



## From your Friendly Neighborhood CEO

### "He was still my Dad."

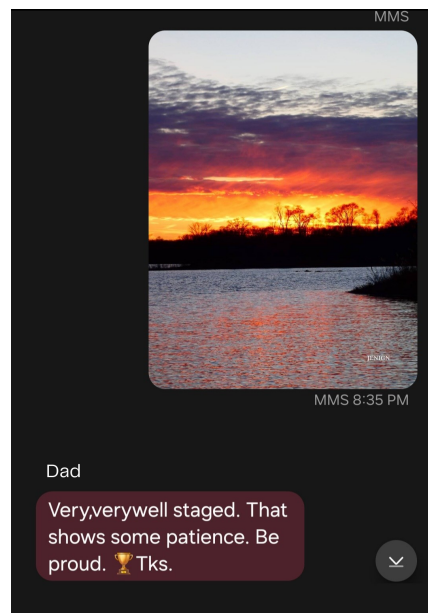
I was 13-years-old when my parents divorced. I was excited to finally live with my mom, and only my mom. I did not have to be anywhere near my dad if I didn't want to be.

My dad was emotionally abusive to all of us, and I witnessed him physically abuse my mom. He was neglectful and extraordinarily selfish. There were times when I liked him and times when I hated him. Some years, I tried to build and maintain a relationship with him; other years, we didn't speak. Sometimes he was my dad, and other times he was just Frank. No matter what I called him, he never changed.

I had to learn not to expect anything from him because as soon as I did, he would dash my hopes into a million pieces. He let me down so many times I lost count.

We got to a point where we would text occasionally to keep in touch. He might send me a recipe or an article, and I might send him a photo I took or an update about his grandson. In September 2023, my oldest brother's health declined, and we were informed he had only days to live. I needed a place to stay to visit him in Ohio, but the hotels were booked, and my dad was the only family member with a house big enough for a guest. He was happy to let me stay with him, and when I got there, we sat together for a long while. He did most of the talking, and I challenged myself to listen with no expectations. He shared more about his life than I had heard before, and some of it helped me understand him a bit more. My brother passed away the day after I left. I felt a sense of peace for both my brother and my dad after that visit.

I started to send my dad photos more often, and he seemed to really enjoy them. Sometimes he would call and tell me how wonderful one of them was and how he had to share it with his friends. We ended up having this one thing that connected us. The little girl inside me felt cared for.



Early this past December, I got a call from my aunt who was worried my dad was neglecting his health. I called him, and we agreed that he would go to the ER if he felt worse. One week later, he was there. Two weeks later, he died there. My last words to him were, "I love you, Dad." I don't remember how long it had been since I said that to him. I spent so much of my life being mad at him and trying not to love him. But in the end, he was still my dad. And in the end, I do love him. Now that he is gone, all my anger has melted away. It doesn't change anything he did to us, but I feel a freedom now to focus on the good.

The relationship between a child and their abusive parent is incredibly complicated. The pull to love them can be hard to reconcile when you know

what they have done. I was confused and upset with myself for being so sad when he died. But the experience somehow helped me heal and deepened my understanding of our work. Children come to us every day with this same internal struggle. They hate the behavior, but often, they still love the person. And that is okay.

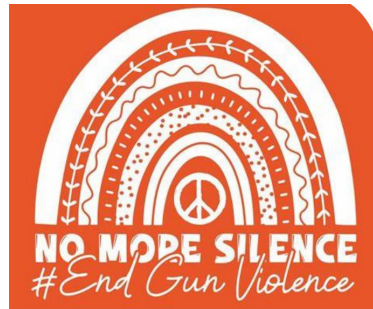
In peace,

Jennifer

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## June is Gun Violence Awareness Month

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STOP THE  
VIOLENCE

## Gun Violence Awareness Month

Advocate for change. #EndGunViolence

### Illinois Must Protect Victims of Domestic Violence Press Release

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month and every day, more than 300 people are directly impacted by gun violence in the United States. Domestic violence and gun violence are deeply interconnected, impacting millions of women, families, and communities across the U.S. Two-thirds of women killed by an intimate partner are killed with a gun. In the last few weeks alone, there have been several local cases of domestic violence involving firearms.

Recently, the Illinois General Assembly declined to act on Karina's Bill SB2633. This legislation would strengthen the law to protect domestic violence survivors from firearms. The bill is supported by dozens of domestic violence and gun violence prevention advocates, healthcare organizations, and legal aid groups. As a member of The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, Anew works to advocate and educate stakeholders about the importance of collectively working together to ensure the safety of families experiencing domestic violence.

"Advocates and survivors have been lifting up the dangers of firearms in domestic violence situations for decades. It is beyond time to heed the call for enhanced protection for survivors and their children."- Jennifer Gabrenya, Chief Executive Officer.

