

RAINN

Speakers Bureau Newsletter

By Sara Snyder, Speakers Bureau Manager • May 12, 2023

Smart Brevity® count: 6.5 mins...1715 words

Speakers Bureau Highlights

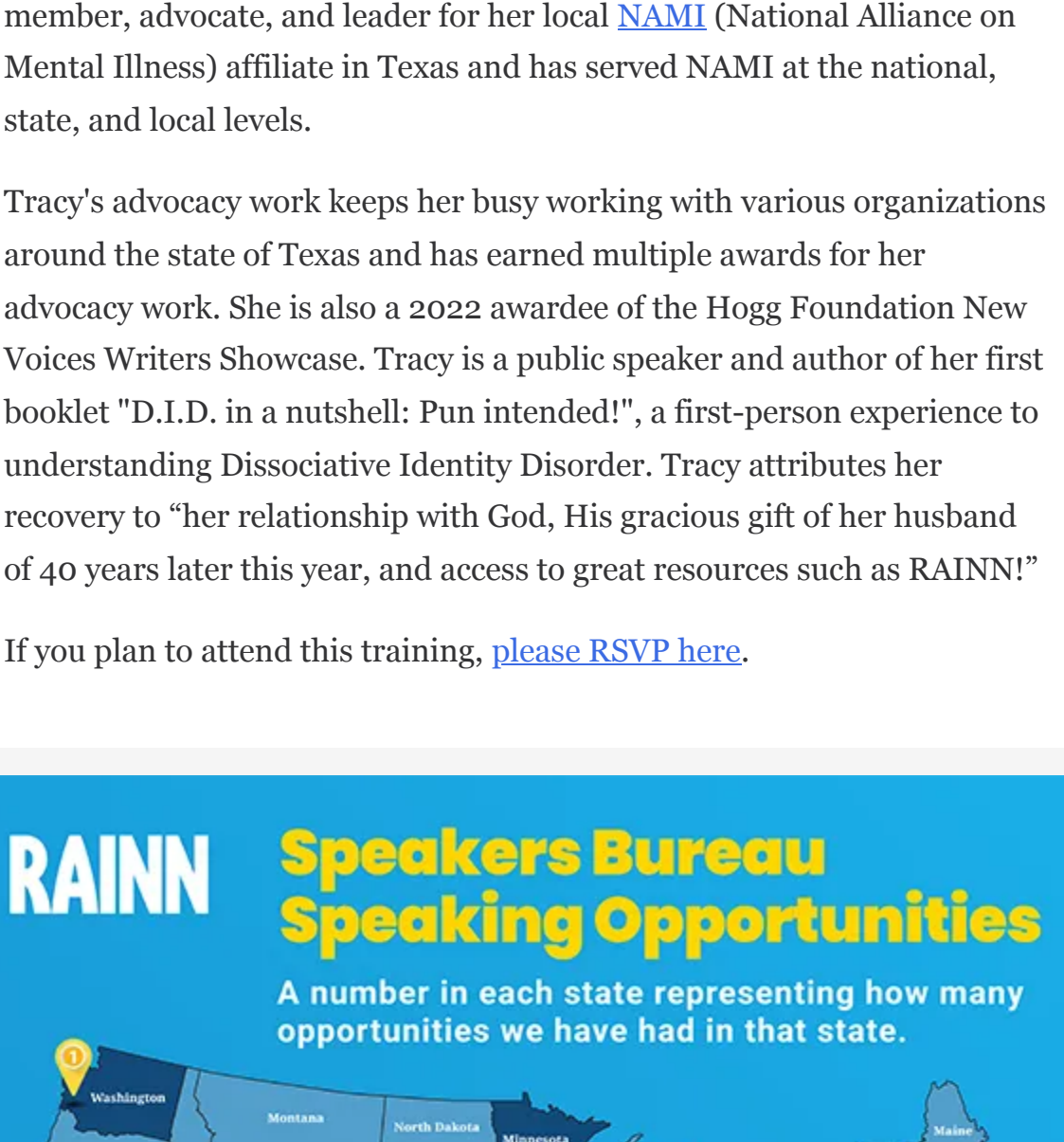
As you may remember, in February, we created a social campaign surrounding Survivor Love Letter that originated from Tani Ikeda.

