



New York City Anti-Violence Project
240 West 35th Street, Suite 200
New York, New York 10001
212.714.1184 voice | 212.714.2627 fax
212.714.1141 24-hour hotline

November 25, 2011

Dear Friend of AVP,

You have the power to help a survivor of violence who ran out of options. Ran out of strength. Just when he was about to run out of hope, he ran into us.

This is the story of Dave Pittock.

Dave was attacked soon after leaving a gay bar in Williamsburg, Brooklyn last year. He was hit from behind. Knocked down. Kicked in the face. Knocked unconscious. Called a faggot.

With facial reconstructive surgery and time, Dave began to heal on the outside. But inside he was still scared. He didn't like going out in public. The crowded bars he once enjoyed became terrifying. He wasn't able to be himself. He was living in fear.

It occurred to him that – though he didn't want to admit it – he needed help. He picked up the phone and called the New York City Anti-Violence Project. That phone call put Dave on the road to emotional recovery. With counseling and support, AVP was able to help Dave conquer the fear that paralyzed his life.



With the help of AVP, Dave recovered from his attack. Here is a photo of Dave and me at the 2011 Courage Awards.

After working with AVP to heal from his own experience, Dave realized he wanted to do more. He joined AVP's Speaker's Bureau and learned how to speak publicly about his story. He's now teaching others about the importance of ending violence in our communities. **That's the difference AVP made in just one person's life.** But there are thousands of people more who need AVP's support.

It's a new lease on life – a life lived free from fear.

"AVP helped me through such a traumatic time in my life," Dave said. "I really don't know what I would have done if AVP wasn't there for me. I am so grateful for everything they did. They even helped me take my own experience and inform the community about the importance of safety."

You have the power to bring the gift of safety to the thousands of people who call our hotline every year. These are people who – like Dave – are afraid, who are traumatized, who feel isolated, abused and battered. Please consider a gift to AVP to make our communities safe.

Unfortunately, more and more LGBTQ people across New York are having their lives shattered by violence.

In New York, anti-LGBTQ and HIV-related reports of violence increased by 11% from 2009 to 2010. The trend continues, and now we are receiving more calls on our hotline than ever before. The severity of the violence is also increasing. In New York and across the country, LGBTQ people are attacked in more brutal ways. There has been a disturbing increase in anti-LGBTQ murders.

You have seen how AVP works tirelessly to end hate violence and support survivors, and we also do the same for survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence. LGBTQ people often struggle with unique issues when they survive violence. Stigma. Shame. A fear of law enforcement. There are few places where an LGBTQ survivor can go, where these issues are understood and addressed.

That's where AVP steps in.

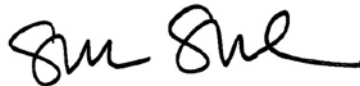
AVP is not just about supporting people, we also support communities. Every time there is an anti-LGBTQ attack, our whole community is affected. That is why our organizing and public advocacy work is so essential. We go into communities to talk to people about their safety and how they can work together – and with AVP – to end this violence.

We help victims' families plan vigils and other remembrances. We share information with the community on how to stay safe. We train law enforcement and first responders to properly identify LGBTQ survivors and treat them with respect and compassion.

You deserve to have AVP as a resource in your community, for your friends and family. You deserve an AVP that is vibrant and responsive to an ever-growing need.

Please make an investment in AVP today. Your gift allows us to be there for thousands of people in their darkest moments. Your generosity creates safer communities for all of us. Together, we can end this violence.

With gratitude,



Sharon Stapel
Executive Director

P.S. – After considering AVP's impact in the lives of people like Dave, please make a generous contribution to AVP. Our work is only possible through your gifts.