

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



Have you ever gotten yourself in too deep? You start off with a goal you are really excited about, then right in the middle of making your way toward it you realize you had NO IDEA what you were getting into?

That was me in this month's photo. I had this wonderfully fun idea to hike a half marathon with a friend of mine in a section of the Shawnee National Forest. I had run half marathons in the past and hiked a decent amount. We thought we could do it in about 6 hours and it would be a great way to detach from the everyday. Five miles in we felt great about our progress. It had rained the night before, so it was muddy, but we found walking sticks along the way and kept going. At mile six a bug flew in my mouth, and I choked on it. That dampened our spirits a bit. We had some long stretches where we didn't see course markers and were nervous until we saw one,

YAY! At mile nine, our enthusiasm was waning. The mud, the slippery rocks, creek crossings, steep inclines and literal gorges we had to leap over were not what we prepared for.

We were in too deep, and the only way out was through.

We hiked for over 7 hours and 2 extra miles (that's right 15 miles) before we reached the finish line. In this photo I felt defeated, embarrassed, tired and a little angry, but somehow squeaked out a smile for the camera. This was not my finest moment. Today, I feel rather proud of myself. I finished one of the hardest physical challenges I had ever done, and I wasn't even that sore afterwards. I laughed more that day than I had in a long time. I learned A LOT of hard lessons. I remembered the lesson that it gets better if you keep going. But this time I had a friend and having that support while doing this incredibly hard thing made it so much better. Infinitely better.

I have heard many survivors talk about how leaving the abusive relationship was the hardest thing they have ever done. But once they did, it was so much better than they ever dreamed. Anew is here to be your support while doing an incredibly hard thing. It can get better if you keep going. You won't be alone.

In Peace,  
Jennifer

## Interview with Board Member Tracy Weems



Tracy Weems has been a Board Member and the Treasurer of Anew for many years. As a Homewood resident, she believes in the mission of Anew and the importance for communities to have resources to assist with any need.

Chief Advancement Officer Kris Scott sits down with Board Treasurer Tracy Weems to give you the interview below.

**Kris Scott:** How did you come to be involved in Anew?

**Tracy Weems:** It started with my involvement with the Chicago Foundation for Women. I attended a Board Member Boot Camp in 2019, which prepared participants for board membership with nonprofit organizations. I was at an event that CFW was hosting for the South Side Giving Circle and a past board member suggested that I reach out to Anew and consider becoming a board member. I reached out to Jennifer to express my interest and met with her and Esther Jenkins, who at the time was the current Board President, and we did an interview and I have been on the board ever since.

**Kris Scott:** That's awesome! CFW is a great training ground for board membership.

**Tracy Weems:** They are, and it was a great program and informative for me. As I

continued in my board membership I have learned training and experience are two different things. I came on the board of Anew as a director at large and within a year the treasurer retired, and I became the board treasurer and have been serving in that capacity since 2019. I'm glad that I decided to take the boot camp at CFW, but I've learned so much more through my board involvement here.

**Kris Scott:** Do you serve on any other nonprofit boards?

**Tracy Weems:** Since March 2019, I have been one of four Co-chairs of the South Side Giving Circle through Chicago Foundation for Women. This group of women, majority Black women, contribute to a pooled fund and provide grants to organizations supported and led by Black Women on the south side of Chicago and south suburban communities.

(The South Side Giving Circle (SSGC) of Chicago Foundation for Women mobilizes philanthropic resources of women primarily on Chicago's South Side and in the South Suburbs to invest in the economic, social, and political power of Black women and girls in metropolitan Chicago.)

**Kris Scott:** As a board member of Anew, and as we are going into our strategic plan for the next two years, what are your hopes for Anew's future?

**Tracy Weems:** I want Anew to expand our reach outside of the local community. Not many people are aware of our organization, and I think that is a hindrance to our growth both financially and professionally. It's nice to be able to say, we are in this community and we're here to serve this community, but we need to be on a broader spectrum. I would like to see us more visible locally and maybe even nationally, as there is a need for the services we provide. There are many organizations out there that are similar, and while the goal is not to be competitive, we can continue to build allies and grow our base. We've been around a long time and that should be a goal.

**Kris Scott:** There have been times when I'm out at a community event and I may come across someone who has not heard of our organization. So, I understand your point.