Tani Ikeda is partnering with RAINN to provide a Survivor Love Letter Workshop to Speakers Bureau members. This workshop will take place on **Monday, May 15th, 3 pm - 5 pm PST / 6 pm - 8 pm EST.**

Tani Ikeda is an Emmy award-winning director who creates narratives, documentaries, music videos, and commercial films. The creator of #SurvivorLoveLetter, she was recently selected as one of Film Independent's 33 Emerging Filmmakers as a Project: Involve Directors Fellow. Ikeda has directed films in China, Uganda, India, and the United States. Her work has been recognized in The Hollywood Reporter, Teen Vogue, and Cosmopolitan magazine and has screened internationally at festivals around the world, including the Sundance Film Festival. At the age of 21, Tani Ikeda co-founded imMEDIATE Justice, a nonprofit that fosters the talents of young women artists working in virtual reality. Recently, she was named one of the "25 Visionaries Who are Changing Your World" by the Utne Reader. Ikeda tours the country speaking at universities and national conferences about storytelling as a tool for social justice.

If you would like to attend Tani's training, [please RSVP here](#). We will be sending out information for Zoom on Monday morning. Please note that this workshop will not be recorded to respect the privacy of those who attend and share their writing pieces with the group.

Member-Led Training for May!



TRACY GREEN'S MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

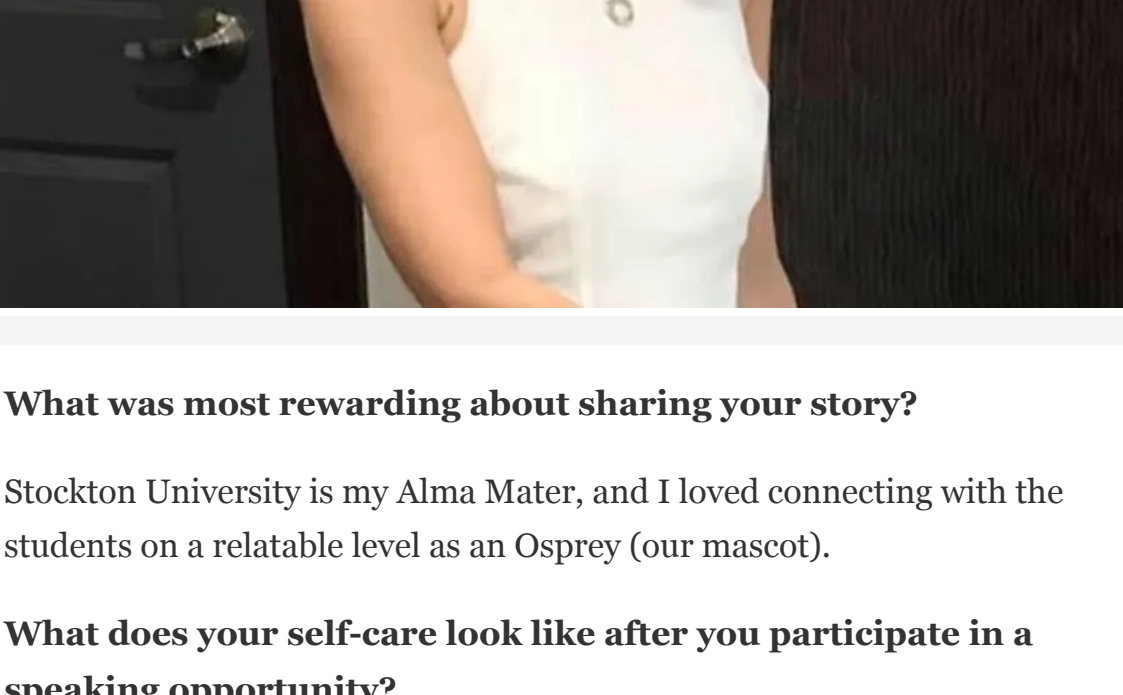
In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, please join us on **May 18th at 3 p.m. EST / 12 p.m. PST** for our next member-led training by [Tracy Green](#). Tracy will lead a conversation about sexual assault and mental health. All are welcome to join us!

