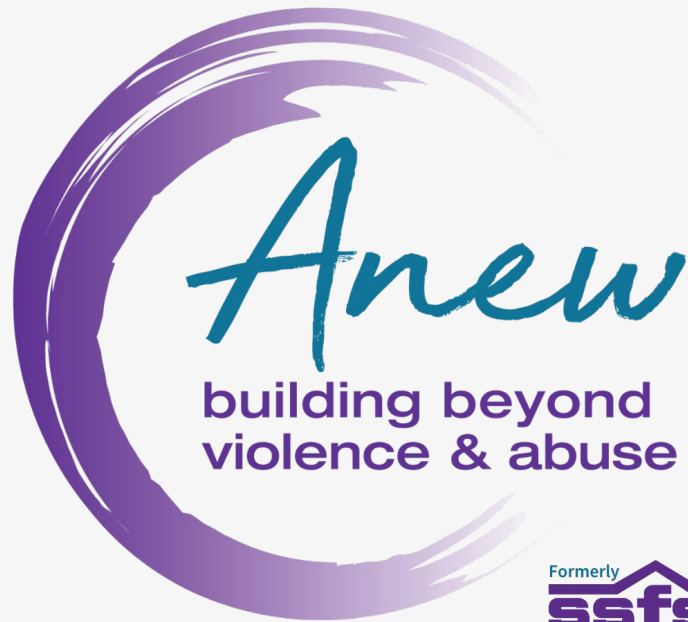


You are receiving this email because you have previously supported South Suburban Family Shelter and our work to end domestic violence. If you would like to unsubscribe you may do so at the bottom. We hope you stay and stand with us to see a world free from violence.



From the Desk of Your Friendly Neighborhood Executive Director



These frigid temperatures snuck up on me early this year. I am used to the bitter cold arriving in February and spending January convincing myself the winter won't be so bad. This weather is particularly hard on me because I like to spend time outdoors. Being stuck inside dampens my spirit.

Isn't that such a privileged thing for me to say? I am stuck inside my warm, well-

stocked house, and it makes me feel sad. It's hard to take stock of what we take for granted. I have a PRIVILEGE by having a warm place to spend my time, and a roof over my head. My basic needs are met.

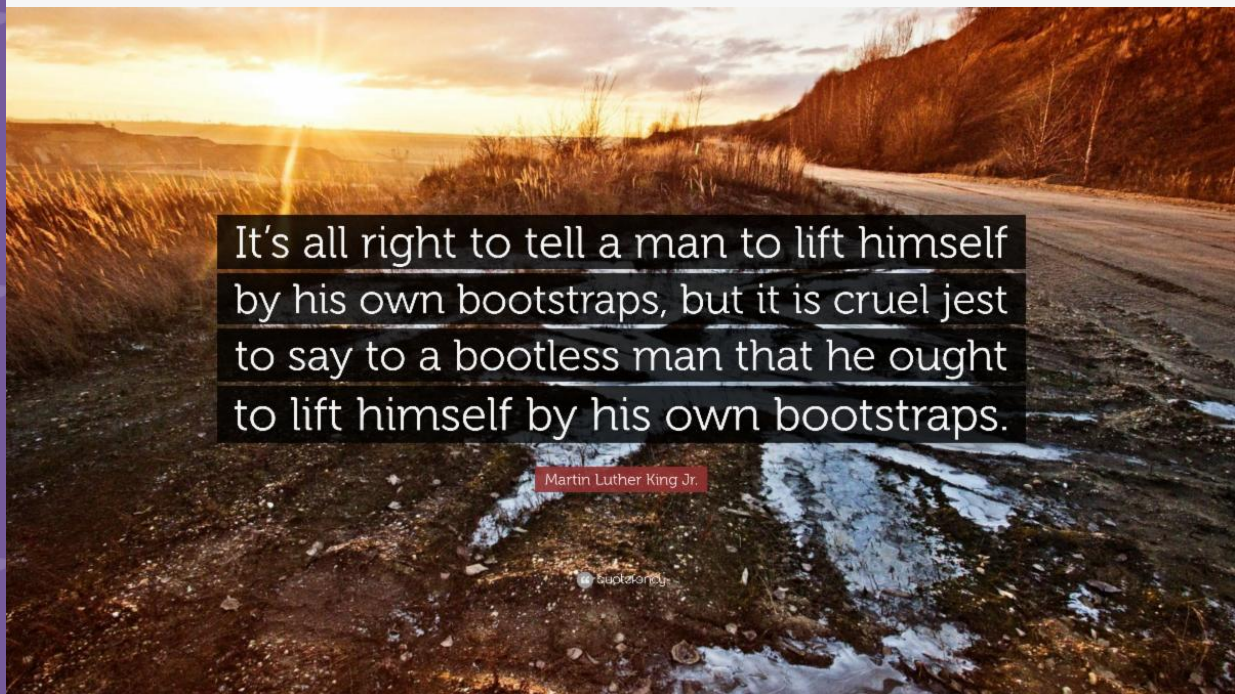
At this time last year, I wrote about how so much of our work is focused in the area of basic needs. That remains true. This pandemic has not made it any easier for us to help people move toward self-sufficiency. We are still trying to help people stay healthy and connect for services if they can. We have provided a tremendous amount of support around basic needs, much of it through the donations you all have generously delivered. While we do this, I still have my eye trained on the horizon.