**Tracy Weems:** And that's even more surprising that people who live in the surrounding areas don't necessarily know a lot about Anew. I think it's important that we expand and become known. I just think we need to be more visible in the community.

**Kris Scott:** As a board member of Anew, what makes you the proudest?

**Tracy Weems:** I've seen the changes we have made, like the name change, which puts us out there a little more and give us a "face". I think the increased funding has been very crucial and important, and of course that has served us very well. Our agency has during the pandemic continued to provide services and programs to people who may have felt isolated, scared, alone, and in desperate need of our services. I'm proud that we were able to sustain ourselves during that time, see new board members join, and the strategic direction that we are now moving toward. My hope is that we will continue to grow, which goes back to my point of us becoming more visible in the community. I am also proud that, as a board member, I have become more knowledgeable and aware about domestic violence, and the systems in place that have kept the organization going. I have enjoyed participating in some of the financial decision making and partaking in events, such as the gala, which garners great

support.

**Kris Scott:** Any final comments you would like to add?

**Tracy Weems:** Anew is a great organization, and as we are moving forward with our strategic plan our goal is not to rush, but to get to the finish line in a manner that's beneficial to the organization. Having this strategic plan in place is going to be very important for the growth and the long-term effects of Anew. I may not be on the board forever, but I've learned a lot and I think that Anew will only get better.

## **Anew and South Suburban College Work Together to Prevent DV Among Students**

An Article by guest writer Alexandra Glumac



In October, 2020, South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois was awarded a 3-year grant from the federal government through the Office on Violence Against Women. This grant, now in its final year, provided the college with funds to prevent and eradicate dating/domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking on college campuses. These funds assisted the college with creating various prevention trainings, activities and events; paid for trainings specifically for the college's law enforcement, staff and faculty; helped develop a social media presence and raised awareness of local resources for students in need.

One aspect of the grant was to build a Coordinated Community Response Team made up of various SSC administrators and staff, local law enforcement personnel and community partners who share the mission of reducing intimate-partner violence among college students. Anew: Building Beyond Violence & Abuse is one of our two main community partners; the other being the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago South Suburban Center. Anew's involvement on our advisory team has been outstanding from the beginning. Multiple staff members take part in our monthly meetings and various sub-committee meetings. Anew provides the team with resources and information needed to be successful in meeting the objectives of our grant. Their expertise in all things related to domestic violence (i.e. housing, counseling, advocacy and emergency services) lends itself stellarly to fulfilling the grant's mission. Anew has

provided us with speakers on various topics (Healthy Relationships, Domestic Violence & Alcohol Use, Domestic Violence 101) and has attended our awareness month events. Anew has also provided us with guidance on creating different tools to help ensure students are connected with necessary resources. With Anew's participation, we created a screening tool for staff and faculty to use if there is concern a student may be in a dangerous situation. Anew also assisted with creating an anonymous student survey to determine if students are aware of the local resources available to them. On more than one occasion, we reached out to Anew to set up services for a student in need and each time, those students were seamlessly connected with the most appropriate service.

Because of the grant and the strong dedication of our community partners, we were able to build a culture of pro-activity when it comes to dating/domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; however, the work has just started. With the grant officially ending on September 30th of this year, we realize we have only scratched the surface. As a result, SSC submitted an application for another 3-year grant period that starts on October 1st. Awards will not be determined until that time but we were able to submit a strong argument for continued funding due in part because our community partners believe in us and have committed to continuing our partnership. Anew graciously signed the Memorandum of Understanding to pledge their support for another grant award. With our entire Coordinated Community Response Team on board (and growing), we are hopeful the grant will be renewed and we can continue this life-charging work.

*Alexandra Glumac, MS, LCPC, RDDP, SHRM-CP is the Project Director for the OVW grant at South Suburban College. For additional information about the grant, email [aglumac@ssc.edu](mailto:aglumac@ssc.edu).*

## Dancing Away Domestic Violence 2023



A big THANK YOU to all the Dancing Squad members who came out in support of Anew, our services, and the third annual Dancing Away Domestic Violence event! We were so happy to see everyone together for year #3.

**Together, we raised over \$4,000!**

Stay tuned on our social medias for more pictures from Saturday's event. We can't wait to see you next year!



## 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 Case Manager**
- ★ **Bilingual Children's Counselor**
- ★ **Bilingual Court Advocate**
- ★ **Court Program Assistant**
- ★ **Transitional Housing Case Manager**

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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