



March 2022

# PAAR-SPECTIVES

The Newsletter for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)

**Respond, Educate and Advocate to end sexual violence.**



## **New Look. New Website.**

Same service and dedication to supporting survivors that we have provided every day over the past 50 years. Be sure to check out the new [paar.net](http://paar.net) by following the link in this newsletter.

## Coming Up

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- 08** Celebrating 50 Years

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's finally here...the celebration of our 50th year serving our community through counseling services, education & prevention, and advocating for an end to sexual violence. We stand on the shoulders of some fierce and feisty women who dared to demand justice and action. Our founders knew that a movement like this would require unwavering tenacity and courage and they paved the way for us to continue leading this work with passion and conviction.

PAAR while commemorating our 50 years of dedication to respond, act and advocate for victims and survivors, also understands that the fight is not over. We seek to extend our reach and create stronger community collaborations in order to one day put an end to sexual violence, harassment and abuse.

Our staff and board even through the past few years of this pandemic never wavered in their commitment to serve our community. In this edition of our quarterly newsletter, you will find some amazing leaders, teachers, experts, and supporters who team up with us and make a difference.

If you haven't noticed, we also have a new look, but the mission is still the same.

I hope that you will take some time to look through our latest edition to find out how you can be a part of our many events and programs, especially our upcoming Teal Ball!

You are invited to join us in our year-long journey of honoring our past while paving a new way forward. We have so much to be grateful for and so much more work to do!

Onward,



Lisa J. Perry



**LISA J. PERRY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# BOARD SPOTLIGHT

**Q: “Why is PAAR important to you, and what led you to choose to be on its Board?”**

**A:** “I chose to join the board at PAAR because I recognize the importance of the work that PAAR does to support sexual assault survivors with immediate assistance in the hospital, with the police, and in court. The work that PAAR is doing relative to educating the public with ways to identify sex trafficking is essential. And finally, the work that PAAR does with regard to sexual assault prevention is so invaluable.”



**TRACEY REED  
ARMANT**

**PROGRAM OFFICER  
THE GRABLE FOUNDATION**



**THE GRABLE FOUNDATION**  
dedicated to improving the lives of children

The Grable Foundation is guided by our mission to help children and youth become independent, caring, contributing members of society by supporting programs critical to children’s successful development.

## PAAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PRESIDENT**

Karina Chavez

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Angharad Stock

**SECRETARY**

Susan Leff

**TREASURER**

Kathryn Harrison

Lisa Acquaviva Pollock

Jennifer DiGiovanni

Anthony Ditka

Sherree Goldstein

Jaime Hickton

Kerrie Kauer

Shanicka Kennedy

Brian Kohlhepp

Jill Lamb

Lynette Lederman

Audra Mitchell

Shatara Murphy

Alan Perer

Tracey Reed Armant

Patrick Schulte

Bryan Sellers

Ciora Thomas

# UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US AT THE SPECKLED EGG IN THE BEAUTIFUL UNION TRUST BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH.

Help support PAAR, learn a bit more about our services and join other supporters!



Wednesday, March 9th  
5-7pm

# THANK YOU TO LOCAL BUISNESSES

We appreciate all of the support from these local Pittsburgh small businesses! When you support these businesses, you also are supporting the cause to #EndSexualViolence. Learn more about how you can give back!



Learn more on how to support PAAR by visiting our website:



[CALENDER](#)



[VOLUNTEER](#)



[INTERNSHIPS](#)



[DONATE](#)

# APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

## CONNECT TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

We hope you'll join our efforts during Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) through one of our events, by volunteering your time, helping to communicate our message or by simply donating to the cause.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH (SAAM) EVENTS

Wed, Apr  
**6th**

### Zen Painting with a Twist

When: Wednesday, April 6th 2022 6pm-8pm

Where: PAAR Southside Office, 81 S 19th Street, Pgh PA 15203

Breathe in and expand your wings... breath out and cocoon yourself...Leave your stress behind and join PAAR in collaboration with Painting with a Twist's Southside location to provide a relaxing experience while exploring your artistic side.

