



# Stewardship REPORT

SPRING 2024 DONOR UPDATE

## Sexual Assault Response Team

When a sexual assault occurs, each survivor determines their course of action.

For some, this could be a physical exam, and every survivor of sexual assault is entitled to have an advocate present to support them during that process. As Sacramento County's sole Rape Crisis Center for 36 years, the WEAVE 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) fills this vital role of providing support to survivors during the examination and connecting them to comprehensive supportive services following the examination.

We maintain a staff of trained SART Advocates to respond to survivors undergoing a forensic examination. A survivor's clothing is often collected and retained for further testing and evidence collection. In response, all WEAVE SART Advocates maintain an array of new clothing — including underwear, socks, leggings, and t-shirts or sweatshirts, provided to the survivor to wear home from the examination.

The responding Advocate also arranges for transportation home or to a safe place for the survivor. If it is unsafe for the survivor to return to their home, WEAVE will arrange for temporary safe shelter or a hotel stay.

In addition to providing support during examinations, the SART Advocate also coordinates follow-up care for survivors, which may include attending law enforcement interviews, medical appointments, and legal hearings with survivors, as well as connecting survivors to free individual and group counseling provided by WEAVE Associate Therapists. The SART Advocate also assists survivors in applying for Victim's Compensation to pay for additional counseling and to make safety improvements — such as changing locks, securing doors and windows, or installing a security system — if the victim fears the perpetrator will return.

While WEAVE fulfills Sacramento County's state-mandated responsibility for maintaining a 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team, WEAVE receives no County or City funding to support the program. While there is some State funding, the amount received is insufficient to fund the full cost of the program.

Thanks to generous community support, WEAVE can ensure every survivor of sexual assault receives immediate and ongoing services to support them in their recovery and healing.

Unfortunately, sexual violence is a reality for too many in our region.

There have been great strides in removing the shame and silence that was once the norm. However, even with these advancements, sexual assault continues, and survivors still experience significant trauma that may last for days, weeks, or even years.

WEAVE is proud of our role in changing the narrative around sexual violence, and we are working to ensure every survivor has access to immediate support and ongoing services. In addition, we work to educate children, youth, and adults to prevent future sexual violence.

The strides made and progress achieved are only possible with the support of our community and generous donors like you.



---

# Advocacy & Prevention on College Campuses

Going to college is a period of profound change, independence, and new experiences for young adults.

Unfortunately, sexual assault is part of the college experience for too many young adults, with one in five college students reporting experiencing sexual assault. Accessing services — particularly confidential ones — on campus can be challenging, with students unsure of where to turn for the trauma-informed and survivor-centered services they need.

College students in Sacramento are fortunate because our local higher education institutions have embraced the need for confidential support for students who experience sexual or domestic violence.

California State University Sacramento and the Los Rios Community College District partner with WEAVE to fund Confidential Campus Advocates.

A WEAVE Confidential Campus Advocate is dedicated to the Los Rios Community College District and maintains a weekly presence at each campus. CSUS partners with WEAVE to fund two full-time Advocates.

Confidential Campus Advocates have multi-faceted roles at the schools. All Advocates

play a critical role in providing education and outreach to students and faculty. This may include working with students to implement prevention and education activities on the campuses, presenting to classes on the dynamics of sexual assault, domestic violence, or sex trafficking along with the services WEAVE provides, or working with administrators and faculty to identify ways to improve campus services.

They are also a critical resource for students who have experienced sexual assault or domestic violence. As WEAVE employees, all communications between a student and the Advocate are confidential and privileged. This is an important distinction, as campus departments may not be able to provide complete confidentiality for a student who discloses personal information.

As a confidential resource, the WEAVE Confidential Campus Advocate supports survivors in deciding whether to report a sexual assault, and they can serve as a dedicated Advocate throughout the reporting and investigation process. The Advocate also supports survivors of domestic violence, including safety planning and connecting to other WEAVE services.

WEAVE commends CSUS and Los Rios Community College District for their dedication to students and their leadership in creating safe and healthy spaces for all students. Our gratitude extends to our donors, as well, whose support is critical in funding the full cost of supportive services to every survivor, regardless of age.



# Impact of WEAVE on School Campuses

## A Personal Story

Throughout its history, WEAVE has worked to prevent sexual and domestic violence through school-based prevention education.

