



erin levitas
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT / 2019 - 2020

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT THROUGH EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & HELPING SURVIVORS HEAL

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

When I last wrote to you, **the Erin Levitas Foundation was on the precipice of undeniable growth.** We'd successfully started a pilot program for our in-class curriculum, E.R.I.N. Talk, and had recruited talented professionals and law students to help guide students through a learning series on safe use of social media and technology, gender norms, healthy boundaries, and consent. We created successful experiences for donors, were growing the Erin Levitas family of stakeholders, and were finding people who cared about and wanted to invest in the work we do. We made strategic partnerships with the Maryland Carey School of Law, with Baltimore City Schools, and with St. Timothy's School. We fine-tuned our curriculum. We added more modules for students. We were having discussions to expand into new schools, gearing up to evaluate program outcomes, and then 2020 happened.

Working for the Erin Levitas Foundation, I often find myself thinking about our everyday part in making the world a better place. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, that desire to do our part to help heal and make our world better only got stronger. And while this year certainly wasn't we expected it to be, **it's held a lot of hope for the Erin Levitas Foundation and our work on preventing sexual assault in the future.**

From the curriculum and educational side, we've been hard at work **developing new resources to help train teachers and parents** on recognizing signs of unhealthy behaviors, attitudes, and actions in children that can lead to sexual assault. We're also giving parents the tools and expertise to help support those attitudes and behaviors that protect their children from perpetrating or becoming victims of sexual assault.

From the advocacy and community-engagement side, we've been able to **break the barriers of physical distance through our virtual programming** - offering up everything from belly laughs with our Comedy From the Couch fundraiser, to our 200+ person virtual walk with our new annual Stroll and Roll, to our informational webinars teaching about sexual assault and giving families tools to support and help survivors heal.

While it hasn't been an ideal year for any of us, I'm thankful for the creativity, flexibility, and ingenuity of our team and our stakeholders. **Because of you, we have been able to use this time to keep moving forward in our mission. Because of you, we will be ready when schools open back up. And because of you, less children will grow up to become survivors and perpetrators.**

I believe in our work, and I'm thankful that you do too.



Sincerely,

Marissa Jachman
Marissa Jachman
Executive Director



MILESTONES FROM OUR YEAR



Our E.R.I.N. Talk Curriculum now has seven modules for students to move through. This includes lessons about communication, safe use of social media and technology, gender norms, healthy boundaries, consent, bystander intervention and gender insight.



We are ready to expand to additional schools. After more than two successful school pilot programs, we are in discussions with additional private and public schools in Maryland to join us in delivering the E.R.I.N. Talk Curriculum to more students next year.



Together, we raised over \$463,912 in 2019 and we've raised \$349,800 so far toward our updated goal of \$462,280 in 2020. Thank you to those who hosted Facebook birthday fundraisers, joined us for events, and talked us up to help us grow!



We have pivoted to deliver on our mission in a virtual world. With coronavirus changing the way we've been able to be in front of students, we're focusing our efforts on developing a new prevention program for parents and teachers **so we will come out of the pandemic with more advocates ready to teach children.**



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DID YOU KNOW?

Our education programs are backed by research that identify risk factors and protective factors which can **better protect middle-schoolers from growing up to become perpetrators or victims of sexual assault**:

DEVELOPING EMPATHY



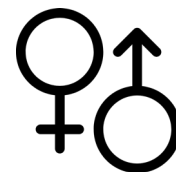
Students with more experience empathizing with others and understanding the perspectives and feelings of others are less likely to commit sexual assault.

NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION



Teaching students how to read facial expressions and understand both verbal and nonverbal communication can set the stage for determining signs of consent.

DISCUSSIONS OF GENDER NORMS



Educating students about the complexities of gender stereotypes and social norms can contribute to a drop in bullying and harassment related to these differences.



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Test your knowledge about sexual assault preventive and predictive factors with our interactive quiz! Open your smartphone's camera app, hover over the square barcode to the left, and click the tab that appears at the top of your screen.

SINCE OUR LAST REPORT...

Whether you are new to the Erin Levitas Foundation or you have been with us since Day 1 - **we are thankful to have you here to help us grow.**

The Foundation's 2019 year wrapped up with a number of big wins - **positive feedback from our pilot programs about our module on sexting and its ramifications, and promising results from our mixed-gender peer education modules on gender insight.** We also made some updates to our curriculum to include information about gender norms, gender nonconformity, acceptance of people of all sexual preferences, and racial equity.

At St. Timothy's School, the Erin Levitas '11 Mind, Body, and Soul Empowerment Program engaged **45 young women each month** in interactive weekly wellness programs and hosted a health fair that brought vendors to teach students about everything from blood pressure to nutrition.

