

You are receiving this email because you have previously supported South Suburban Family Shelter and our work to end domestic violence. If you would like to unsubscribe you may do so at the bottom. We hope you stay and stand with us to see a world free from violence.



From the Desk of your Friendly Neighborhood Executive Director



April showers came a bit early this year and they don't seem to want to go away! I hope they bring us many beautiful flowers in the coming months. I absolutely love watching the early spring bulbs emerge and burst into bloom. It amazes me how these patient bulbs lie underground during our often-freezing winters and then know just when the time is right to rise.



When I plant a new bulb there is this wonderful feeling of anticipation. There is so much potential for beauty in this tiny package. I know I must handle it with care, plant it deep enough, give it enough space and then let it go. It sounds a lot like parenting. All the potential in the world inside this tiny human. We must care for them in just the right ways. But there are SO MANY right ways. How do we know which is the one?

One of the issues lifted up in April is Child Abuse Prevention. There are many right ways to raise a child, and unfortunately, many ways that are abusive and traumatic. These traumatic experiences are powerful enough to change a child's trajectory for the rest of their life. But hope is not lost when a child is abused or exposed to trauma. In my own life, my father has always been emotionally abusive, neglectful even. It continues to this day. I've been marked by it for certain, but I also had a powerfully loving mother who was my rock. She was my protective factor to the risks he created in my life.

As I learned through this work, violence prevention is all about reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. Protective factors can be strong enough to override even seemingly insurmountable risks. And do you know what the number one protective factor is?

One loving adult who believes in and supports that child.

My Mom was my protective factor. YOU can be a child's protective factor too. Maybe you already are! It can be to your own children or to another child in your life. Remember, there are many right ways to raise a child, and plenty of them involve a whole village of people I'm sure you've heard about. Anew is part of that village as well. Our caring and professional staff are skilled at creating a safe, protective space in our offices to support children who have been traumatized by domestic violence. Some of them have witnessed abuse and some have been directly abused as well. We know firsthand the healing power of wrapping a child in support. Another way you can be a protective factor is keeping our **hotline number** handy and pass it along when you know someone who could use our support. This simple action could change a family's life.

In Peace,
Jennifer

We Did It!

State Budget Victory Includes Increased Funding for Domestic Violence Services



Thank You

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been asking you to contact your local legislature to garner support for an increase in funding for domestic violence agencies state-wide. We asked, you listened, and you ACTED!

In the wee hours of Saturday morning, the state budget was passed. It included funding for domestic violence services at just over **\$70 Million Dollars!** Our funding line has typically been around \$18.6 Million with little increases over many years.

This is a monumental accomplishment. This investment will help address the growing need for services seen throughout the state, amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Everyone here at Anew shouts a huge **THANK YOU** to all who made phone calls and sent emails asking our legislators to support increased funding for domestic violence services. If you have another moment, please reach out and thank the same legislators for answering our call and approving this historic increase in funding.

An Insightful Interview with Belinda Farr, A Prevention Specialist from Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

Interview by Angela Davis, Community Educator



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Community Educator Angela Davis had the honor of speaking with Belinda Farr who is a Prevention Specialist, from Prevent Child Abuse Illinois.

History:

The first National Child Abuse Awareness Month was declared by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. The declaration was given through the efforts of Childhelp founders, Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson. After four years, April was formally established as the Child Abuse Prevention Month by President Ronald Reagan. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requests the communities to actively take part in preventing child abuse and be supportive of the well-being of families. The federal government of the United States gives funds in support of child abuse causes.

Angela: Thank you so much Belinda for speaking with me today, I truly appreciate you! Can you start off by telling me about your job and mission as a Prevention Specialist?

Belinda: The mission of Prevent Child Abuse Illinois is to prevent child abuse by providing statewide leadership through education, public awareness, support for community initiatives and advocacy. As a Prevention Specialist I provide education to reduce the incidents of Child Abuse by providing trainings and support to other community agencies who also want children to grow up in safe nurturing environments. Our trainings include Shaken Baby Syndrome and Happiest Baby on the Block.

Angela: What are some surprising statistics you could share with us as it relates to child abuse that can bring awareness to our audience reading this newsletter?

Belinda: About one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. Shaken Baby Syndrome is estimated to occur in 3 to 4 per 10,000 babies a year. Child Sexual Abuse and Shaken Baby Syndrome are both preventable.

Angela: What are some long-term and short-term effects of child abuse?

Belinda: Child Abuse can cause distrust in adults, fear, isolation and life-long effects that can include depression and low self-esteem.

Angela: Is there a way to observe victims of child abuse? If so, what are the signs to look for?

