



From the Desk of the CEO



As I prepared to write this month's message, I became more aware of all the things celebrated or acknowledged in June. Pride Month, PTSD Awareness, Men's Mental Health, and Gun Violence Awareness are just a few of the important issues recognized during this time.

This made me reflect on why we designate specific times to focus on certain issues. Often, it's because these topics are underrepresented, overlooked, or not widely understood. By shining a light on them, we seek acknowledgment and validation for the individuals and communities they impact. Many of these issues also intersect—because none of us are defined by just one aspect of our identity.

That's why I found it difficult to choose just one topic for this newsletter.

When I train others about the impact of domestic violence, I often use the metaphor of a kaleidoscope. When you look through one, you see a shifting pattern of colors and shapes. Each new configuration is just as beautiful and captivating as the last, even though no two are the same. I believe this is a powerful way to describe who we are as people. We are made up of many identities and experiences, and they show up differently throughout our lives—sometimes even from day to day. Yet every version of ourselves is uniquely beautiful and entirely authentic.

So this June, I invite you to be fully and proudly yourself—in all your vibrant shapes and colors. I see you, and I celebrate you with mine.

In Peace,

Jennifer Gabrenya





Gun Violence Awareness Month

Advocate for change. #EndGunViolence

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month, and here at Anew we understand the interconnection of gun violence and domestic violence. According to Everytown Research analysis of CDC, National Death Reporting System, every month, an average of more than 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner.

Abusers with firearms are five times more likely to kill their female victims, and guns further exacerbate the power and control dynamic commonly used by abusers to inflict emotional abuse and exert coercive control over their victims. [1] Illinois recently passed Karina's Law that became effective on May 11, 2025, Mother's Day. The law was named after Karina Gonzalez, who with her daughter, were killed by Karina's husband in 2023. Karina obtained an order of protection against him, but his firearms were not removed from his possession.

Karina's Law seeks to protect domestic violence victims by requiring an abuser when an order of protection is entered to immediately surrender their firearms to law enforcement when served with the order of protection. You can learn more about Karina's Law [here](#). This is a great step forward in protection victims and their families.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please call our 24-hour Bilingual Hotline at (708) 335-3028. Our Advocates are here to help.

[1] Jacquelyn C. Campbell et al., "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study," American Journal of Public Health 93, no. 7 (July 2003): 1089-97, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.93.7.10>

Back to School Angels Needed



ABOUT B.T.S.A

- The B.T.S.A Program provides school supplies for children impacted by domestic violence, whose families are facing economic challenges.
- Please expect to spend a range of **\$60-\$120** per child, depending on where items are shopped, and what grade the child is entering.
- Optional \$50 gift cards are suggested to provide **new shoes & clothing** for the new year.
- All donations need to be received by **July 31st**.



Any questions? Email Rachel at rachel.f@anewdv.org

[Sign up Now!](#)

Behind Every Survivor is a Team That Shows Up Daily

Our Rapid Rehousing team works tirelessly to support survivors transitioning into safe, stable housing. But right now, the office fridge they rely on every day has stopped working, at a time where our budget can not meet this unexpected cost.

From storing staff lunches during long client days to keeping water and snacks cold for drop-ins, this fridge plays a quiet—but important—role in keeping our team nourished and ready to serve.

We're looking for a generous donor to donate a new refrigerator or help cover the cost (approx. \$600). Can you help us keep our team going strong?

Reach out to rachel.f@anewdv.org if you can assist. Donations are tax-deductible and deeply appreciated.

This Just In:

Our Rapid Rehousing office fridge quit on us.



**Can you
donate a
new fridge
or help
cover the
cost?**



Dancing Away Domestic Violence 2025



5th Annual

Dancing Away Domestic Violence

Line Dancing, Cardio Drumming and Zumba for the whole family!

When?

Saturday, June 21, 2025
3pm-6pm

Where?

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

Prices:

Adult Tickets: \$20
Kids 12 and Under: \$10
Kids 5 and Under: FREE
DADV T-Shirt: \$10

Door prizes, swag bags, drinks, snacks, and resources will be available to all participants.

Additional raffle tickets will be available to purchase in person during the event.

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

[Purchase Tickets!](#)

Thank you, Sponsors!

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Jennifer Gabrenya

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 5/14/2025

★ [Bilingual Crisis Intervention Advocate](#)

★ [Bilingual Partner Abuse Intervention Group Co-Facilitator - Part Time](#)

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.

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