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CONNECTIONS

The monthly e-newsletter of Connections for Abused Women and their Children



It's Time to Celebrate!

Dear Friends,

On August 23, 1999, I joined CAWC as a Direct Services Coordinator at Cook County Hospital, now known as John H. Stroger Hospital. At the time, I was floored at the irony that I was working in the same hospital ward that I was born. And while it was apparent that little had changed in the maternity ward since that fateful day, looking back it was clear that this simple decision to work at CAWC changed my life in ways that I could never imagine.

Today, I'm thankful for the opportunity to lead an organization that has been instrumental in changing the face of domestic violence advocacy in Chicago. And yet with each little step I take in moving us forward, I am reminded that none of this would be possible without the many survivors, donors, board members, staff, volunteers, and supporters that make up the fabric of CAWC. I want to thank each of you for being such an important part of this very personal journey for me.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Love-Patterson, ICDVP
Executive Director

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Connections for Abused
Women and their Children
Rebuilding Lives, Renewing Hope.

CAWC News

Help CAWC Run Domestic Violence Out of Town at the Chicago Half Marathon/5K

CAWC is part of Run DV Out of Town, a coalition of domestic violence organizations that recruits runners for local marathons while also fundraising and raising awareness of domestic violence.

Run DV is currently recruiting runners for the Annual Chicago Half Marathon and 5k, to be held on September 29, 2019. The fundraising minimums are \$500 for the half marathon and \$250 for the 5K. Any runner that registers as a part of the Run DV team will receive a code for a \$15 discount off the entry fee. The entry fee is currently \$125 for the half marathon and the \$50 for the 5K.

If you're ready to run domestic violence out of town, please email marathonteam@batteredwomensnetwork.org to register!

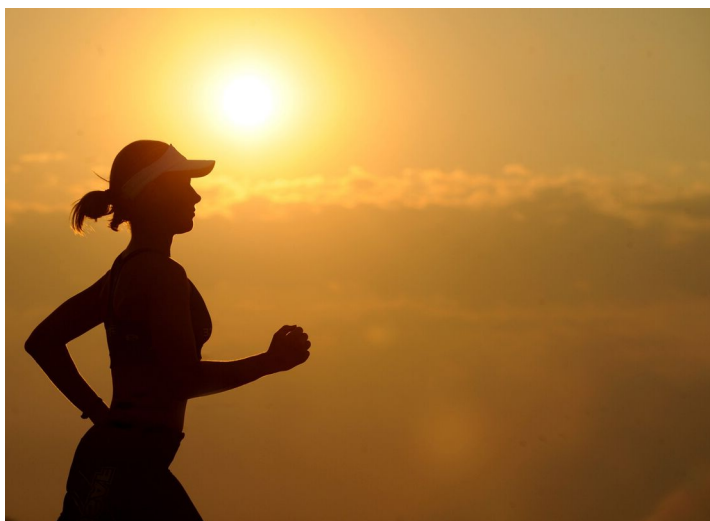


Image courtesy of the Biden Foundation

Lynn Rosenthal Named Keynote Speaker for CAWC's Sounds of Silence Gala

CAWC is proud to announce that Lynn Rosenthal will be the keynote speaker for our Sounds of Silence (S.O.S.) gala, on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Ms. Rosenthal, who currently serves as the President of the Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children's Hospital, has almost two decades of experience advocating for women and reproductive rights.

Among her many accomplishments was her role as the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at the National Domestic Violence Hotline. before becoming the White House's first-ever Advisor on Violence Against Women during the Obama administration. Later, she served as Policy Director for the Biden Foundation's Violence Against Women Initiative.

CAWC is thrilled that Lynn will be a part of this important event benefiting domestic violence survivors. You will soon receive information about SOS.

Survivor Spotlight

Theresa's Story



Theresa* has been a client at CAWC for about a year. When she first began receiving services, she was living in a home with both her abuser and their teenage son. Unfortunately, she was struggling to cope as her abuser was sexually and financially abusing her. During this time, her son was completing his senior year of high school, leaving Theresa with the difficult decision to remain with her abuser until her son left for college.

At CAWC, Theresa received counseling and referrals to assist her in understanding the dynamics of domestic violence. Due to her living situation, she developed a safety plan. She also learned self-care and coping skills.

As her son made the transition to college, the development team secured donors to ensure her son would have the basic necessities for college.

Once Theresa's son was safely off to school, she began making a plan to get a new apartment and eventually left her abuser. Today, she feels like she can do anything and sees herself as a strong, empowered, and capable woman. She knows that the life she lives today would not be possible without CAWC and your generosity.

*Name changed to protect confidentiality.



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH STEPHANIE PATTERSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAWC

Congratulations on 20 years with CAWC! How did you first get started with our organization?

I first became familiar with CAWC through my work with Rape Victims Advocates (aka Resilience). When I found out that there was a position available at CAWC's Hospital Crisis Intervention Project at Stroger Hospital, I jumped at the chance to be a part of CAWC, an organization that I admired.

What has been your biggest challenge since joining CAWC?

For me, the biggest challenge remains convincing funders that there is always a need for our services. Unfortunately, we have been working to eliminate the threat of domestic violence for over 40 years, and yet the issue hasn't gone away.

What has been the biggest reward so far?

My biggest reward was the chance to join an organization with such a storied history within the DV community.

I have always worked in the social services sector, and it was important for me to align myself with an organization that proved itself as one that understood the needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence. I was raised with the philosophy of "to whom much is given, much will be required." I grew up with a strong village of supporters, and wanted to make sure others felt supported as well!

What was your biggest lesson since you joined CAWC?

What a great question! My biggest lesson over the years is to listen to our clients! Our clients are the experts on what they need to survive the trauma of domestic abuse. And we need to trust them as well as give them a seat at the table when we make policy that directly affects them.

What advice would you give others who are interested in the field of domestic violence advocacy?

My advice is to get ready to be all in. This is isn't passive work. You must be fully committed. There are always challenges with systems not being set up to support survivors of DV and sexual violence. There are lots of false narratives for victims of gender-based violence.

FUN FACTS ABOUT STEPHANIE!

1. Stephanie's nickname is Bunny.
2. She met her husband, Reggie, the same year she joined CAWC. The two found themselves in line at the grocery store, bonding over buying the same laundry detergent. To this day, they still use Purex laundry detergent!
3. Stephanie has truly loved every minute of her time at CAWC, sharing that joining the team on August 23, 1999 was the best decision she's ever made.

**To Donate Now
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<https://www.cawc.org/donate>

**CAWC thanks our supporters for your
generosity and kindness.**



Board President Sophia Love and Executive Director Stephanie Love-Patterson,