareness and provide training on sex trafficking for the Washington lodging industry. BEST is working to develop this training that will have a major impact statewide to identify victims of trafficking and prevent exploitation of children and women. This major initiative is a direct result of Mark's advice, financial support, and his sharing of networks. Thank you, Mark!

Barry Horn is a businessman who heard about human trafficking and wanted to get involved in solving the problem in his community of Bellevue, Washington. Barry offered financial support by sponsoring the BEST launch and he made an impact by raising awareness among his business colleagues. Barry hosted an educational lunch for Mar Smith to give a presentation to some of his friends from the commercial real estate industry. As landlords, commercial realtors are important gatekeepers to keep illegal business activity out of our community--like unlicensed massage or cosmetology. As a result of that lunch two executives in the commercial real estate industry have taken time to learn more about illegal massage and to share this information with their friends and colleagues. One company opened the door for BEST to train their real estate brokers about human trafficking. Thank you, Barry!

These individuals have played a tremendous role as advisors to BEST and they've put us in contact with the people who can change their companies and their industries so that human trafficking will not be facilitated or funded by the good businesses in our community.

Please join us so that we can tell others how you have used your leadership to move us one step closer toward preventing human trafficking!