Tracy Green is a survivor of childhood and adolescent sexual abuse (rape). Tracy identifies as a person in recovery from lived experiences with a mental health condition as a result of her long-term abuse. Her journey has allowed her to earn her Bachelor's in Psychology and Master's in Human Services Counseling degrees post-diagnosis.

Tracy is a passionate advocate for victims and survivors of sexual violence. She is also passionate about sharing her journey of recovery while living with and managing her mental health. Tracy serves as a member, advocate, and leader for her local [NAMI](#) (National Alliance on Mental Illness) affiliate in Texas and has served NAMI at the national, state, and local levels.

Tracy's advocacy work keeps her busy working with various organizations around the state of Texas and has earned multiple awards for her advocacy work. She is also a 2022 awardee of the Hogg Foundation New Voices Writers Showcase. Tracy is a public speaker and author of her first booklet "D.I.D. in a nutshell: Pun intended!", a first-person experience to understanding Dissociative Identity Disorder. Tracy attributes her recovery to "her relationship with God, His gracious gift of her husband of 40 years later this year, and access to great resources such as RAINN!"

If you plan to attend this training, [please RSVP here](#).



Thank you, April Speakers!

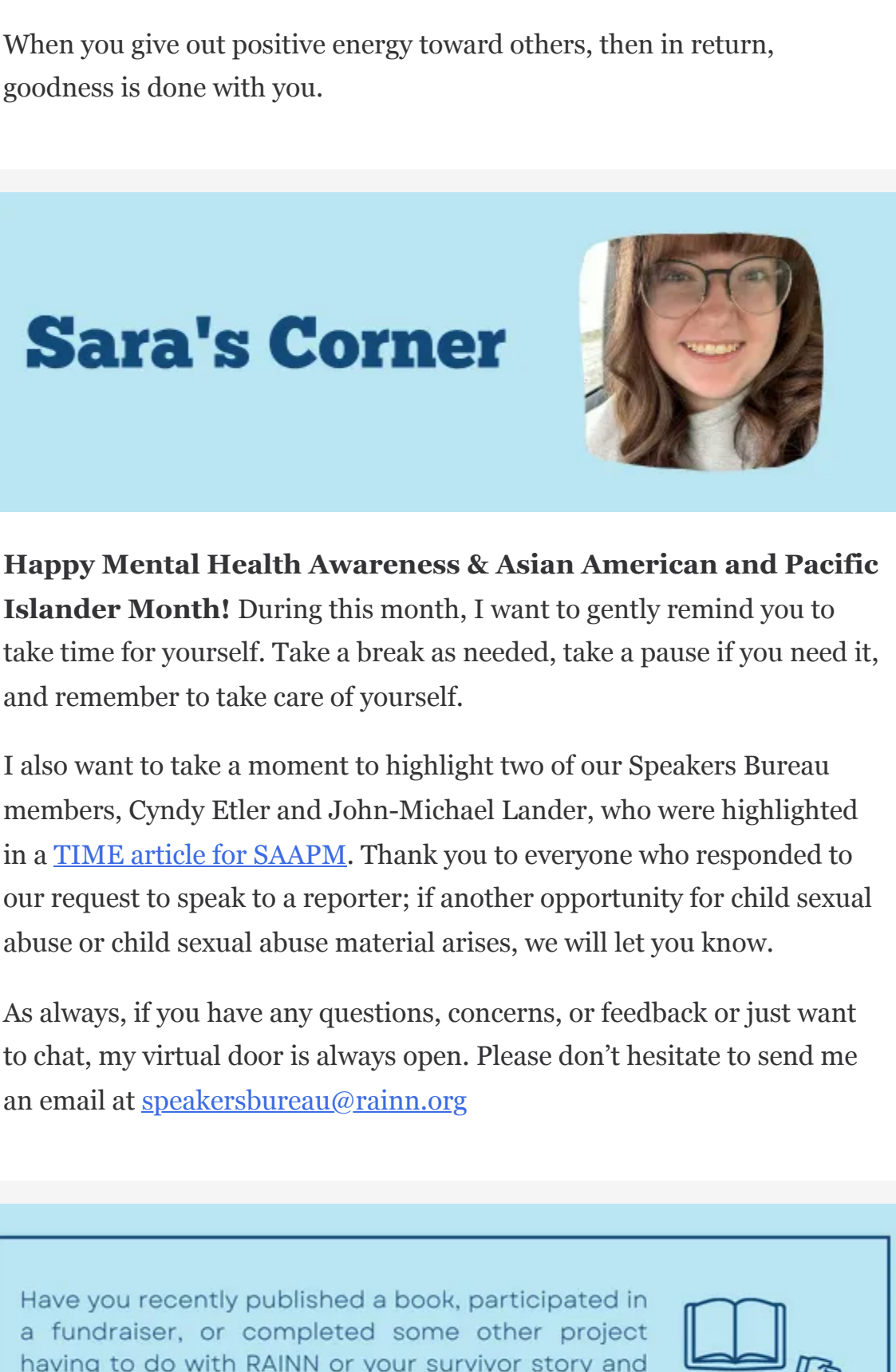
For the month of April, there were a total of **18 opportunities**. We had speaking opportunities in Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, one podcast interview, and a [TIME interview](#) for all members.