A world without abuse.

We continue to look at our work and think about how we can move toward this ultimate goal. This requires us to be nimble and experts at balancing: nimble enough to shift quickly, and balanced enough to hold the old and new with equal stability. It requires a strong foundation. As an agency, we are lucky to have such a strong foundation composed of dedicated staff, board members, advisors, volunteers, and wide community of supporters-- including YOU!

This month I'd like you to consider your own balancing act. How do you hold true to the foundational pieces of your life while allowing your future to unfold?

In Peace,
Jennifer



It's all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is cruel just to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Poverty & Domestic Violence

By: LaSandra Hutchinson, Community Outreach Specialist at Anew

Chopped hot dogs on top of pork and beans served in a white Styrofoam container.

This was the weekly meal prepared for the homeless living in Chicago's Lower Wacker Drive by the outreach ministry at my best friend's church.



I felt quite important at 11 years old, being asked to stir the gigantic steel pot of boiling beans. Adding a slice of white bread to each container. Loading the back of the church van.

Seeing the sight of the homeless people as we opened the back of the van, indicating they could each get in line for a hot plate. I will never forget those nights.

What I remember most about the experience was my curiosity into what brought each of the homeless people to this place. Who were they? How did they get here? I knew each one had to have a story.

For many, hearing the word, "homeless" evokes a variety of stories. Some think of stories of addiction, mental illness, and war veterans. Many envision a male-dominated narrative. However, statistics indicate that by large, homelessness reveals the stories of women who have suffered intimate partner violence and their children.

In her article, *The Connection Between Poverty and Domestic Violence*, feature writer, Nina Verfaillie explains, poverty and domestic violence are "...two states of disenfranchisement that function independently, as well as frequently together, and that have similar impacts on both individuals and communities" (Borgen Magazine, 2013). Poverty disproportionately impacts single mothers with their poverty rate being reported as high as 31% in 2019 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). This was nearly five times the rate for married couples that year (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Without adequate resources and with a lack of affordable housing options, single mothers living in poverty and experiencing domestic violence are often driven into homelessness.



The numbers of homeless mothers who have experienced domestic violence is staggering. According to multiple studies examining the causes of homelessness, 80% of mothers with children experiencing homelessness had previously experienced domestic violence (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016). In fact, domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children in the United States (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2017). There is a multi-layered story of homelessness. One that involves a variety of factors and requires a close look at how systems, programs, and advocates can provide adequate support.

Advocates, policymakers and service providers have and continue to work toward the prevention of homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their children

through a variety of efforts such as, advocating for a higher minimum wage; an increase in available affordable housing; and increased time for unemployment benefits. The availability of more short-term and long-term housing options for domestic violence survivors, such as Anew's *Sanctuary Transitional Housing*, *Rapid-Rehousing*, and *Homelessness Prevention* programs, are also vital when it comes to addressing this issue.

Most of us can agree there is still tremendous work to be done when it comes to addressing the impacts of poverty and domestic violence. Nevertheless, understanding that every person – whether homeless and living in Chicago's Lower Wacker Drive, in a home where domestic abuse is happening, or somewhere else across the country, is an important person with a story that deserves to be understood, a right to safety, and equal opportunity – is perhaps the most sufficient and impactful starting point.

For more information about Anew's housing and homelessness prevention programs visit: <https://anewdv.org/get-help/housing/>

Sources:

"Domestic Violence and Homelessness: Statistics: 2016" *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/fact-sheet/domestic-violence-and-homelessness-statistics-2016>. Accessed 2 January 2022.

"Domestic and Sexual Violence is a Leading Cause of Homelessness for Women and Children." *National Network to End Domestic Violence*, 30 May 2017, https://nnev.org/latest_update/domestic-sexual-violence-homelessness/. Accessed 30 December 2021.

"Income and Poverty Rates in the United States: 2019." *U.S. Census Bureau*, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.html>. Accessed 4 January 2022.

Verfaillie, Nina. *The Connection Between Poverty and Domestic Violence*. Borgen Magazine, 5 Nov. 2013, <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/connection-poverty-domestic-violence/>. Accessed 4 January 2022.

Click here to read more about stats and figures regarding homelessness and its impact on women.



Partnership News

24/7 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

708-335-3028

Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse

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2

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Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse has partnered with Crisis Center of South Suburbia to share 24-hour hotline services for families experiencing domestic violence. This move streamlines access to both short and longer-term emergency shelter options for individuals seeking safety from abuse. By enhancing their

partnership, the two organizations continue to ensure survivors will receive access to other important resources, such as safety planning, crisis management and counseling services 24-hours a day. Our hotline number remains the same: 708-335-3028.

You can make a general donation to
Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse
anytime by clicking the button below.
Thank you!

**Donate
Now**