Our work has included immersion programs focusing on providing age-appropriate education to youth from kindergarten through high school graduation, short-term educational presentations to individual classes, and programs supporting student-led clubs in middle schools and high schools.

Regardless of the strategy used, our work has focused on creating safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces for children and youth, while working with teachers and administrators to strengthen campus culture. The impact of our efforts is undeniable. We recently heard from an educator whose heartfelt words demonstrated the power of our partnerships with educators.

*My name is Peter Budge. I am an 8th grade teacher at Will C. Wood Middle School in South Sacramento. I have been teaching for 18 years. I have been at Will C. Wood for 11 years now and I love it.*

*WEAVE has provided our site with a representative for quite some time now. Initially, the site representative introduces themselves to the staff and seeks out any teacher that would be open to having WEAVE presentations in their classes. I have always requested these presentations and they have been invaluable in my experience.*

*WEAVE is absolutely vital to our*

*campus. On three different levels, WEAVE helps educate and support our campus on a variety of topics that are incredibly relevant to our students. In the classroom, WEAVE helps students learn about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, consent, types of abuse, trafficking, gender socialization, and many other topics. In small groups, WEAVE takes it a step further and supports students who are seeking more assistance as they navigate through their adolescence. In one-on-one sessions, WEAVE provides our most troubled students with the support they need through some of the most difficult times of their lives. WEAVE has truly saved students' lives.*

*Getting these students connected to our WEAVE representative has brought about tremendous results in the lives of students that have gone through, or are going through, incredibly difficult situations. Truthfully, having WEAVE on our campus helps me sleep better at night. I just can't walk away from a situation that nags and gnaws at me when I know that one of my students is distressed and possibly going through a period of trauma. I know these moments in a child's life can have lasting effects throughout their lives. Dealing with these situations right now is the best solution and WEAVE is doing exactly that.*

“ WEAVE helps educate and support our campus on a variety of topics that are incredibly relevant to our students.

WEAVE provides our most troubled students with the support they need through some of the most difficult times of their lives. WEAVE has truly saved students' lives. ”

— Peter Budge  
8th grade teacher





# Safe Night Out

Sacramento is home to an eclectic and vibrant nightlife. Local bars, clubs, and restaurants offer an array of entertainment options.

While drinking is never an excuse for sexual assault or domestic violence, we know that alcohol is the most common drug used in drug-facilitated sexual assault and that victims may experience violence from a partner when out socializing. We also heard from nightlife staff who wanted more information on how to safely intervene to prevent violence and to keep potential victims safe.

WEAVE launched the Safe Night Out program in 2019 with resources contributed by generous donors and with in-kind support from local nightlife venues that hosted trainings. Safe Night Out Program is a free prevention program for nightlife establishments like bars, nightclubs, restaurants, and breweries. The program trains staff on the warning signs of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sexual harassment and how to safely intervene as

active bystanders to keep establishments, patrons, and fellow staff members safe.

The program expanded in 2021 with pilot funding from the California Office of Emergency Services. This allowed WEAVE to partner with the Midtown Association and the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce to add our Pride, Pronouns & Progress (PPP) program to Safe Night Out and to focus training efforts on LGBTQIA+ establishments and the Midtown area. Inclusivity training includes learning about gender identity, pronouns, inclusive language, and bystander intervention — ultimately preventing harassment and creating a safer and more inclusive environment for the LGBTQIA+ community.

With grant funding and continued support from our community, WEAVE has been able to expand this innovative program throughout the Sacramento region. We look forward to continuing to work with our business communities to create partnership opportunities to keep communities safe.

## Thank you!

Since 1978, our work has always included a commitment to prevent future violence through awareness and education — educating children, youth, and adults and laying the foundation for a safer, more informed community. And when survivors experience sexual assault or domestic violence, WEAVE services and Advocates are ready, providing unwavering support and a pathway to healing.

It's only with your support that we can

provide these services to our community. Your generosity serves as the cornerstone, allowing us to deliver vital services and education. It is your commitment that fuels our ability to continuously enhance and expand our programs, ensuring that we meet the evolving needs of those we serve.

Your partnership provides the resources necessary to allow us to move ahead when we see the opportunity. Together, we are not just supporting survivors; we are actively shaping a community where resilience triumphs over adversity.

*Thank you for making a difference.*



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

OUR MISSION is to promote safe and healthy relationships and support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking.