



Hosts 3rd Annual Community Educational Symposium:

It is no secret that we live in an era of constant division. Too often today people are feeling torn and having to pick a side. The media, regardless of their political leanings, benefits from the division seeing their ratings and profits skyrocket as anger and tensions soar. Lost in the shadow of the negativity and blame is the reality that there are several issues impacting our communities that see beyond politics, race and gender leaving every one of our children at risk. At GOAL Magazine we put the strength of our community ahead of politics and put the safety and future of our children ahead of profits. We aim to make a difference, not noise. We strive to unite, educate and inspire rather than divide and conquer and we are joined in these efforts by several local businesses, professionals and community leaders.

Our annual community action event, which is purposely held immediately following election day each year, is a strong example of our commitment to raising awareness and solving problems rather than pointing fingers. On election day, everyone makes their choice. However, it is what happens after election day that ultimately determines success or failure. It should not be about who won or what party won that leads to celebration or disappointment but rather asking ourselves, "Are we making progress on the issues?"

We are committed to doing our part and many others are as well. On November 6, we welcomed community members to our 3rd Annual Community Education Symposium at the Fred Rogers Center, St. Vincent College. The goal of the symposium is to educate and spark discussion on a topic facing our local communities. The evening, which is free and open to the public, includes a panel of local experts in addition to a number of nonprofit organizations who provide additional information and ways to help or get help. Topics in past years for the symposium have included the drug epidemic and bullying. This year, we addressed human trafficking in our communities.



Pennsylvania State Trooper Limani served as our emcee for the evening. Trooper Limani is currently a public information officer for Troop A of the State Police. After graduating from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, he enlisted in the police academy. Outside of his career efforts to protect his community, Trooper Limani started the Westmoreland County Shop with a Cop Program in 2009 in order to give back. The charity has grown to provide 300 children with a \$150 shopping trip each Christmas season. Trooper Limani interviewed each member of the panel and asked poignant questions.

