



From the Desk of the CEO

Hello April, hello spring!

I hope you and your family are enjoying the spring weather and spending quality time together. Time together only strengthens family bonds and creates lasting memories and fosters a sense of security and safety.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is dedicated to raising awareness, and helping to support families. Every child deserves to live a life safe from abuse and violence. As you know, Anew provides counseling services to survivors of domestic violence, and we provide children's counseling services for not only child victims, but also witnesses to violence or exposure trauma.

Safe from the Start is a children's program with specialized services in helping children birth to age five, and their families, who have been exposed to any violence or trauma. This includes domestic violence, community violence, or a house fire.



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

Click to learn more.



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

This month I want to invite you to join Anew by wearing blue every Wednesday to show your support for strong families and safe childhoods. To learn more, call our counseling department at (708) 798-7737.



Recently, Anew, along with South Suburban Pads and Respond Now, were awarded a combined gift of \$750,000 to support homeless prevention in the south suburbs. Anew is grateful to CN Railroad for their investment and commitment to addressing homelessness in the southland. All three organizations work to help individuals escape homelessness and provide

supportive services.



This gift represents a three-year grant to support our technological upgrades in our finance and human resource departments, as well investing in digital case management software. The significance of this gift helps Anew afford upgrades that our budget has not allowed for some time. This partnership will be a stabilizing force—helping families not just survive domestic violence, but avoid homelessness and build lives of safety, dignity, and independence.

We are so grateful to have the support of so many people like you, who want to create a world free from abuse and build strong healthy communities. Please continue to share our hotline number (708) 335-3028 and our website, anewdv.org. But most of all continue to shine the light and bring awareness to domestic violence, because unfortunately, we all know someone.



With deep gratitude,

Kristine Scott
CEO

Community Education Corner: Domestic Violence In Current Events

Reality TV Sheds Light on the Reality of Male Victimization and Intimate-Partner Violence

by Susan Soda, CDWP
Community Education Program Manager



Taylor Frankie Paul has recently made headlines following the video released from a 2023 incident of her yelling and throwing metal chairs at her now ex-boyfriend, Dakota Mortensen, while her child was present. While the video itself was not released in 2023, it was made public knowledge, along with Paul's arrest for aggravated assault, in her television show, *The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives*.

Interestingly enough, there was minimal backlash for the incident until the video surfaced this year, which has now resulted in Paul's season of *The Bachelorette* to be pulled from airing. While Paul's situation is not the first of its kind, it does spark conversation about men's victimization when it comes to intimate-partner violence, children's exposure to violence, and society's

response to violence perpetuated by public figures.

When instances of physical intimate-partner violence surface in the media, you may expect the aggressor to be a male. According to the FBI's [Domestic Relationships and Violent Crimes 2020-2024 Report](#), 77.1% of the offenders in a domestic situation were males. In the same report, it was found that about 25% of victims of violent offenses with domestic relationships were male.

Physical abuse from a woman may be less likely, but it's not impossible. Those who may have tuned into MTV back in 2010 may remember Amber Portwood from the popular television show, Teen Mom. Amber was frequently filmed yelling, hitting, and even choking her partner, Gary. These cases debunk a popular myth – men can, and are, victimized from intimate-partner violence.

Let's break down why a man may choose not to report abuse... [\[Continue reading\]](#).

Are you interested in booking a speaker?

For your school, workplace, church, family or organizational event and more, we are available to work with you! Click below to sign up for a Community Education Speaker, available to schedule year-round. Limited availability in October, due to Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Speaker Request Form



FREE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 101 TRAINING

This training provides an introduction to domestic violence dynamics, survivor and perpetrator behaviors, and the impacts of children's exposure to violence.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Tuesday April 14, 2026

ZOOM

Registration Required



www.anewdv.org <https://bit.ly/3NLq5EP>



We'd love to invite you to deepen your connection to our mission by joining us for a **free, virtual Domestic Violence 101 training** happening **TODAY**:

Tuesday, April 14
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

This engaging session, hosted by Anew's Community Education Department, will provide a foundational understanding of:

- The dynamics of domestic violence
- Common survivor and perpetrator behaviors
- The impact of violence on children and families

Whether this is your first time attending or you've joined us before, this training is a powerful opportunity to learn, reflect, and strengthen the way we support survivors together.