If you would like to see a full list of our speaking opportunities, please visit the [Speakers Bureau Portal](#).

Forecasting when and where speaking opportunities will come from can be difficult. We have just recently started our outreach and will continue to post announcements of upcoming speaking opportunities. We plan to do more marketing and outreach in 2023, so stay tuned!

[If you have ideas on how we can expand our marketing efforts to promote our RAINN Speakers Bureau, please fill out this form](#)

JoAnn Buttaro Cooper (she/her) recently completed a speaking opportunity at Stockton University's "Say No, Know No" event as part of Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month on campus.

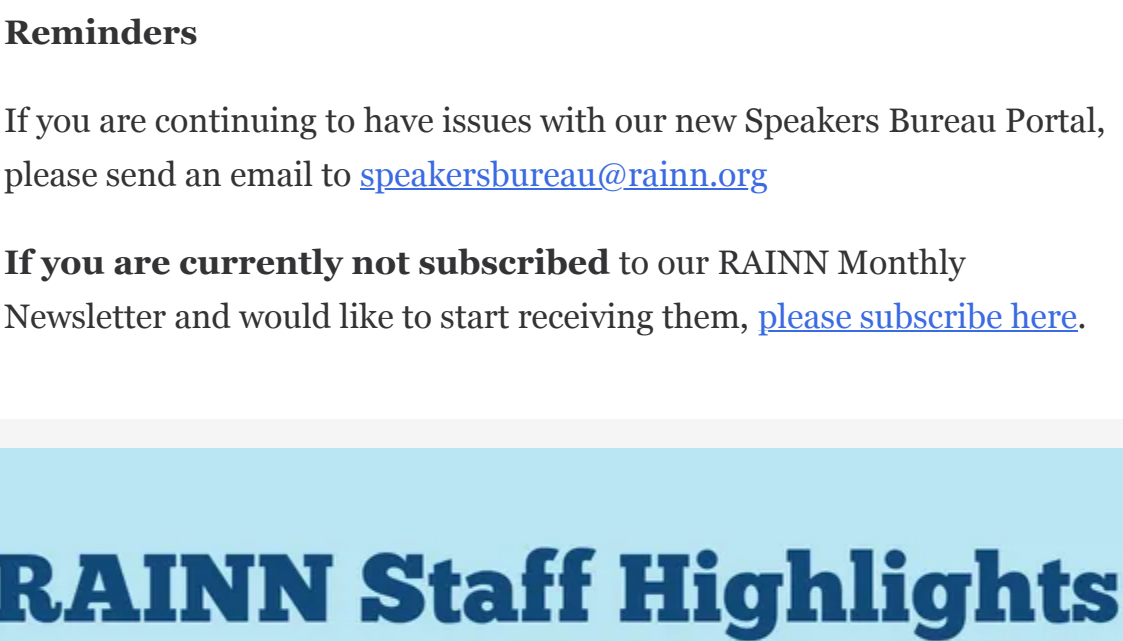


What was most rewarding about sharing your story?

