

Third Annual
"Sergeant Noelle Holl" Recognition Award

2020 Recipient

Detective Alicia Bergondo

– Mercer County Prosecutor's Special Victims Unit –

For Outstanding Efforts to End Human Trafficking in New Jersey

In 2018, this award was named in recognition of Sgt. Noelle Holl (retired) for her tireless efforts and unwavering dedication in the fight against human trafficking. This award is given on an annual basis by the Attorney General's Taskforce on Human Trafficking to a law enforcement officer for going above and beyond in helping victims of human trafficking by aggressively pursuing traffickers through investigation and prosecution, and raising awareness in New Jersey communities. This year's recipient is Detective Alicia Bergondo from the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

Alicia Bergondo: Detective Bergondo has been a law enforcement officer with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office since 2012. Detective Bergondo's assignments have included human trafficking cases, Special Victims Unit, Insurance Fraud Unit, Economic Crime Unit, Trial Unit, and the Grand Jury Unit. Before becoming a detective, she was a criminal research analyst for the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office for five years. Detective Bergondo received her Bachelor of Science from the College of New Jersey and her Masters in Criminal Justice Administration from Monmouth University. Since 2016, she has been assigned to work human trafficking cases, along with other cases.

Detective Bergondo is extremely dedicated to victims of human trafficking, and that dedication has led to successful prosecutions. Specifically, Detective Bergondo was aware

of a known trafficker in the Trenton area who evaded prosecution. This specific trafficker was known to beat, sexually assault, and drug his victims. Detective Bergondo searched for his victims on the streets of Trenton and in the jail to finally bring the trafficker to justice.

When Detective Bergondo connects with victims, she becomes more than just a detective– she becomes a compassionate and caring presence in the victim's life. Detective Bergondo keeps in constant contact with particular victims of human trafficking. She inspires victims to seek help, and makes sure those victims follow thru on their well being. She prioritizes victim's needs, and makes them feel important.

One victim wrote a thank you letter to Detective Bergondo, stating: "I don't think you realize just how much you've both encouraged me and made me feel special. When you found me I felt helpless, broken, completely unloveable and unworthy of anything. I lacked any support and you went to bat for me when I didn't have the strength or ability to. . . thank you for being in my corner and being my voice when I didn't have one." Detective Bergondo is an advocate and a leader, and a true hero to those victims struggling to find their voice. Sergeant Bergondo is receiving this award in the true spirit of Detective Holl's legacy, for her unwavering dedication and passionate response to better the lives of victims of human trafficking.