Tues, Apr  
**12th**

### Energy Healing for Calming Stress

When: Tuesday, April 12 2022 6pm-7pm

Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81053513261>

This workshop is facilitated by Angela Failor, LPC, Clinical Eden Energy Medicine Practitioner. In this workshop, you will learn easy and effective energy healing techniques utilizing The Eden Method to calm a reactive nervous system.

Thurs, Apr  
**14th**

### Animal Friends Therapets Explore Positive and Negative Thinking

When: Thursday, April 14, 2022 6-7 PM

Where: PAAR Southside Office, 81 S 19th Street, Pgh PA 15203

Children will have the opportunity to connect with emotional support animals from Animal Friends.

Tues, Apr  
**19th**

### SETpoint Self Defense Workshop

When: Tuesday, April 19th 2022 • 5:30pm- 8:30pm

Where: Steve DeMasco's Shaolin Studios, 1115 S. Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218

In celebration of SAAM and PAAR's 50th anniversary, PAAR is partnering with SETpoint to offer survivor-focused and trauma-informed Empowerment-Based Self Defense coaching.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. VISIT [PAAR.NET](https://paar.net) FOR DETAILS

# FUNDING SPOTLIGHT



## OPPORTUNITY FUND THE ARTS, AND SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

PAAR is thrilled to be one of the many deserving agency's to receive \$10,000 in funding from the Opportunity Fund in their largest grant making cycle to date!

These funds will help to support general operations including additional therapists, advocates and other essential staff due to the large increase in service demand.

To learn more about the OPPORTUNITY FUND visit [Opportunity Fund | Grants for The Arts, and Social and Economic Justice. \(theopportunityfund.org\)](https://theopportunityfund.org)

"This is a new and exciting partnership for PAAR. As we continue to expand our services, we are grateful for new funding streams such as the Opportunity Fund. We look forward to continuing to grow our relationship and further the collective work we both believe so much in."

- Sadie Restivo, Director of Development

## COMMUNITY PAAR-TNER SPOTLIGHT *#CHANGERAPECULTURE*

#ChangeRapeCulture is a movement that aims to highlight stories from BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA2S+ survivors & dismantle the harmful stereotypes created to disenfranchise them.

PAAR has been collaborating with #ChangeRapeCulture by providing support for survivor support groups and also providing support during survivor lead book club.

Learn more at [www.changerapeculture.org](http://www.changerapeculture.org)



Project Traffic Stop has changed its name to represent the resilience, independence, strength, empowerment of sex trafficking victims.

# RESILIENCE. INDEPENDENCE. STRENGTH. EMPOWERMENT.



PAAR's Project RISE addresses the unique and practical needs of people who experience sexual exploitation/ sex trafficking with services to help victims gain their freedom and independence. PAAR also participates in outreach efforts to engage the community and providers to promote awareness and education around human trafficking.

### [Learn more about our services!](#)

- Drop-in Center Info: Our Drop-In Center is a safe, secure place for youth and adults of all gender identities to get help.
- Case Consultation: Whether you want to simply talk about your situation, need support, or need to take action to remove yourself from a person or situation, we are here every step of the way.
- Counseling & Group Support: PAAR'S therapists provide a variety of counseling approaches, depending on which is the best fit for each individual.
- Community Outreach: Project RISE is here to help people experiencing sexual exploitation/sex trafficking

For more information, visit [paar.net](http://paar.net)

## Introducing the PAAR·tique

Our new (free) store is housed within Project RISE to help clients have more autonomy in shopping for what they need. Clients can “shop” for clothing, footwear, self-stable food and household items, personal hygiene products, and much more! The PAAR-tique helps bridge the gap for our clients so they can obtain the urgent items they need until they are able to connect with additional community resources for support.



