



# Stewardship REPORT

FALL 2019 DONOR UPDATE

## Access to Information

**W**hen we talk about safety, support, and all the resources survivors need when they turn to WEAVE, we often think of access.

However, while access is viewed as eliminating barriers, the reality is that it means much more.

First off, our services are available to all people — regardless of gender identity, age, race, or socioeconomic status — and we provide them with information they are looking for ... whether that be for themselves, family, or friends.

We are available to anyone who has questions or concerns ... businesses so employers can support employees experiencing domestic or sexual violence ... survivors so we can help them figure out what barriers are holding them back ... people in communities who need services that are culturally

and linguistically accessible.

And after casting our net wide out into all our different communities, we believe that sharing information is a key part of our work in crisis intervention.

It allows everyone in our community to be aware of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking, and we want to help them, to know how to appropriately respond.

### Multilingual 24-Hour Support & Information Line

One of our oldest and best known programs is our 24-hour multilingual Support & Information Line.

Advocates respond to more than 14,000 calls each year, and with bilingual Advocates and volunteers, as well as an interpretation service, we can answer these calls in over 250 languages.

These Advocates offer support and resources in response to each unique situation. In addition to WEAVE services, they are also trained to help people who might need resources that are outside of WEAVE's programs.

Sometimes survivors just want to talk ... and the Support & Information Line offers that ability as well. For survivors considering leaving a violent relationship, the process takes a lot of courage and time, and it is one of the

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We cannot do any of our work without you — our generous donors who provide financial support.

The reality is that more than 14,000 people reach out to WEAVE each year in search of answers and information.

**Thanks to you,** we can leverage the limited government funds available to meet the ever growing demand for our services.



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# Access to Information

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most dangerous stages. Knowing this, our Advocates create a plan for safety with survivors on the phone. Having someone to talk to who can offer support is significant for encouraging the survivor to leave when they are ready.

Offering this service is critical to our work, because so often, survivors feel alone. Being able to communicate over the phone also supports survivors in dealing with the different barriers they might face.

Over the years, government funding cuts have threatened this critical resource, but because of you, our availability has never ceased — not even for a day. Thank you for ensuring survivors always have support available.

## Online Message Boards

Technology, generational differences, culture, and access all impact the way we communicate. Not everyone can — or wants to — communicate by phone, so WEAVE works to adapt to changes in communication preferences.

In 2008, the agency pioneered anonymous

online message boards that allow survivors and those who care about them to post anonymous questions. Advocates respond within one to two days with supportive information and access to resources. This allows for survivors to seek information and learn next steps available to them.

We know that many who post questions are just not ready to talk about their situation. Others are not safe to reach out by phone or simply prefer electronic communications initially.

More than 500 messages are answered each year, with past questions and responses maintained on the page. As a result, the boards are information rich resources for others, too. Survivors can read the page and see others sharing similar challenges and the support available — a key step in eliminating the isolation that is common in violent relationships.

This innovation is only possible because of our donors. The message boards continue to meet an important need in our community, and your support enables WEAVE to respond to emerging needs and to meet survivors where they are at.

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## Safe Night Out Program:

# Improving the Safety of Patrons of Sacramento's Nightlife Scene

We know that young adults experience sexual assault at higher rates. We know that perpetrators may rely on drugs — the most common being alcohol — to make victims more vulnerable. Additionally, we know that incidences of intimate partner and sexual violence occur in our bars and clubs.

Staff who work in bars and clubs encounter these situations regularly, but they may not have the tools to intervene or to ensure safety for a victim. Recognizing this, our Prevention & Education Team created the Safe Night Out (SNO) program that provides tailored training to staff who work at these establishments.

The training covers how to recognize when a customer may be at risk for assault, how to appropriately intervene, how to ensure the safety of vulnerable patrons, and how to refer victims to WEAVE for additional support. To date, the program has trained employees from over 23 Sacramento bars and clubs. Bars and clubs that participate in training also receive a SNO toolkit that includes posters, mirror clings, and window decals indicating they are a SNO participating location.

This innovative program caught the attention of club employees who were eager for the information but also our community's leadership. Local Business Improvement Districts such as the Midtown Association quickly supported the project, and the City of Sacramento stepped in to provide financial support to help expand the reach and encourage participation.

Based on feedback, the program has been tailored for different entertainment districts, which allows WEAVE to bring staff together and to address more local challenges as part of the curriculum. The Lavender Heights District was recently trained, where content addressed the unique needs of LGBTQ clubs and patrons.

With your support we can work to improve the safety of our community. We can pilot new ideas like Safe Night Out only because of the flexibility your philanthropic support gives us. Your contributions mean WEAVE can quickly respond to emerging needs and is able to stay at the forefront of innovative approaches.





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## WEAVE Learn

With over 40 years' experience, WEAVE has built an extensive base of knowledge and has been recognized as a leader in educating diverse audiences about domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking.

WEAVE recently completed a three year effort with the California Department of Education, with our staff serving as writers and content experts for the revision of the California Health Education Framework in the areas of healthy relationships, dating violence, sexual harassment and assault, consent, and identification and intervention of sex trafficking of minors.

This work led to WEAVE securing funding from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to launch WEAVE Learn.

WEAVE Learn is an online learning program that provides anti sex trafficking curricula, trainings, and toolkits for administrators, educators, and students at K-12 grade levels. WEAVE staff will provide statewide regional in-person trainings in the coming months, and the online program will be available to every school throughout California after its launch in Fall 2019.

This new program of WEAVE has allowed us to reach beyond our region and share important information and what we have learned over the years.

## Meeting Clients Where They Are

Often times, survivors face barriers to accessing services ... could be transportation ... could be comfort level going to a particular location ... could be trust in a service provider.

To overcome these barriers, WEAVE has 34 community partners throughout Sacramento County who support embedded WEAVE Advocates at their locations, allowing survivors to access WEAVE services in a space where there is already comfort and trust.

We have advocates located on all Los Rios Community College District campuses who provide students with a confidential resource outside of the district systems. We have counseling services provided throughout Sacramento County at trusted locations. Our Elder Abuse Advocate works in partnership with the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center to support older victims of domestic and family violence.

We know that it takes everyone working together to build a stronger, safer community. Thank you for being part of this community and partnering with us to create safety for all.



## Thank You!

We all rely on information to make the right choices for ourselves and our families, every single day. We believe that access to information is a fundamental right and a critical resource for a healthy and happy life.

As you've read about a few of our core programs and new developments, you can see how important access to information is for those who need our support. And each of these is possible due to your support.

Thanks to you — our supporter — we are sharing resources 24/7. **We thank you.**



1900 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811  
weaveinc.org Office Phone: 916.448.2321

OUR MISSION is to build a community that does not tolerate sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking and to provide survivors with the support they need to be safe and thrive.