Stockton University is my Alma Mater, and I loved connecting with the students on a relatable level as an Osprey (our mascot).

What does your self-care look like after you participate in a speaking opportunity?
My self-care is all about self-awareness and relaxing afterward.

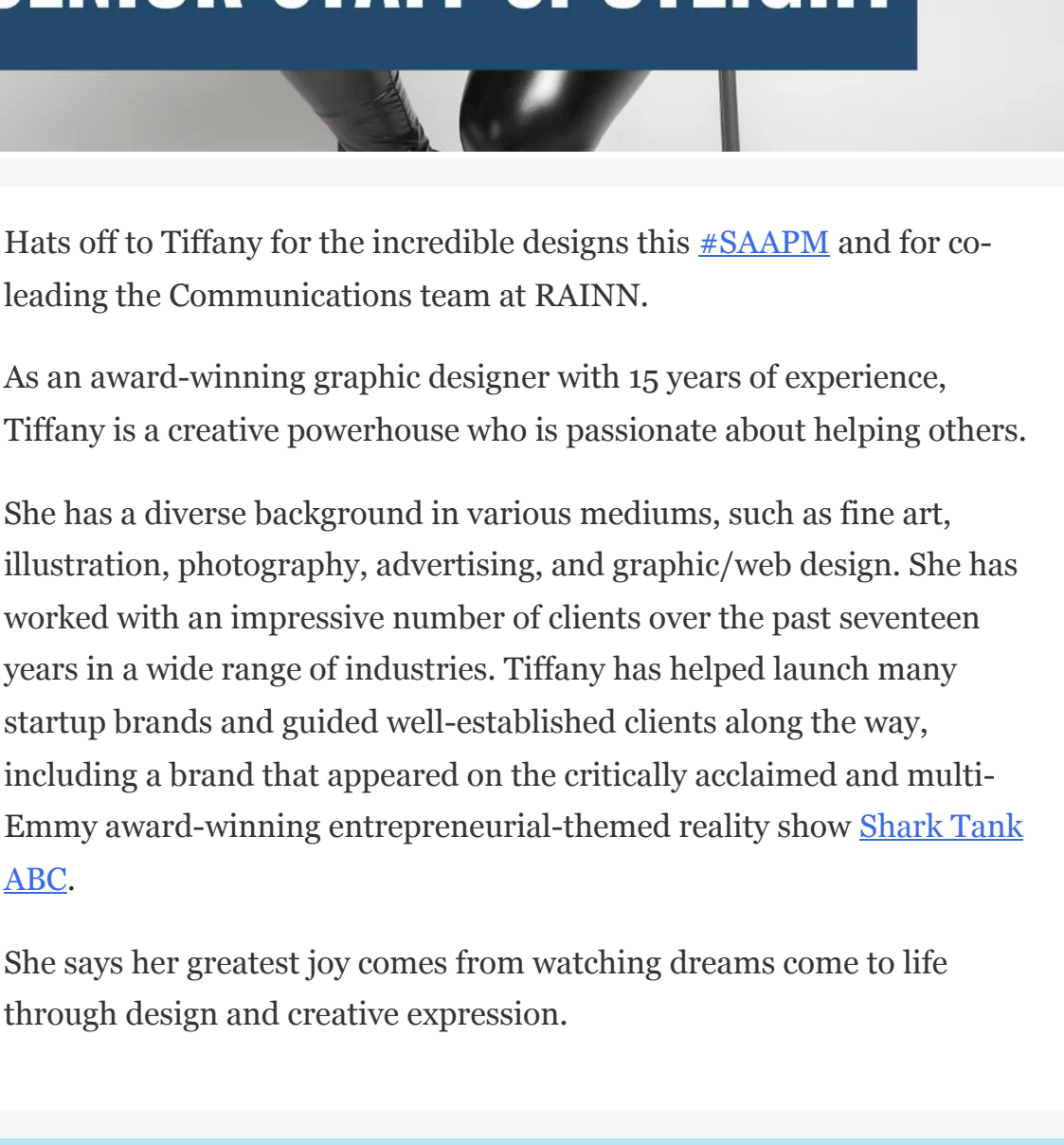
What do you want to tell other survivors interested in telling their stories?
Even though telling your story can be difficult and stressful, it is very rewarding, and always happy to do it.



