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CONNECTIONS

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



It's Time to Take Action!

Dear Friends,

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which originally began in 1981 as a day designed to unite the many volunteers and organizations that drove the domestic violence movement. Over the years, as the single day honoring victims became a month of activism, there have been many significant advances in how we treat survivors and their families. But there is still much work to be done.

In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This landmark legislation offered new provisions that held offenders accountable while providing programs and services for victims. Since its initial passage, the provision has expanded to provide much-needed protections for intimate partner violence. However, now as we look to the next re-authorization of this important bill, we are currently facing blocks in the Senate preventing its renewal.

If you haven't yet done so, I urge you to contact your Senator to add your voice to the thousands of survivors demanding the reestablishment of VAWA. Together, we can demand justice for those facing the trauma of domestic violence.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Love-Patterson, ICDVP
Executive Director

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CAWC

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

CAWC News

It's Time to Play It Forward with CAWC's Associate Board

Grab your ping pong paddles and join the fun, as the CAWC Associate Board hosts their third annual Play it Forward Ping Pong Tournament at SPIN Chicago on November 23rd from 2 pm until 5 pm.

Early bird tickets (\$40) are now available for the all-ages event and includes two drink tickets and light appetizers. The ping pong tournament registration is \$10 at the door, and there will be great prizes for the winners.

Be sure to purchase your tickets now as ticket prices will increase to \$45 after November 1st! Proceeds from the event benefit CAWC clients and their families. To purchase tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/CAWCSpin>.



CAWC Adopt-a-Family Gift Drive Now Underway

Each holiday season, CAWC's Adopt-a-Family Holiday Gift Drive provides domestic violence survivors and their children with gifts, including household items, toys and games, clothing, and self-care products.

When you adopt a family, you agree to purchase three small gifts for each individual. These gifts should have a value of about \$25 per gift, so you can plan on spending approximately \$75 per person. All gift donors will be notified of their matches on November 11th, with gift drop-offs scheduled to take place at our administrative office located at 1116 N. Kedzie Avenue. At this time, we will be available to accept gifts on December 2nd through December 6; and December 9 through December 10th from 9 am to 5 pm.

Last year, we were able to provide presents for over 275 adults and children directly affected by the trauma of domestic violence. With your help, we hope to make the season bright for more domestic violence survivors and their children. If you are interested in sponsoring a family this year, please contact Jennifer Jackson-Outlaw at 773.489.9081 ext. 215 or jjackson-outlaw@cawc.org.

Leave a Legacy to CAWC

October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month.

Did you know that today's dreamers create tomorrow's results? Maybe you're one of the many people who want CAWC to continue to expand its programs and services to serve more domestic violence survivors and their children.

You might find that a good way to accomplish this is to designate CAWC as a beneficiary of a portion of your life insurance policy or in your will. These gifts have a tremendous impact on our ability to move forward with new and unique offerings. If you would like more information about how to include CAWC in your will or estate plan, please contact Alexa Markoff, Development Director, at 773.489.9081 or amarkoff@cawc.org.



SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

SARA'S STORY

Sara, 27, moved to Chicago from her hometown in Iowa to pursue a Master's Degree in chemical engineering.

Wanting to meet new people, Sara began using dating apps where she soon met a charming handsome man who was also studying engineering. The relationship advanced quickly, and Sara decided to move in with her boyfriend 6 months after meeting online.

Once settling in their new home, the relationship quickly turned emotionally and physically abusive. He didn't want her to go out with any other friends. He forced her to show him her phone calls and texts messages daily.

One day after class, her boyfriend berated her for text messages he found on her phone. Although the messages were about a school project from a male classmate, her boyfriend accused Sara of cheating on him. She endured a night of emotional and verbal abuse, which quickly eventually became physical. Beaten severely by her boyfriend, she was admitted to the ER at Northwestern Hospital. While in the hospital, Sara sought help from CAWC's HCIP program.

Sara's counseling sessions gave Sara time to process the abuse that she experienced while she healed from her injuries. Together with her CAWC counselor/advocate, she was able to create a safety plan. Eventually, Sara chose to file an order of protection through the state of Illinois.

After her release from Northwestern, Sara continued to receive weekly counseling at HCIP, where she was taught about abuse tactics and modalities of control. Today, Sara has had no contact with her abuser and reported that she feels more empowered and in control of her own life.



GLOBAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS



- According to a recent study by the United Nations, It is estimated that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner (not including sexual harassment) at least once in their lives. Evidence shows that women who have experienced either physical or sexual domestic violence report experiencing higher rates of depression, having an abortion and acquiring HIV than women who have not.
- Even more shocking, It is estimated that 58% of all women killed globally in 2018 were murdered by intimate partners or family members, This translates to 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day.
- 43.8% of lesbian women and 61.1% of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, as opposed to 35% of heterosexual women. Transgender victims are more likely to experience intimate partner violence in public, compared to those who do not identify as transgender.

To donate now, please visit
<https://www.cawc.org/donate>

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