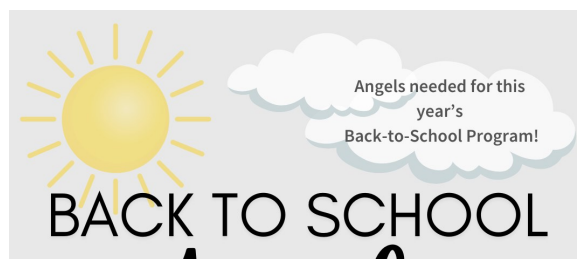
Every day Anew's Court Advocates work diligently at the Markham Courthouse to help survivors obtain orders of protection and provide additional resources to help them plan for their safety. Advocates, law enforcement and our elected officials must work together to ensure that protection is given to survivors. Domestic violence can happen to anyone, no matter your socioeconomic background, education, race, or sexual orientation. It is important for everyone to work together to help survivors be safe and stay safe!

If you or someone you know is feeling unsafe from their intimate partner, please reach out to our 24-hour hotline at 708-335-3028.

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## Opportunities to Support

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# Angels



Our most popular program returns! Back to School Angels is the opportunity for you to participate and directly help children whose families are in financial hardship due to domestic violence in the home.

You can adopt a child's list yourself, get a group together and split up the list, or do this as a community service project with your own children.

Please expect to spend an average of \$80 per child, with a possible spending range of \$60 - \$120 per child, which includes the optional gift card for new school shoes and clothing.

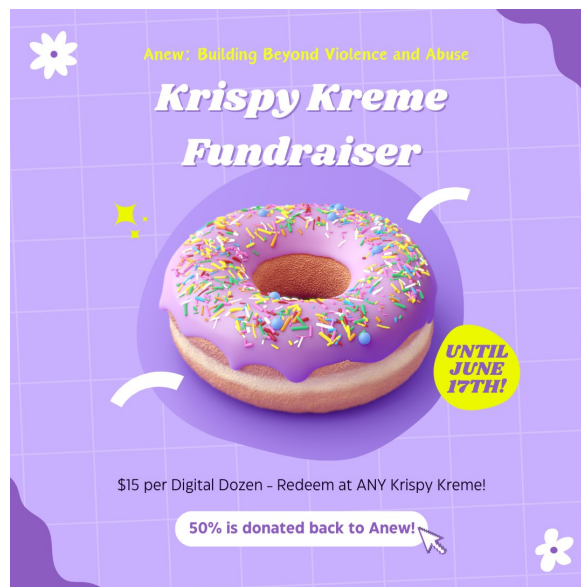
If you are matched with a junior high or high school student, a gift card may be requested to be put towards a specific scientific calculator. This gift card can be \$10-\$20.

Please fill out the following form, and Development Coordinator Rachel will match you with a student in need.

All donations will need to be received on or before July 31st, 2024.

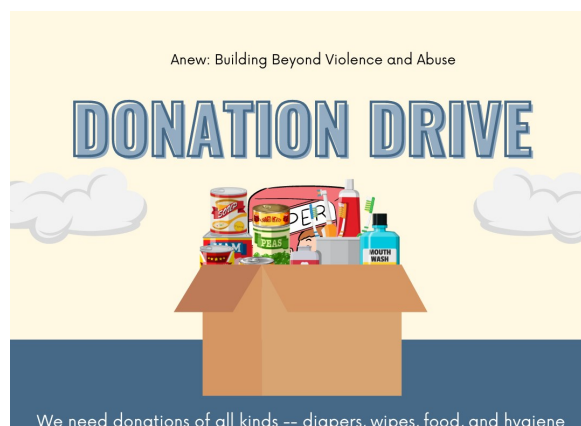
If you have any questions please email Rachel at [rachel.f@anewdv.org](mailto:rachel.f@anewdv.org).

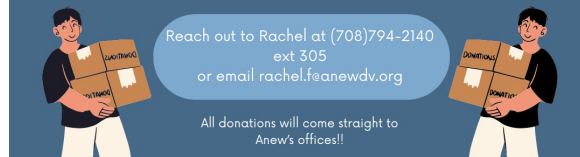
[Become a Back to School Angel](#)



Our Krispy Kreme Digital Dozen fundraiser has raised \$195.00 so far! Help us sell out of our 100 dozen goal by getting a dozen or two for you or your loved ones.

[Purchase Now](#)





Anew is in constant need of refilling our donation pantries for clients.

Our top needs are diapers, pull ups, wipes, and hygiene products, though all items on our Amazon Wishlist below are items we always need!

Contact Rachel at [rachel.f@anewdv.org](mailto:rachel.f@anewdv.org) if you would like to host a collection drive with your group or community.

[Amazon Wishlist](#)

## 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 5/15/24

- ★ [Bilingual Crisis Intervention Advocate - Part Time](#)
- ★ [Partner Abuse Intervention Co-Facilitator - Part Time](#)
- ★ [Court Program Assistant](#)
- ★ [Children's Counselor](#)
- ★ [Community Education Advocate](#)
- ★ [Childcare Provider](#)
- ★ [Director of Community Services](#) \*\*\*NEW\*\*\*

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).

Interested in donating or becoming a monthly donor?  
Click the button below to experience our new donation page!

[Donate Now](#)



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