

Having trouble viewing this message? [Click here to view this message online.](#)

Shining the Spotlight *Start by Believing* in Wyoming County, New York



EVAWI International
P.O. Box 33
Addy, WA 99101-0033
509-684-9800 phone
509-684-9801 fax
info@evawintl.org

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

This month we shine the spotlight on community leaders in Wyoming County, New York for launching their own *Start by Believing* campaign.

Wyoming County District Attorney Don O'Geen said he "fell in love" with the campaign when he first saw it at an EVAWI conference, and decided to bring it home to his own community. The campaign kicked off on September 30, with a press conference hosted by O'Geen and Domestic Violence Coordinator Colleen Marvel. They were joined by the head of each law enforcement agency, members of the Probation Department, and representatives of the Department of Social Services for the event. The kickoff was scheduled for the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. O'Geen described:

Each person standing behind me had filled out their own pledge card. It was a great moment to have all of those individuals standing behind a very important message.

The event was covered by all of the newspaper outlets in the community, reaching many residents with the campaign's message. Within days a positive impact was seen. O'Geen explained:

A few days after our press conference we had a sexual assault (boyfriend/girlfriend) - the kind of case many people would view with skepticism. I reminded our people to "Start By Believing." The investigation ensued and within three days he was interviewed at Fort Hood in Texas. He



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

[Best Practices: Resources](#)

[Best Practices: FAQ's](#)

fully confessed to the forcible rape of his girlfriend. Cooperation between Fort Hood and our local PD was great. They even put him on a plane for us to meet and arrest him, saving us the time and money of an extradition.

Increasing Awareness

In the media coverage surrounding the campaign, O'Geen and Marvel emphasized the importance of talking publicly about domestic and sexual violence, to increase awareness and decrease the shame and isolation so often experienced by victims. O'Geen also asked the media to publicize arrests for domestic violence and urged residents to hang purple ribbons outside their homes to raise awareness. While the *Start by Believing* campaign focuses on the community response to victims of sexual assault, O'Geen noted that this message is a "perfect fit" for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic Violence Coordinator Colleen Marvel noted:

Putting things in the paper, putting up purple ribbons ... those types of grassroots things are really helpful in a community as small as ours.



Other activities included shining purple lights, as a symbol of domestic violence awareness, on the Government Center each night in October.

Recognizing Leadership

Congratulations to the officials and residents of Wyoming County, New York and thank you to District Attorney Don O'Geen for letting us know about this outstanding initiative.

We want to hear from you next. Let us know what you are doing in your community to spread the message of *Start by Believing!*



April 22-24, 2014

International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Trafficking
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, WA



Monday, April 21, 2014

[Forensic Clinical Response to Victims of Violence Against Women](#)
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, WA



Monday, April 21, 2013

[Improving the Criminal Justice Response to Gender-Based Violence](#)
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle, WA





EVAWI CFC Designation
11400



Donate Now

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by donotreply@evawintl.org in collaboration with



Try it free today