Belinda: Abused children may show physical or behavioral signs. The signs may include unexplained bruises, injury in the genital area, extreme change in behavior and poor hygiene. These signs don't prove that a child is being abused, but they could be a signal that the child and family need help.

Angela: If individuals are interested in more information or services with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, where can you be reached at?

Belinda: bfarr@pcaillinois.org or [Prevent Child Abuse Illinois](http://PreventChildAbuseIllinois.org)

Angela: Thank you so much Belinda for your time with us today!! I appreciate providing knowledge not only about the work that you do but information about child abuse prevention. This topic is extremely important!! Anew, Building Beyond Violence and Abuse also offers a few different services our community may be interested in taking advantage of.

Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse offers various prevention programs available to the community. Our Safe From The Start (SFS) which is an Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) state-wide research-based program that provides services to children ages 0-5, as well as caregivers, who have been exposed to violence in their home and/or community. Our Community Education

team also offer age-appropriate presentations to teens and adolescents on various topics. One of our presentation topics is 'Hands Are Not For Hitting'. Here, we talk about identifying emotions, developing coping skills, and practicing belly breathing. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit our website or call our office, we'd be happy to assist you!!

SAFE FROM THE START (SFS)

A State funded research based intervention program that began in January 2001. Anew joined this project in the third year of operations (2004). The program is funded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA).

THE GOAL

To develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive and coordinated community based models to identify, assess and provide services to children ages 0-5, as well as to their caregivers, who have been exposed to violence in their home and/or community.

THE IMPACT

More than 600 children were referred to Anew SFS, assessed, and offered a range of services from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2020.

THE STATS

The average child served at Anew experienced approximately six different risk factors, including parent in jail and poverty. More than 1/3rd of children were exposed to two or more types of violence.

The symptoms most frequently reported by caregivers about their children were clinging behavior (55%), aggression towards siblings (55%), anxiety (44%), and fearfulness/phobias (44%).

You can help Prevent Child Abuse IL by participating in the following survey:

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois is conducting a **statewide survey** on **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** and we need your help! Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey. The information you provide will help guide our future education and public awareness campaigns. **But wait... there's more!!** We also need your help to reach as many people as possible. Please forward this email or the survey link to your family, friends, clients, coworkers, dentist, plumber, dog walker, basically everyone! Help us reach people and sectors we can't reach on our own. **PCA Illinois' goal is to reach at least 5,000 people from across the state. We can only attain that goal with your help!**

CLICK HERE TO START THE SURVEY

Thank you for your support and partnership
and for believing that all children deserve great childhoods.

**For questions about the survey or for more information
contact Kelsey Greene, ACEs Project Director
at kgreene@pcaillinois.org**

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois is working in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health-Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health Services and the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG) on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Project.

Spread the word, we're hiring!



Positions for Hire!

Full-Time

- Safe From the Start (SFS) Project Coordinator
- Bilingual Children's Counselor
- Partner Abuse Intervention Program (PAIP) Assistant
- Court Advocate

Part-Time

- Bilingual Hotline and Shelter Advocate

To learn more about what each job entails, visit <https://anewdv.org/job-opportunities/>

There are several positions available to start your Anew Career. Find information on them all [HERE](#), and apply today!

Full time positions are 35-40 hours/week, and are eligible for medical, dental, vision, short-term disability, long-term disability, flexible spending account and our 403(b) Plan. In addition, this position is eligible to participate in our Aflac plans and receive paid time off (PTO) and 14 holidays per year.

The part-time position available is 20 hours/week and the benefits include 14 paid holidays; Paid Time Off (PTO); Short-term disability and the ability to contribute to our 403(b) plan. This position is also eligible for Aflac benefit plans.

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please email your resume to careers@anewdv.org.

Dancing Away Domestic Violence

A FUNdraising Event!



Dancing Away Domestic Violence

A Line Dancing, Zumba, and Cardio Drumming Program for the Whole Family!

When?
Saturday, June 11th,
3pm-6pm

Where?
18020 Martin Ave
Martin Square, Homewood

T-Shirt Preview!



Designed by a student from Bloom High School!

Prices:

Adult Tickets: \$20-\$25

Kids 12 and Under: \$10-\$15

Kids 5 and Under: FREE

T-Shirt options available until May 13th ONLY.

T-shirts are available for purchase without attending for \$15.

Special discounts and offers from Homewood Restaurants and Businesses are available to all participants!

Drinks, snacks, and resources are provided!

<https://go.rallyup.com/dadv22>

All proceeds benefit Anew and their mission to end domestic violence in our shared communities.

Event Sponsored by:



Programming brought to you by:



Music Provided by DJ Love

Supporting Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse is easy, just click below!

Donate Now



Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse | PO Box 937, Homewood, IL 60430

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Sent by jennifer.g@anewdv.org in collaboration with



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