[Click here to fill out a form to share your speaking opportunity.](#)

Survivor Highlights

Meet Laly Noya Rakotoniaina (She/Her); Laly has been an active member of the Speakers Bureau by participating in almost all of social media campaigns and community engagement activities.

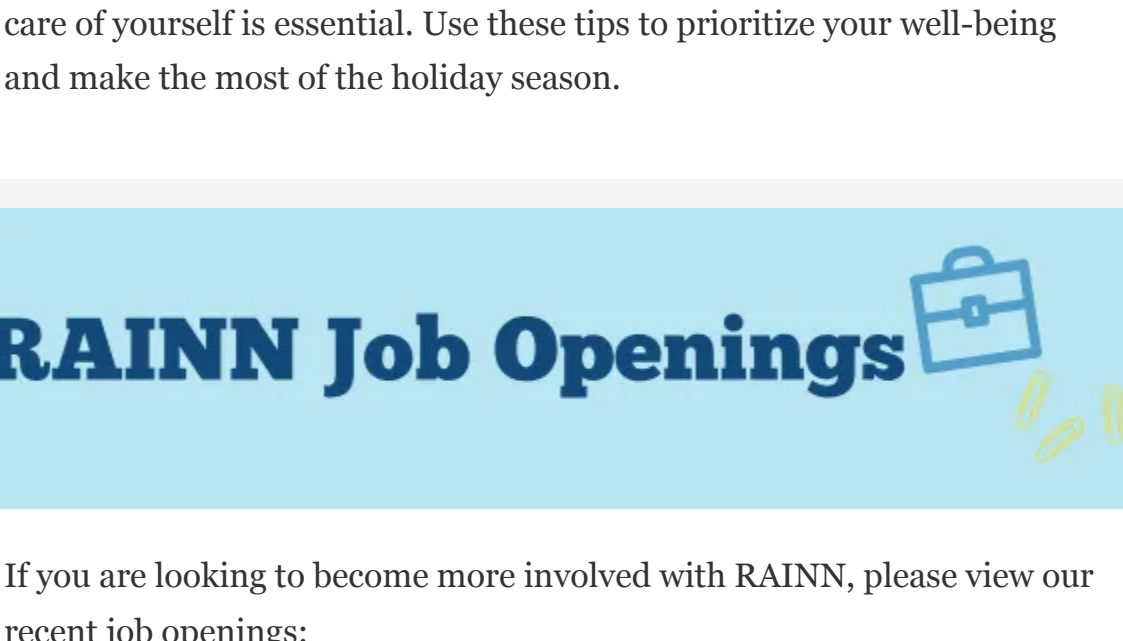


What prompted you to join the Speakers Bureau?

As a victim and survivor of sexual assault, I wanted to join an organization that's mission is to raise awareness and educate about sexual abuse.

What did your healing journey look like?
Facing the reality of the offending abuse. Also, analyzing every abuse that occurred. In addition, observing the people from family and non-family who were causing these different abuses toward me.

What is your favorite word or phrase?
When you give out positive energy toward others, then in return, goodness is done with you.



Happy Mental Health Awareness & Asian American and Pacific Islander Month! During this month, I want to gently remind you to take time for yourself. Take a break as needed, take a pause if you need it, and remember to take care of yourself.

I also want to take a moment to highlight two of our Speakers Bureau members, [Cindy Etlar](#) and [John-Michael Lander](#), who were highlighted in a [TIME article for SAAPM](#). Thank you to everyone who responded to our request to speak to a reporter; if another opportunity for child sexual abuse or child sexual abuse material arises, we will let you know.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback or just want to chat, my virtual door is always open. Please don't hesitate to send me an email at speakersbureau@rainn.org

Updates & Reminders

Farewell to Ian

I want to take a moment to thank our Spring Intern, Ian Michelson, for all of his hard work this semester. There are many things that would not have been possible without him, including the revamping of our Speakers Bureau Facebook group. Thank you, Ian!

