

*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 CEO**



A little over a week ago, an Amber Alert came through my phone. I was with my family and we all got it. I am not sure if this was the first time my son got one now that he has a phone, or if this was just the first time I was with him. The alert was for a missing 2-year old boy, he was listed as missing and endangered. My son started asking questions and was very worried because the child was so young. I explained about Amber Alerts, how they help to try and locate children faster by enlisting everyday citizens to help. I had to explain what "endangered" meant. My child is very curious about all things. He wanted to know how the police could know that the child was endangered.

My mind went straight to domestic violence as soon the alert came through. I know children are most often abducted by someone they know, and very often it is related to abuse. I explained that the police probably had more information than they were sharing and that is how they knew the child was endangered. There was also a link in the alert that my son clicked. It pulled up a whole list of missing children; one had been missing since before my son was born. He was surprised and horrified. I had to make him leave the site, recognizing that was a bit too much reality for a child his age.

I wish I could say the little 2-year-old was found safe, but that was not the case. I read a few days later that he was found dead. His father was charged with killing him after he also shot and killed their child's mother. So you see, it was domestic violence. I am almost always right when these cases come to light. Abuse continues to be the leading cause of death for children under the age of 5. It is one of the most heartbreaking statistics I know.

I did not tell my son what happened to the little boy. I want to protect his heart for as long as I can.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and my invitation to you for this month is tell a child you love them and you believe in them. You never know if you will be the one adult that holds them and helps them see their worth.

With Peace,  
Jennifer

## Safe From the Start



**April is  
Child Abuse  
Awareness  
Month**

**Anew offers Safe From the Start,  
a FREE program available to children ages 0-5  
who have witnessed or experienced trauma.**

**Safe From the Start (SFS) is an Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) funded state-wide, research-based program that provides services to children ages 0-5, as well as to their caregivers and siblings, who have been exposed to violence in their home and/or community.**

**Additionally, the program aims to increase community awareness about early childhood exposure to violence, develop collaborative referrals/resources and provide prevention services.**

**Call 708-798-7737 to learn more or sign up today.**



Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State of Illinois, or the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

## Child Abuse Prevention

A blog by Natalie Bjorklund, Children's Domestic Violence Counselor at Anew

The phrase 'children are better seen not heard' feels like it should be the motto for Child abuse. Child abuse has been an issue for way too long, and one child going through this trauma is one too many. I have heard many stories of child abuse and it still breaks my heart everytime. It has a tremendous impact on the child. Some children will become abusive themselves when they get older, while others can get involved with an abusive partner. They can grow up with self-esteem issues, depression, anxiety, PTSD and a variety of other mental health issues.

As a child therapist, behaviors often come out through play. To some, it might seem like they are just playing, but if you pay close attention, they are recreating what they've witnessed, and are re-experiencing their own trauma. They don't always have the language of what's happening, so it often gets dismissed. Like, if they don't know what's going on, then they don't understand. They might not understand the severity of the situation, but they know more than what we give them credit for. On some instinctive level, they know that when they are getting hit (or watching daddy hit mommy or vice versa), that it's not right. Oftentimes, kids will then go into people pleasing mode. They will do anything and everything to avoid the punishment.

What can we do to prevent child abuse? First and foremost, believe the child. If they say something is going on, then do what you can to take it seriously and investigate. They don't have to come to school with bruises or broken bones to be a victim of child abuse. Educate yourself on the various forms of child abuse and the signs/symptoms to look out for. When in doubt, you can always call the DCFS hotline to get answers to questions you might have. Not all children like to talk about what's happening, so find other avenues to get them to talk. Through art therapy, play therapy, or have them act it out from another perspective. You are bound to gather information in some way.

More often than not, domestic violence/child abuse is seen as a family issue and is often swept under the rug. The child has been let down in more ways than one, so they need to be able to trust the adult trying to help them. It can be super frustrating when you do everything you can do for the child and nothing happens. As irritating as it can be, it's crucial to keep trying every avenue possible to help that child. They say it takes a village to raise a child, well the same concept can apply. It can take a village to protect and change a child's life.

