LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

It seems like it was just yesterday, but it’s been 20 years since I founded End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI). Throughout those 20 years, I have been honored to work side-by-side with EVAWI’s amazing staff and Board of Directors, humbly serving survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, and other gender-based crimes.

Together, we have championed tens of thousands of law enforcement officers, advocates, medical providers, prosecutors, and other professionals who continually raise the bar to achieve excellence. These professionals are putting skills into action and changing lives.

As a collective army, we have also stood with survivors who are leading culture shifts, changing laws, and transforming how the world responds to gender-based violence.

It therefore fills me with profound gratitude to announce that I am retiring from the position of CEO as of May 1, 2023. Ann Burdges, our extremely capable Board President, will then take the helm and lead EVAWI into the future.

Ann has dedicated her life to serving survivors and pursuing justice. She worked for many years in law enforcement then went on to lead a rape crisis and child advocacy center for over two decades. In 2015, she joined EVAWI’s Board of Directors and served as President for 4 ½ amazing years. I have no doubt that Ann will continue to build on our 20 years of progress to achieve even greater success.

As I step away from the daily operations of this organization that I love so much, and transition from CEO to Honorary Board member, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for all your work and partnership over the last 20 years.

I can’t wait to see what you accomplish in the next 20 years, as you continue pushing for transformational change!

Joanne Archambault
EVAWI Founder and CEO
Over the past 20 years, EVAWI has hosted more than 50 professional conferences, training tens of thousands of law enforcement officers and allied practitioners from across the country, and around the world.

In 2022, we hosted our first hybrid conference, drawing 2,018 virtual and in-person attendees. Another 915 professionals attended our live and recorded webinars.

EVAWI also built the first and most comprehensive online training program in sexual assault response and investigations. In 2022 alone, 5,526 courses were completed in the Online Training Institute (OLTI), representing 49,680 training hours.

All this means it’s more likely for a police officer to reassure a domestic violence victim that “You’re safe now,” before conducting a thorough and professional investigation.

Or for a nurse to wrap a rape survivor in a warm blanket before providing competent patient care and coordinating with other community professionals to ensure wraparound services.

For victim advocates, EVAWI’s training helps to supplement critical skills in crisis intervention and victim support with effective assistance navigating complex criminal justice processes.

Through all our training programs and initiatives, EVAWI continues to move the needle on professional excellence.
One evening, Sasha answered her door to find Detective Lucero — she never expected what he was there to tell her. The police had identified a man whose DNA matched evidence in the medical forensic exam kit that was collected after her rape, 15 years earlier.

Stunned, Sasha said, “I’ve never told anyone about this—not even my mom. No one believed me when I reported it—not the doctor, not the nurse, and definitely not the police.”

Detective Lucero knew he had to get this right. He had just completed the two-day Comprehensive Victim Interviewing (CVI) training. Gaining Sasha’s trust would be the first and most important step in correcting this investigation that started so badly two decades ago.

“So, Sasha, I’m sorry they failed you,” Detective Lucero said. “I believe you, and I’m going to do everything I can to help you.”

Sasha said she wasn’t sure she could even remember the details, or if she wanted to.

Detective Lucero nodded, handing her his card. “The decision is entirely yours,” he said, “but I know interview techniques that can help recall memories, even years later.”

A couple weeks later, Sasha called Detective Lucero. In a quiet, determined voice she said, “This has brought up all the pain I thought I buried. I want that man—and the justice system—to know what he did changed me, but it does not define me.”

Throughout 2022 ... a total of 338 professionals learned in-depth trauma interviewing skills through our new Comprehensive Victim Interviewing (CVI) program. This means 338 professionals are now better able to serve survivors like Sasha and help them fight for justice.

evawintl.org/victim-interviewing
When Sheila opened the door to the room, she saw every muscle in the young woman’s body tense as she perched on the edge of the exam table. The medical form on Sheila’s clipboard said the patient’s name was Anaya.

A deputy brought Anaya to this rural hospital after she called 911 to report her ex-boyfriend had broken into her home and raped her.

Sheila wondered if she looked as nervous as she felt. At 27 years old, Sheila was the most experienced of the two nurses on shift, but she had never taken care of a sexual assault patient. She was so grateful the Chief Medical Officer required every nurse to complete the Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exam Virtual Practicum.

Through this online program, Sheila learned each step of the exam, including collecting evidence and documenting findings. She had just completed all seven patient simulations in the Practicum the week before.

Looking into Anaya’s eyes, Sheila knew she couldn’t let her down. The stakes were too high. Sheila would give her the highest quality care, treat her injuries, and make sure the evidence she collected could be used in court.

Taking a deep breath, Sheila smiled at Anaya and said, “I’m Sheila. I’m your nurse, and I’m here to help.”

* This story combines aspects of multiple nurses’ experiences.

In 2022 ... 1,137 medical providers and allied professionals enhanced their patient care because of the Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination (SAMFE) Virtual Practicum. Now they are providing better care for survivors like Anaya, and offering a better chance at justice.
In 2022, our Start by Believing campaign continued to spread a global message of support for survivors, wrapping them in love and care when they need it most. This is the message survivors like Cindy need to hear, when they finally decide they are able to break free.

At 20 years old, Cindy married her high school sweetheart, ready for a life of love and partnership. But soon after their wedding, her husband became controlling and cruel. He abused her physically, sexually, and emotionally.

