

# Michelle Corrao

A STORY OF TRIUMPH OVER TRAGEDY

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September 12, 1996 my life as I knew it was changed forever.

As I was approaching home after a long days work, I noticed three men walking down the street.



Something about this was suspicious so I decided to drive around the block and when I returned to my house, they were gone.

I parked my car, grabbed my things and walked up to my door. In an instant, I was struck on the head and knocked to the ground. I raised my head to feel the blood running down my face and a voice threatening to kill me if I screamed as a gun was pushed into my face. I was scared for my life, my pleas to leave me and take my belongings ignored. Unable to escape and feeling terrified and alone, my only hope was to pray for my life and for those that I love, hoping that I would see them again.

## MICHELLE HAS TURNED HER TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES INTO A CRUSADE.

She is ensuring that first responders understand the profound impact they can have on victims; an impact which begins at the time of crisis and can continue for the rest of the survivor's life. Corrao now addresses police, medical/ER staff, clergy, advocates and prosecutors sharing her message that no human interaction is neutral – it is either healing or wounding. She helps them understand the needs of sexual assault victims and their families and how they can provide opportunities for healing. She has been instrumental in working with the Prosecutor's office to set up a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in Hamilton County. Corrao has completed multiple training courses in all forms of advocacy including; domestic violence, sexual assault of adult and children, SANE basic and refresher course.

Michelle married the man who stood by her at the time of the attack and in the aftermath of grief and healing. They are the proud parents of two children, the first of whom is named after the detective who saved her life that night. She has been with Prevail, for ten years and has found the strength and courage to overcome her victimization to move forward and help others by sharing her story of hope and perseverance.

