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Start by Believing Video Available

Spotlight on Local Communities: West Virginia

The [West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Inc. \(WVFRIS\)](#) recently kicked off a statewide [Start by Believing](#) campaign as part of their Sexual Assault and Stalking Symposium/SART Summit, which took place during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. EVAWI Board President, Roger Canaff, was invited to the 2-day summit, where he, along with Marsha Kisner, Rural Services Project Coordinator for WVFRIS, presented the campaign and encouraged participants to [make a personal commitment](#) to **Start by Believing**.



WVFRIS SBB display table

According to Marsha, "We had a good turnout for the event. We received 44 pledges!" Everyone who attended the event was provided with a **Start by Believing** toolkit, which included a poster, postcard, and brochure to take back to their own communities. Since the event, WVFRIS has been contacted by several member programs looking to launch the campaign in their own community.



Statewide Sexual Assault
Symposium Focusing on
Trauma

About the Campaign

[Start by Believing](#) is a public awareness campaign uniquely focused on the public response to sexual assault. Because a friend or family member is typically the first person a victim confides in after an assault, each individual's personal reaction is the first step in a long path



For more information on the *Start by Believing* campaign, [visit our website](#) or check us out on [Facebook](#).

Join Our Mailing List



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April 3-5, 2013
International Conference on
Sexual Assault,
Domestic Violence
and Stalking.
Hilton Baltimore,
Baltimore, MD



toward justice and healing. Knowing how to respond is critical—a negative response can worsen the trauma and foster an environment where sexual assault predators face zero consequences for their crimes.

Because rapists attack an average of six times, one failed response can equal five more victims. **Start by Believing** will lead the way toward stopping this cycle, by creating a positive community response, informing the public, uniting allies and supporters, and improving our personal reactions. The goal is to change the world, and outcomes for victims, one response at a time.

How to Launch Your Own Campaign

By visiting the [Start by Believing](#) website, you can get all the help you need to launch your own local campaign. You can use this [YouTube video](#), which is designed to convey the excitement people feel about the campaign.

Sign up to get involved, or contact a member of our staff to get started on your own local campaign. It's not as hard as you think. And it's the only way to create change -- by raising the issue.

Add your voice to the building chorus of people demanding change. Visit startbybelieving.org today.



Visit us on YouTube



Donate Now



Start by
Believing on
Facebook

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI)

Vision Statement: 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.

Mission Statement: 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.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. Contact EVAWI at: info@evawintl.org

EVAWI International, PO Box 33, Addy, WA 99101

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