Join us for  
PAAR's 50th Anniversary

# Teal Ball

**April 30th, 2022**

Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh,  
600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

PAAR hosts the Teal Ball each year to honor and celebrate the strength of survivors of sexual violence while recognizing those who help to eradicate sexual violence in our communities, and this year is no different. We look forward to hosting our biggest Teal Ball yet as we expand the event to include an exclusive VIP reception that will overlook Point State Park and then dance the night away at the after PAARty!

*The 2022 Laura Ditka  
Visionary Award Recipient*

**The Honorable Josh Shapiro**  
Pennsylvania Attorney General

VIP Reception	5:30 - 6:30 PM
Gala	6:00 - 9:30 PM
After Party	9:00 - 11:00 PM

## **Black Tie Optional**

*For those of you wanting to celebrate from the comfort of your home you can purchase a home celebration box and of course tune in online!*

## *Ticket Details*

**\$2,500** | VIP Reception & Gala Table of Ten (10)

**\$1,500** | Gala Table of Ten (10) and After

**\$300** | VIP, Gala, & After Party

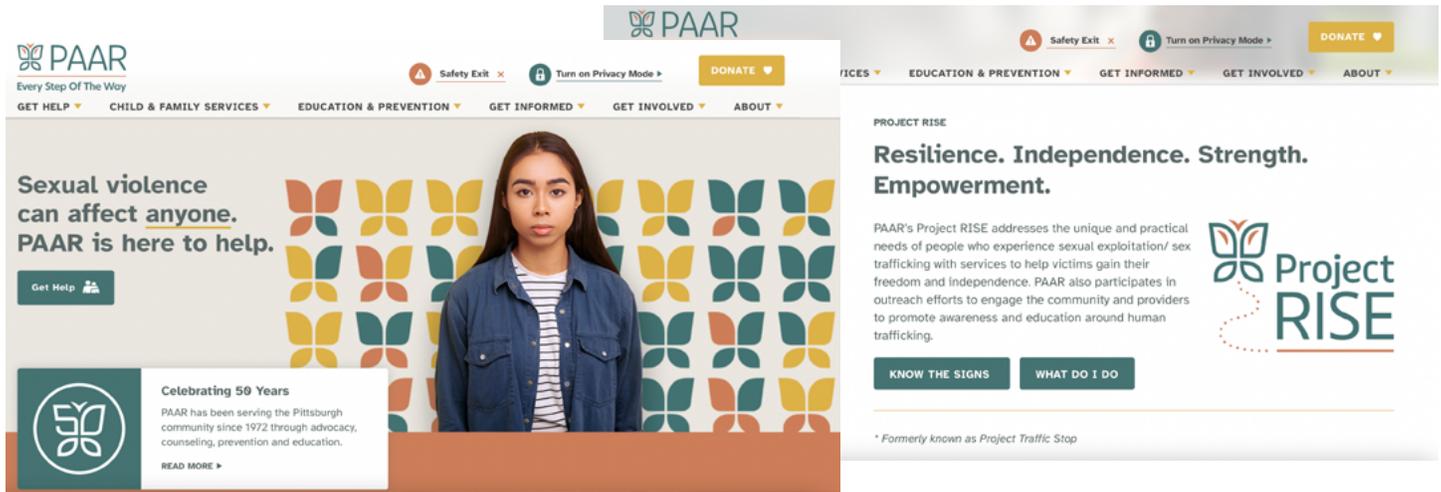
**\$150** | Gala & After Party Admission for

**\$50** | At Home Celebration Kit (details on

**Buy tickets and register:**  
[www.PAARis50.givesmart.com](http://www.PAARis50.givesmart.com)

# NEW LOOK. NEW WEBSITE.

Same service and dedication to supporting survivors that we have provided every day over the past 50 years. Be sure to check out the new [paar.net](http://paar.net)!



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) was the first victim service agency in Allegheny County, and one of the first rape crisis centers in the nation. We have been fighting for victims and their families through counseling and case management, as well as through our legal & medical advocacy support.

Since its inception in 1972, PAAR has a rich history of providing knowledge, skill-building and support for every member of our community. To learn more about PAAR's rich history, check out our [timeline](#).