For the Foundation, as for all of us, 2020 brought unexpected challenges to our work. Situated for a year of growth to new schools and measurement of our outcomes, our plans were largely changed due to the coronavirus pandemic. During this time, **our team pivoted** and was able to send module review videos to students and develop content for our parent education program. We've also expanded the resources section of our website, and have published webinars about witnessing childhood sexual harassment and helping facilitate healing for family members who are survivors of sexual assault.

LOOKING AHEAD

Projects in the works that still need funding:

- **FALL 2020: We have developed resources for teachers and parents** because learning doesn't happen in a vacuum, and prevention is most effective with a community effort. This program will be available to all parents!
- **SPRING 2021: We are publishing a children's book.** We're working with the Baltimore Child Abuse Center to create an accessible story for kids to enjoy while they learn about protective factors.
- **FALL 2021: We are adding post-incident responsive training to our comprehensive program** to help give schools and students tools to respond to the low level acts of sexual harassment which are often precursors to later, more elevated acts like sexual assault and rape.
- **FALL 2021: We're expanding into more schools** and developing a "Train the Trainer" program will enable educators to deliver our curriculum to their students, allowing us to scale.



MEET THE EXPERT:

BRIANNA ALDRIDGE

"In my position, I hope to help students (and faculty) reimagine health and the role it plays in our lives. I don't want to just talk about healthy eating or exercising - I want to talk about how society has influenced how and why we do those things. For me, it is important to always be mindful of whether or not we all have the chance to live the healthy lives we want; health equity matters."

Brianna Aldridge is the Director of the Erin Levitas '11 Mind, Body, and Soul Empowerment Program at St. Timothy's School.



COCKTAILS BY THE WATER
Hosted at the home of Aileen & Marc Grebow



RAISING A (GRAND)CHILD IN A #METOO WORLD
hosted by Dr. Patricia Attman & Erin Berman Welsh LCPC, NCC



NANCY HAMMOND EDITIONS EVENT
Hosted by Annapolis artist Nancy Hammond



ROCK THE SUMMIT + CHARITY LAP
Porsche Club of America (Raised \$30,000!)



ROCK THE SUMMIT + SILENT AUCTION
Porsche Club of America (Raised \$37,000!)

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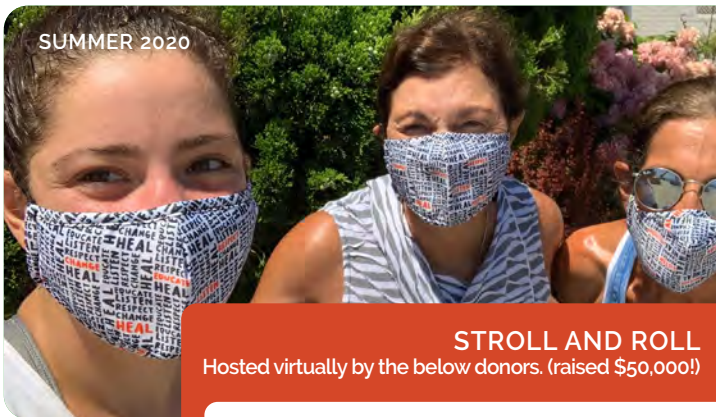
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(Raised \$5,000!)

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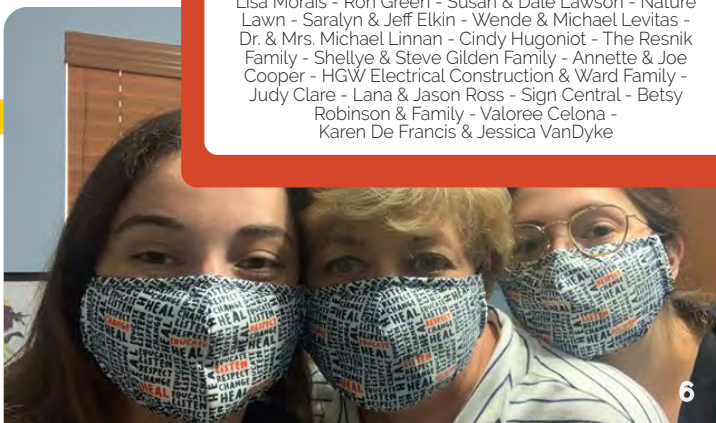


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- + The Erin Levitas Foundation
- + Our Groundbreaking E.R.I.N Talk Curriculum
- + Research Through The University Of Maryland
- + Talented Professionals
- + Strategic Partnerships
- + Private and Public Schools
- + Parents and Teachers
- + Middle School Students
- + Understandings Of Sexual Harassment
- + Empathy Training

= A world where fewer children grow up to experience and perpetrate sexual assault and rape.

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