Dear Friends,

It feels like we blinked, and it’s June already—2022 has been a whirlwind of activity. Although a little later than we prefer, we want to share this annual report describing the great things we accomplished together in 2021. Looking back, it truly was a year of perseverance. It was also a year of navigating new challenges and staying true to what matters most—healing and justice.

In 2021, we centered survivors at every step—elevating their stories of hope and healing, and sometimes of injustice. With your support, we launched the Survivor Voices Project, sharing the experiences of more than 25 survivors on our website and incorporating their input into our training programs and resources.

For so many survivors, being believed makes all the difference. That’s why EVAWI created Start by Believing, the simple message that believing victims is the first and most important part of an effective response. In 2021, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of this powerful public action campaign with communities around the world.

In the past year, we also developed tools that put victims in the driver’s seat. SEEK THEN SPEAK is a new online program that gives victims control over how and when they choose to report sexual assault. Two new Online Training Institute courses help law enforcement and allies respond the right way when survivors disclose abuse.

Criminal justice professionals, advocates, medical providers, and others who respond to gender-based violence proved how valuable this kind of training is to them. When we hosted our first-ever virtual conference, more than 1,900 people attended, representing over 200,000 hours of training.

We’re excited for you to read this annual report. Thank you for your unwavering support for survivors and enduring dedication to making a difference.

Wishing you all the best,

Joanne Archambault
Founder and CEO

Ann Burdges
President, Board of Directors
Elevating Survivor Voices

With funding from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation and individual donors, we founded the Survivor Voices Project, creating a new section of our website where survivors can share their stories of reaching out, and what helped, what hurt, and what being believed – or not – meant to them. This project features survivors’ heartfelt words and photographs, even artwork, poetry, and live and recorded interviews, capturing their strength and resilience.

In the next phase of the project, we are incorporating survivors’ perspectives and input across all our training programs and resources, ensuring they remain centered in the lived reality of those experiencing violence.

evawintl.org/survivor-voices

First Virtual Conference

*International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Resilience*

The theme of resilience was certainly on-point in 2021. A remarkable 1,936 people attended our Virtual Conference, representing 202,312 hours of training, demonstrating that this field is more committed than ever to improving responses to survivors.
With SEEK THEN SPEAK, sexual assault survivors have a new tool to explore their options and report the crime to law enforcement—whenever they’re ready. SEEK THEN SPEAK is an online program survivors can access from any device, in more than 100 different languages, to find information about medical care, supportive services, and reporting to police. Then, if they choose, they can use the tool to begin reporting to law enforcement, answering trauma-informed questions designed to gather critical information about their sexual assault.

Survivors can provide as much or as little information as they’re comfortable with—they can even choose to remain anonymous. The program generates a PDF of the survivor’s report they can download to their device and:

(1) Save for later
(2) Email to the police department
(3) Print (to give to police or simply to store while they decide what they want to do), or
(4) Give to a sexual assault advocacy center to submit to police on their behalf.

EVAWI and EBinRA, a technology company, built SEEK THEN SPEAK with partial funding from a competitive American Bar Endowment Opportunity Grant. Project partners in Florida—the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, Women’s Center of Jacksonville, the 4th Circuit State Attorney’s Office—and the Chicago Police Department helped design and test the program.

Stay tuned for updates as we roll out SEEK THEN SPEAK in communities across the country!

Any time we support survivors in disclosing their abuse, and treat them with respect, dignity, and compassion, it is a victory for justice. This tool could increase rates of reporting, allowing our office to hold more offenders accountable.

State Attorney Melissa Nelson
Office of the Fourth Judicial Circuit
Jacksonville, Florida
EVAWI’s new Online Training Institute course, *Effective Victim Interviewing: Helping Victims Retrieve and Disclose Memories of Sexual Assault*, helps fill a void in quality trauma-informed training for law enforcement investigators. It teaches how to interview sexual assault survivors based on the science of trauma and memory retrieval.

Participants learn the basics of how people commonly respond to sexual assault, and how stress and trauma can alter memory processes. Investigator Justin Bowlin of the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office in Alabama says the course changed his approach to victim interviews. “It taught me a lot about the brain’s response to trauma. People don’t react the way we think they will. The way we think they should react is irrelevant because everyone’s brain and history are different.”

Based on this new model for victim interviewing, EVAWI is creating more training resources that demonstrate the power of an interview skillfully conducted by a compassionate investigator. We’re working with survivors who reported to law enforcement and were subjected to harmful interviewing techniques that compounded their trauma, and even ended up facing charges for false reporting. We filmed new training videos showing expert law enforcement investigators re-interviewing these survivors in a way that prioritizes their dignity and yields more information about the assault. One survivor, Emma Mannion, explains the impact of finally being interviewed the way she should have been the first time.

I feel very much that I am split down the middle right now, 50% of me is like, wow, why is this not the reassurance that I got. This interview was very empathic and caring. And the other part of me feels so sad for the version of me that had to go through it, and she didn’t get any of this. I was afraid that I would still feel very defensive, but you guys made it very easy for me to not feel that way and that my words weren’t crazy and that I didn’t have to question my own experience and memory.

— Emma Mannion
In 2011, we launched Start by Believing, a global campaign with the simple but vital message—when someone tells you they were raped or sexually assaulted, Start by Believing.

In the last 10 years, Start by Believing has made a profound difference in survivors’ lives. More than 700 communities have adopted their own campaigns, 11 states have formally proclaimed their commitment, and thousands of individuals have taken the pledge to Start by Believing.

This is my passion. This is my mission. Use confidence, patience, and truth to tell my story of surviving abuse, and celebrate what came after—even when it’s really hard. All I need is to impact one person, and start by believing.

– Caroline Hammond
These next 10 years are about cementing the change. Together, we’ll embed the Start by Believing philosophy in policies, practices, and protocols around the world, and in the hearts of community members and loved ones everywhere. So, no matter where they turn, every survivor hears, “I believe you. I’m here to help.”

#StartbyBelieving

My detectives, because they did start by believing ... were able to get more details.

They in turn did a more thorough investigation, which gave them more information to carry over to the prosecutor’s office.

Sgt. Ronald “Keith” Reid (Ret.)
FINANCIALS

In 2021, EVAWI’s financial situation rebounded from 2020 with the huge success of our Virtual Conference. Grant funding decreased in 2021 as we wrapped up federally funded projects, but donations continued to grow as more and more individuals and businesses join with us to support this critical work. We are also proud to report that once again, EVAWI passed its annual audit with no material weakness or deficiencies noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues, gains, and other support</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$412,853</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference fees</td>
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<td>Other revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenues, gains, and other support</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,218,404</td>
<td>$1,454,704</td>
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| Change in net assets                               | $595,509  | -$292,197 |

80% Programs
15% Operating
5% Fundraising
If 2021 was a year of perseverance, 2022 has already been a year of action. The trainings and tools we developed with donor and foundation support are circulating through the field, solidifying foundational skills.

At the same time, we’re delving into the complexities of effectively engaging survivors, and institutionalizing best practices.

In partnership with the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, we released the groundbreaking Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination Virtual Practicum. This online training, complete with patient simulations and hands-on activities, teaches each step of the medical forensic exam, and even prepares professionals to testify in court. It also offers advanced training on caring for patients from different populations, including transgender and incarcerated survivors.

Based on the new Effective Victim Interviewing course, and the recorded interviews with survivors, we created an intensive two-day Comprehensive Victim Interview (CVI) program, using a high-performance technology platform. Grounded in neuroscience and best practices, CVI teaches concrete skills for conducting trauma-informed interviews and investigations.

In 2022, we’re focusing on methods that we know are working, while exploring new ways to deliver training and reach an even broader audience. If there’s one thing the past year taught us, change is unstoppable. But so is this community’s dedication to survivor healing and ending violence.

Here’s to looking forward and advancing justice, together.

On location in Chicago, filming a patient simulation for the Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination Virtual Practicum. Left to right: Jacque Bassett, Syd Robbie, michael munson, Tamara Jackson, Mariá Baloto, and Grace Frances.
OUR TEAM

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Zascy Casey
Zaza Sakhat
Together, we are making a difference. Help support survivors – Donate to EVAWI today: evawintl.org

OUR MISSION
We inspire and educate those who respond to gender-based violence, equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to support victims and hold perpetrators accountable. We promote victim-centered, multidisciplinary collaboration, which strengthens the response of the criminal justice system, other professionals, allies, and the general public – making communities safer.

OUR VISION
We envision a world where gender-based violence is unacceptable; where perpetrators are held accountable, and victims receive the compassion, support, and justice they deserve.