

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, HELP IS AVAILABLE. CALL US.

**RVAP**  
24/7 CRISIS LINE  
800.228.1625

RVAP supports & advocates for survivors of sexual assault & their loved ones.  
**Confidential & free.**

332 S. Linn, Suite 100 Iowa City, IA  
24/7 CRISIS LINE | BUSINESS LINE  
800.228.1625 | 319.335.6001



YOUR REACTION  
MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

WHEN SOMEONE COMES TO YOU...  
WHAT WILL YOUR REACTION BE?

“My daughter died in a car crash.”

“Well that’s what she gets for not taking the bus.”

YOUR REACTION  
MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.  
WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

24-hour support & resources available for survivors of sexual assault



Crisis Line  
319.335.6000

# “I’ve been raped.”

## What will your reaction be?

### PAVING THE ROAD TO JUSTICE AND HEALING

There is no shame when a loved one dies. When your car is stolen. When you’re diagnosed with cancer. Friends and loved ones gather around you for support. They don’t blame you for “bringing it on yourself.” It should be the same with sexual violence. Rape and sexual assault are just as unpredictable, just as devastating. But all too often, victims who have the courage to tell someone are blamed for bringing it on themselves.

### WE MUST DO BETTER. AND WE CAN DO BETTER

Most victims seek help from friends and family members. When someone the victim trusts reacts negatively, victims can feel re-traumatized. Sexual violence hurts everyone.

By improving our reactions, victims benefit both directly – and also indirectly, by increasing the likelihood they will reach out for other sources of support.

### IMPROVING OUR RESPONSE

*Start by Believing* is a public awareness campaign focused on our responses to sexual assault, because how the first person a victim confides in after an assault reacts will determine what happens next. Will they report to law enforcement? Will they seek medical attention? Will they reach out for counseling or other forms of support? The campaign focuses on our individual response, because we can each make a difference for victims of rape and sexual assault.

### WHEN SOMEONE COMES TO YOU... WHAT WILL YOUR REACTION BE?

Sexual violence is a timely topic in our community, which is dedicated to changing the way we respond to rape and sexual assault. Our goal is to pave the way for survivors to achieve justice and healing and ensure the decision to come forward and seek help is a safe one. Please join us to make this reality.

### WE PLEDGE TO... START BY BELIEVING!

The Johnson County Sexual Assault Response Team (JCSART) asks you to join us by publicly showing your support for victims of sexual assault.

Your reaction matters.



End  
Violence  
Against

Women International (EVAWI) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the community and criminal justice response to gender-based violence. EVAWI developed the *Start by Believing* awareness campaign for communities like Iowa City to use for our local efforts.

The *Start by Believing* campaign is leading the way toward a positive community response. The goal is to inform the public, unite allies and supporters, and improve our reactions—changing the world, one response at a time.