# The Signs of Child Abuse

- Withdrawal from friends or usual activities
- Changes in behavior — such as aggression, anger, hostility or hyperactivity — or changes in school performance
- Depression, anxiety or unusual fears, or a sudden loss of self-confidence
- Sleep problems and nightmares
- An apparent lack of supervision
- Frequent absences from school
- Rebellious or defiant behavior
- Self-harm or attempts at suicide

**Congratulations, Raphaelle & Jennifer!**



ICDVP would like to congratulate the following individuals on achieving 20 years of certification as a Certified Domestic Violence Professional. We truly appreciate not only your dedication to maintaining certification, but your work in the field of domestic violence. These individuals were part of the first two groups who embarked on CDVP certification when it first began and have maintained certification by completing 30 CEUs every two years.



**Marsha Broers**

**Beatris Burgos**

**Raphaelle Cappos**

**Addie Chatic**

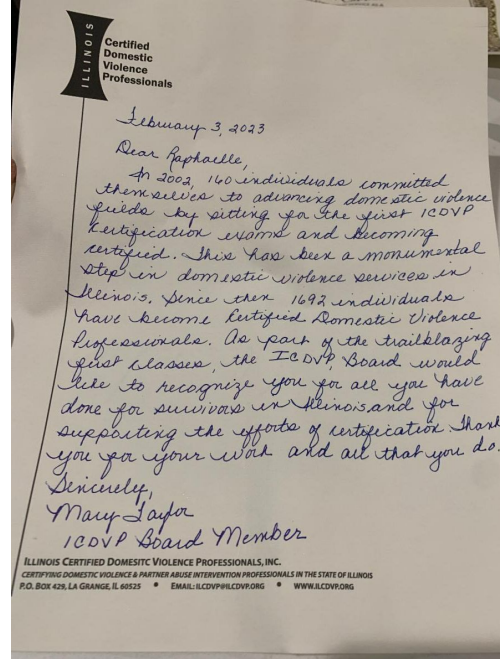
**Catherine Daesch**

**Linda DeFrancisco**

**Teri Ducy**

**Florence Forshey**

**Jennifer Gabrenya**



Text reads:

Dear Raphaelle,  
In 2002, 160 individuals committed themselves to advancing domestic violence fields by sitting for the first ICDVP certification exams and becoming certified. This has been a monumental step in domestic violence services in Illinois. Since then, 1,692 individuals have become Certified Domestic Violence Professionals. As part of the trailblazing first classes, the ICDVP Board would like to recognize you for all you have done for survivors in Illinois, and for supporting the efforts of certification. Thank you for your work and all that you do.

Sincerely,  
Mary Taylor  
ICDVP Board Member

Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse is so proud of Raphaelle and her lifetime achievements in Domestic Violence work. We celebrate not only her 20 years of ICDVP recognition, but also her 28 years serving with Anew!

Additionally, CEO Jennifer Gabrenya received the same 20 years of recognition from ICDVP, and we recognize the trailblazing work that Jennifer and Raphaelle have accomplished in all those years, and the commitment they have dedicated to their life's work.

**Dancing Away Domestic Violence - Tickets on Sale Now!**



## ***Dancing Away Domestic Violence***

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

**When?**  
**Saturday, June 10th,**  
**3pm-6pm**

**Where?**  
**18020 Martin Ave**  
**Martin Square, Homewood**

**Prices:**  
**Adult Tickets:**  
**\$20**  
**Kids 12 and Under:**  
**\$10**  
**Kids 5 and Under:**  
**FREE**

**Door prizes, swag bag, and special discounts and offers from Homewood Restaurants and Businesses are available to all participants.**

**Drinks, snacks, and resources are provided!**

**Purchase tickets at <https://bit.ly/DADV23>**



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

Get your DADV tickets today [HERE](#)

**Full-Time Job Postings at Anew**



Compensation and Benefits are listed clearly at the bottom of each job description. Take the guess out of applying-- Our salaries, wages, and benefits are transparent and up front!

- ★ [Bilingual Children's Counselor](#)
- ★ [Bilingual Court Advocate](#)
- ★ [Community Outreach Program Manager](#)

★ **Partner Abuse Intervention Program (PAIP) Assistant**

All positions have been newly updated, so if you checked them before, make sure to check them again!

Anew offers full time benefits including 14 paid holidays; 20 days of Paid Time Off (PTO) annually; medical, dental, vision and life insurance; short-term and long-term disability; and the ability to contribute to our 403(b) plan with 3% company matching. This position is also eligible for Aflac benefits.

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please email your cover letter and resume to [careers@anewdv.org](mailto:careers@anewdv.org).

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

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Sent by [jennifer.g@anewdv.org](mailto:jennifer.g@anewdv.org) in collaboration with



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