Speakers Bureau Facebook Group

With Ian's departure, please know that the [Speakers Bureau Facebook group](#) will continue to be active and engaging. This Facebook group is a space for Members to come together and cultivate a community within the Speakers Bureau. This group will be monitored on a weekly basis.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns with the Facebook group, please send them to speakersbureau@rainn.org

Speakers Bureau Training

We are starting to plan more training sessions for Speakers Bureau members. Currently, we have two RAINN staff members who have offered their time on media training and interview training. Additionally, we have member-led training in the planning stages about staying grounded during speaking events and rediscovering self-love.

If you are interested in leading training or have an idea for future training, please contact me at speakersbureau@rainn.org

Reminders

If you are continuing to have issues with our new Speakers Bureau Portal, please send an email to speakersbureau@rainn.org

If you are currently not subscribed to our RAINN Monthly Newsletter and would like to start receiving them, [please subscribe here](#).

RAINN Staff Highlights

Meet Tiffany Mason (she/her), from Communications. Tiffany is our Interim Co-Managing Director / Director of Creative Operations.

SENIOR STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Hats off to Tiffany for the incredible designs this [#SAAPM](#) and for co-leading the Communications team at RAINN.

As an award-winning graphic designer with 15 years of experience, Tiffany is a creative powerhouse who is passionate about helping others.

She has a diverse background in various mediums, such as fine art, illustration, photography, advertising, and graphic/web design. She has worked with an impressive number of clients over the past seventeen years in a wide range of industries. Tiffany has helped launch many startup brands and guided well-established clients along the way, including a brand that appeared on the critically acclaimed and multi-Emmy award-winning entrepreneurial-themed reality show [Shark Tank ABC](#).

She says her greatest joy comes from watching dreams come to life through design and creative expression.

Self-Care

As a survivor, it's important to prioritize self-care during the holidays, especially in May. Here are some tips to help you take care of yourself:

- 1. Set boundaries:** It's okay to say no to events or activities that make you uncomfortable. Set boundaries and communicate them with your loved ones. Remember, your well-being comes first.
- 2. Take breaks:** If you're feeling overwhelmed or triggered, take a break. Find a quiet space to breathe and ground yourself, or take a walk outside to clear your head.
- 3. Practice self-compassion:** Be kind to yourself and practice self-compassion. Remember, healing is a process, and it's okay to take things one day at a time.
- 4. Connect with supportive people:** Reach out to supportive people, whether it's family, friends, or a support group. Share your thoughts and feelings, and let them know how they can help.
- 5. Create a self-care plan:** Plan activities that bring you joy and help you relax. This could be taking a bath, reading a book, or spending time in nature. Make self-care a priority.
- 6. Use coping strategies:** Develop coping strategies that work for you, such as deep breathing, meditation, or journaling. Use these strategies when you feel triggered or overwhelmed.
- 7. Seek professional help:** If you're struggling, seek professional help. This could be a therapist, counselor, or support group. Remember, it's okay to ask for help.

Remember, the holidays can be a difficult time for survivors, but taking care of yourself is essential. Use these tips to prioritize your well-being and make the most of the holiday season.

RAINN Job Openings

If you are looking to become more involved with RAINN, please view our recent job openings:

[Database Manager and Analyst \(Washington, D.C., Hybrid\)](#)

[Director of Major Gifts](#)

[John and Lauren Marciano Legal Fellowship \(Remote\)](#)

[NSAH Full Time Bilingual Support Specialist \(Hybrid\)-Evening 3-11pm](#)

[NSAH Full Time Bilingual Support Specialist \(Hybrid\)-Morning 7am-3pm](#)

[People Operations Director](#)

[People Partner \(D.C. Office\)](#)

[Policy and Grassroots Coordinator](#)

[Safe Helpline Staffer \(Part-Time\)](#)

[Senior Legislative Policy Counsel](#)

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