[Register Now](#)



In collaboration with the Harvey Public Library & Family Christian Health Center



Sextortion: Image-Based Abuse



Saturday, April 25th, 2026



11:00-1:00pm



15441 Turlington Ave, Harvey, IL

What to Expect:

11:00-12:30pm

Sextortion presentation by Susan Soda, Community Education Program Manager at Anew

12:30-1:00pm

Resource sharing with Family Christian Health Center and Anew

Refreshments provided!

Questions?

Email susan.s@anewdv.org

Calling all parents!

Join us at the Harvey Public Library to learn about sextortion & protecting youth online.

Learn age-appropriate ways to talk to youth about digital boundaries, social media safety tips, and local resources available to them.

Anew's Community Education Program Manager Susan Soda will be presenting "Sextortion: Image-Based Abuse" at the Harvey Public Library on April 25th. Please join us as we present this free resource for protecting the youth in your life!

Upcoming Events



6th Annual

Dancing Away Domestic Violence

Dancing and movement for the whole family!

Save the Date:

Saturday, June 27,
3pm-6pm

Prices:

Adult Tickets: \$20

Kids 12 and Under: \$10

Kids 5 and Under: FREE

DADV T-Shirt: \$12

Location:

Our Lady of the Heights
Gymnasium, St. Kieran Parish
724 195th Street
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Parking - East Lot



Water, snacks, and resources will be available to all participants.



Purchase tickets at
<https://givebutter.com/DADV26>

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

Get your tickets now!

Dancing Away Domestic Violence

Saturday, June 27th, 2026, 3pm-6pm

Thank you, Sponsors!

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WILD
WINGS**



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**SERENDIPITY
yoga**



Tressler LLP
Attorneys at Law

Save the Dates




FUNDRAISER

Buffalo Wild Wings® strives to support our community and the organizations and sports teams within it. Together we can make a positive impact and keep our community working and playing together.

On the day listed below, present this ticket physically or digitally to your server and Buffalo Wild Wings® will donate 20% of your total bill back to your organization (not valid on web or third-party delivery orders).

Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse
Sunday, May 24, 2026 • ALL DAY
Valid at: 17510 Halsted | Homewood, IL
(708) 922-9453



The Buffalo Wild Wings in Homewood, IL is hosting a restaurant fundraiser on Sunday, May 24, 2026. 20% of your total bill will be donated to Anew for your carryout and dine-in orders. Just mention our name when you arrive!

Share with your friends and have a fun day out-- eating something yummy and supporting a great cause all at the same time!



KEEPING DREAMS ALIVE

Sneaker Ball

Save the Date
NOVEMBER 6, 2026 | 6:00PM

GEORGIOS
8800 W 159TH ST
ORLAND PARK, IL
60462



Keynote Speaker
Winnie Dortch
Survivor
WGN-TV News Reporter

For more than 46 years, Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse has served as a lifeline for survivors of domestic violence. Our Keeping Dreams Alive Sneaker Ball is a time to honor the work and celebrate the impact of lives changed.

Join us for an evening of dinner, dancing, silent auction, and raffle prizes. We will also present the 2026 Diane Kessler Community Champion and Velton Lacefeld Memorial Awards. Grab your favorite sneakers and get your tickets today!

Sponsored by:



6PM

Check-in begins.

7:30PM

Dinner is served.

\$125/Ticket

\$1,000/Table of Ten

SCAN
ME



For event details,
tickets, and updates.



Tickets Now Available!

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! Please share with you network.

Positions Updated 3/10/2026

★ **Bilingual Partner Abuse Intervention Group Co-Facilitator**

★ **Director of Counseling**

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.

Please consider supporting Anew with a one-time gift or becoming a monthly donor! Gifts of a minimum of \$10 a month will help stabilize our budget and provide lasting support. Click the button below to donate today!

Donate Now



Wait! Don't unsubscribe yet!

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