His abuse escalated, and Cindy knew she had to get out—she was afraid of what he would do to her and her son if she didn’t. One day, she told a pastor at her church that her husband was hurting her. It was one of the scariest things she had ever done—she didn’t know what he would say.

Her pastor Started by Believing. His belief gave her the confidence to keep telling and seeking help.

Today, Cindy’s life is filled with joy. Parenting her son brings her great happiness. She works as a therapist working with trauma survivors. She says, “I’m just enjoying life as me.”

With 700 community campaigns worldwide, survivors around the world are now hearing the message of support championed with Start by Believing. By believing in their strength and bravery, survivors can now begin to find hope and healing.
2022 also introduced an alternative pathway to justice, for survivors who desperately need it — survivors like Carlos.

Just after dawn, Carlos walked into the emergency department at a Kansas City hospital. His voice shaking, he told the attendant at the registration counter, “I think I’ve been raped.”

Carlos had gone out to a club the night before with his cousins. All he remembers after the last round of shots was his cousin’s friend saying he would take Carlos home to sleep it off. When Carlos woke up, he was in throbbing pain, lying in an unfamiliar bed.

At the hospital, a sexual assault advocate met with Carlos to talk over his options. She pulled up SEEK THEN SPEAK on her tablet, walking Carlos through the information it covered on everything from the medical forensic exam to prosecution.

He saw that SEEK THEN SPEAK would even lead him through a trauma-informed interview, where he could begin the process of reporting to the police, if he chose. Carlos decided he wanted a medical forensic exam to check for injuries and have evidence collected. “For now,” he said, “I don’t want to talk to the police.”

A week later, Carlos called the advocate. He had gone over the interview questions in SEEK THEN SPEAK, and he was ready to report his assault. He said, “There are still so many blanks in my memories of that night,” but with SEEK THEN SPEAK he felt prepared to meet with a detective.

* This story combines aspects of multiple survivors’ experiences.

EVAWI’s unrelenting innovation creates new options for survivors, like SEEK THEN SPEAK which survivors can use to make their own decisions and even begin reporting to police — in their own time and at their own pace.

seekthenspeak.app
2022 offered an opportunity for survivors around the world to raise their voices and demand justice. To insist on respect. To tell other survivors, “You are not alone.”

Survivors like Kara were able to share their stories on EVAWI’s website. At 15, Kara Robinson Chamberlain was kidnapped from her best friend’s front yard at gunpoint. Her captor held her for 18 hours in his apartment, sexually assaulting her repeatedly, before she escaped and ran to the police.

While in captivity, she committed every detail of her surroundings to memory. Kara was able to lead police back to the apartment and identify her attacker. Later, Kara would learn the man was a serial murderer, responsible for the deaths of at least three other girls.

Kara’s experience led to her life’s mission of helping victims — first as a law enforcement officer and sex crimes detective, and now as a national speaker advocating for survivors’ healing and justice.

Kara reminds us that being heard and being believed heals. She says, “When someone discloses to you they’ve been abused or assaulted, tell them, ‘I believe you. Thank you for sharing that with me. It’s an honor.’”

In 2022 … 16 survivors shared their stories at our annual conference and in Instagram Live interviews, joining 34 survivors whose stories are featured on our Survivor Voices page.

evawintl.org/survivor-voices
FINANCIALS

In 2022, EVAWI’s financial health continued to rebound from the impact of COVID, as well as a significant reduction in federal grants, with the huge success of our hybrid conference, webinar subscriptions, and our new Comprehensive Victim Interviewing (CVI) course. We are proud to have been able to sustain all our programs, including many free resources such as the Online Training Institute (OLTI), Training Bulletins, and our Resource Library, with funds generated from training fees and the generosity of EVAWI’s donors, sponsors, and partners who all played a crucial role in funding the programs that helped survivors and trained professionals in 2022.

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<th>Revenues, gains, and other support</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Training fees</td>
<td>$1,424,664</td>
<td>$1,158,933</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Federal grants</td>
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<td>Other revenue</td>
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<td>Investment</td>
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<td>Paycheck Protection Program grant</td>
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<td>Total revenues, gains, and other support</td>
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<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<td>Program services</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Total expenses</td>
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<th>Change in net assets</th>
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<td></td>
<td>-$94,209</td>
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<tr>
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<th>2022</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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EVAWI will continue to increase our fund development efforts to make an even greater impact. Once again, we were proud to pass our annual audit with no material weakness or deficiencies noted.
As End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) turns 20, we celebrate the incredible strides we’ve made together. And now we step into the future.

On May 1, 2023, Founder and CEO Joanne Archambault is retiring. She launched EVAWI with the vision of creating a world where gender-based violence is unacceptable, where justice prevails, and survivors get the support they deserve.

As the new CEO, I am proud to guide EVAWI into our next chapter. Together we will build on 20 years of unstoppable momentum to achieve even greater success.

In 2023, we will focus on:

• Expanding SEEK THEN SPEAK across the country, offering survivors an alternative pathway to justice and increased access to services.

• Giving law enforcement, advocates, medical providers, and prosecutors in each community the tools to do their jobs effectively so justice triumphs.

• Ensuring every survivor hears, “I believe you. You’re safe now. How can I help?”

It’s my honor to stand with you, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the next 20 years. Thank you for believing in survivors, for championing responders, and for striving to end violence against women and people of all genders. Together, we are creating a better world.

Ann Burdges
Board President
EVAWI is a catalyst for justice and healing, so EVERY survivor of sexual assault and domestic violence gets the right response, every time. Our Board of Directors leads the way.