Where Do We Go From Here

A Survivor's Perspective

Erin A. Esposito
Path to Success

On the left, a straight line depicts what people think the path to success looks like. On the right, a line all over the place before straightening out shows what the path to success really looks like.
When It All Began

Picture of Erin in long braided red hair with ribbons on the bottom of each braid, wearing a yellow Syracuse Indian Guides t-shirt over a long sleeved black shirt
Erin & Paul

On the left is a young Erin wearing a long sleeved blue and white striped top with a bikini bottom in long red hair braids. Standing next to her is Paul, a tall man with a yellow tshirt with “PME” stamped on it, wearing grey shorts and holding a fishing pole.
“SOMETIMES PEOPLE READ A SITUATION DIFFERENTLY AND IN YOUR CASE IT MUST HAVE BEEN AWFUL AND FRUSTRATING NOT TO UNDERSTAND ALL THE LITTLE SUBTLETIES. SOMETIMES THEY MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.”
“NOW, AS FOR YOU YOUNG LADY; LET’S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. I WORKED HEART & SOUL FOR OUR FAMILY ALL MY LIFE AND ALONG YOU COME AS THE GREAT REFORMER TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT. I DON’T THINK SO.”
“As lies grow and most often they do, you can find yourself in quicksand with no way out. Poor little Erin, if she tells this lie long enough and loud enough and to the right people someone might believe her or even give her a job at a half-way house for women in crisis. What better credentials.”
The 3 words I will never hear from my Mom:

“I believe you.”
The Road Not Taken

Picture of a fork in the woods, with the path on the left more worn and the path on the right (with a person walking down it) less treaded upon.
The Social Ecological Model

One large oval with three smaller ovals within each subsequent oval. Smallest one, on the left, is in a blue fill and is identified as “Individual”, the next is an aqua color with “Relationship”, the following is a light green color with “Community” and the last (and biggest one) is an olive green color with “Societal”
The Spectrum of Prevention (Prevention Institute)

Box with six rows. Starting from the bottom, “Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills” (light purple), “Promoting Community Education” (dark purple), “Educating Providers” (blue), “Fostering Coalitions and Networks” (green), “Changing Organizational Practice” (yellow), and “Influencing Policy and Legislation” (red)
Community Accountability

Circle with a drawing of two people in it. A male is signing in ASL “Community” and a female is signing “Accountability”. There is text on the top (Community) and bottom (Accountability).
A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.

John Lennon

English musician, singer and songwriter
(1940-1980)