

THE HOTLINE HAPPENINGS

SPRING 2024

A New Milestone: Connecting with 7 Million Stories

On February 21, 1996, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline) answered its very first call, and at 8:11 am (CDT) on March 13, 2024 we answered our 7 millionth call. The New York-based caller had experienced domestic violence and was seeking resources for shelter, financial aid, and emotional support for herself and her children. Our advocate, Colin, was able to provide education and information about options in her area.

Demand for The Hotline's services continues to grow exponentially. It took 2,720 days to answer our first million calls, while sadly it took only 784 days to answer this latest million. We could not have imagined 28 years ago the millions of people who would reach out for support, validation, care, and safety. Every call is a person, a story, a journey, a family, a community. This day was a somber reminder of how pervasive domestic violence is — and yet we know that for the millions of people who have reached out for support — many more have not.

The Hotline will be commemorating this milestone throughout this year. We will use this moment to share

the stories of survivors, to celebrate the incredible dedication of all those supporting survivors, and to call on all of us to end domestic violence once and for all. Look for the #IAm7Million campaign coming soon. I want to share one last reminder of why we do this work. A caller recently shared after talking with our advocate, "Your work helps people when they feel helpless, alone, scared, and so much more." I can't think of anything more meaningful.

Thank you for your steadfast support — for leaning into this mission to ensure that no one ever has to suffer in silence. You are the reason that 7 million people found their voice, and we are honored to be on the other end of the line.

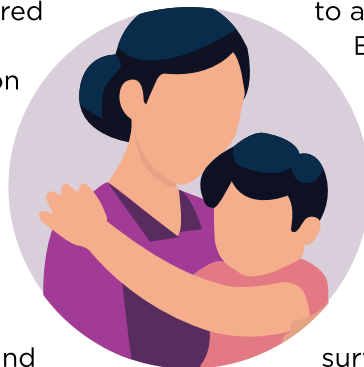
– Katie Ray-Jones, CEO of The Hotline

I am 7 million.

Transforming Lives: Margot Is on Her Path to Healing

Margot* contacted The Hotline and shared that she was feeling trapped in her relationship. She shared that not only was her partner physically hurting her, but he was tracking her location on her phone and controlling her finances to where she felt she had no way out. Margot also shared that she has a young son, and she was very worried she would be unable to afford a lawyer if her partner challenged her custody rights.

Our advocate first helped her to feel safe and comfortable, validated her experience, and let her know that she was not alone. They then talked about Margot's legal options, built a safety plan, and



connected her with legal aid and a counselor in her area to address the trauma she had experienced.

Before leaving the call, Margot said, "You really are amazing. Thank you for doing this and supporting people in need like me. Thank you."

Stories like Margot's are possible because of the support from people like you. Thank you for so generously investing in our work and giving hope to survivors like Margot.

**Margot's name has been changed to protect her confidentiality and privacy.*



European Wax Center & The Hotline: Together for Hope

In 2023, European Wax Center (EWC) reached out to The Hotline following a serious incident of domestic violence at one of their franchise centers. To heal and recover, EWC and their leadership team acted immediately to partner with The Hotline. We now work together to develop customized training for EWC's associates, who have invested hundreds of hours in learning about domestic violence warning signs, and how to discuss concerns and guide their guests, teammates, or loved ones to The Hotline's life-saving services.

In October of 2023, in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month, EWC associates rallied with The Hotline to raise critical funds to support our work. At checkout, they asked hundreds of clients to give \$1, \$4, or \$7 — because we know that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7

men will experience physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. Through this campaign, European Wax Center raised nearly \$50,000 to keep hope on the line.

To raise even greater awareness of our partnership within the EWC community, The Hotline was featured in a special session that highlighted survivors at EWC's annual brand conference in February of 2024. Over 600 people took part in a special volunteer activity to support The Hotline and local shelters. We are profoundly grateful to our partners at European Wax Center for their heartfelt commitment to domestic violence awareness and prevention. EWC's genuine dedication to this issue will impact countless survivors, and their support embodies the true essence of compassion and social responsibility.



Honoring The Legacy of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, or NCADV, was created in 1978 by 17 “founding mothers” who believed there needed to be a strong, policy-focused voice advocating on behalf of domestic violence survivors at the national level. Over the years, NCADV was part of the conversation and movement to enact legislation in our field that survivors continue to rely on today for funding that protections, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the Family Violence Services and Protections Act (FVPSA), and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). In the fall of 2022, NCADV merged with The Hotline to create systems change in the national response to domestic violence. As one organization, we continue to grow our missions, reach more survivors by maximizing resources, modernize programs and services, and leverage the talent from both ground-breaking organizations.

As we look ahead to the future of the work to be done, including the work of Survivor Justice Action (SJA), our

new national 501(c)(4) advocacy organization dedicated to ending domestic violence in the U.S., we honor the contributions of our supporters. It's because of you that the legacy of NCADV continues in The Hotline's and SJA's work.



It's because of your support that we have been there for the millions of survivors across the country who have needed help. Whether you have been a supporter of NCADV, The Hotline, or both — you have made all our accomplishments possible, and we are so grateful to carry forth our shared mission with each of you by our side.

To learn more about the work of SJA, visit sjaction.org.

February 2024: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



Preventing domestic violence is central to The Hotline’s vision, and in February, love is respect promoted Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) and reached thousands

of young people through webinars, Instagram lives, on-campus events, and more. Thanks to all who shared our materials and engaged with TDVAM nationwide!

This annual, month-long effort focuses on how to stop dating abuse before it starts. Selected by the love is respect National Youth Council, this year’s theme

“Love Like That” illuminated what “that” means regarding healthy and unhealthy relationships. The month concluded with Angela Lee, love is respect Director, receiving the 2024 Texas Partner for Change Award from the Texas Council on Family Violence, honoring her efforts to prevent domestic violence.

“I have a ‘healthy obsession’ with teens and young adults and am very grateful for the opportunity to share in making a positive impact in the lives of young people. As Taylor Swift stated during her Grammy Award’s speech, ‘All I want to do is keep being able to do this.’ It makes me so happy that I can turn the pain I experienced as a teen into purpose and uplift safe and healthy relationships.”

- Angela Lee, love is respect Director

The Hotline in Washington D.C.

Executives from The Hotline and Survivor Justice Action (SJA) joined the policy staff in Washington, D.C. to attend the Gender-Based Violence Resource Network convening in February. The Hotline’s Chief External Affairs Officer, Crystal Justice, along with Marium Durrani, Vice President of Policy, attended meetings with the Federal Communications Commission and the Cellular Telephone Industries Association (CTIA) to discuss our support of the implementation of the Safe Connections Act, an important law to help survivors manage their cell phones and wireless plan’s privacy.

The Hotline’s policy staff, along with Katie Ray-Jones, The Hotline’s CEO, also met with leaders of two Offices within the U.S. Department of Justice: Director of the

Office on Victims of Crime and Director of the Office on Violence Against Women. In these meetings the team provided critical updates on our work, our increasing contact volume, and discussed ways of supporting agency priorities and initiatives.

Katie, Crystal, and SJA’s President, Ruth Glenn, met with representatives from the White House Gender Policy Council, including the newly appointed Senior Advisor for Gender-Based Violence, Catherine Powell, to discuss The Hotline’s recent achievements related to online harassment, abuse, and technology-facilitated abuse, and the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.



A Year in Review

In 2023, survivors reached out to The Hotline at historic levels, and the need continues to grow. Your support is what helps us reach more survivors — thank you for keeping hope on the line.

928,892

Total Number of Calls,
Chats and Texts Received

6,000,682

Total number of website
visits to thehotline.org

19.8%

% of Increase in Contact
Volume Over Previous Year



The Hotline continues to implement innovative strategies to address the increased need for our services.

Join us for the 2024 National Conference on Domestic Violence!



The National Conference on Domestic Violence is an annual gathering and powerful platform that echoes the resilience of survivors, amplifies the voices of advocates, and unites leaders dedicated to creating a world free from domestic violence. This year's conference will be taking place September 15-17, 2024 in Chicago, IL at the Palmer House Hotel!

Every survivor and every voice is vital to harness our collective power to end gender-based violence. For more information on registration or sponsorship opportunities, please visit thehotline.org/2024conference

Ways to Give

Your donation puts every survivor who reaches out to The Hotline on a path toward a safer future. Learn about how you can fundraise in other ways by visiting thehotline.org/waystogive today.

Checks can be sent to:

National Domestic Violence Hotline
P.O. Box 90249, Austin, TX 78709

Call to give at **(737) 234-6464**

There can be advantages to donating through:

- Donor-Advised Funds
- Mandatory IRA Distributions
- Stock or Mutual Funds
- Estate or Planned Gifts

If you would like more information, please contact Donor Relations at development@thehotline.org.



Make your gift online at thehotline.org/2024SpringNewsletter or by scanning this QR code.

**Thank you for
your generosity!**

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If you or someone you know is affected by relationship abuse, **24/7 support** is available.

Call: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Chat: thehotline.org

Text: "START" to 88788

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