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## Sue Weaver Cause

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By Shelley Kaehr

Last night I attended a charity dinner for an organization you should be aware of if you aren't already. Sue Weaver Cause was founded four years ago by Lucia Bone after her sister Sue was brutally murdered and raped by service workers in her Florida home on August 27, 2001.

Sue Weaver Cause has one mission - to ensure this never ever happens to another family again.

To achieve this lofty goal, Cause is asking service companies to up screening standards for contractors and employees.

Unfortunately many reputable companies only perform minimal background checks when they hire someone and assume all is well. As one who enjoys living in rose colored glasses, I could tell you that's okay, but I know firsthand it's not.

Over a decade ago an employee from a huge corporation (we've all heard of) came into my home and assaulted me. Fortunately as you can tell, I was able to get away, but he fled, and when police finally caught up with this seemingly nice looking guy, they discovered a grizzly past including convictions for assault and a prior arrest as the prime suspect in an unsolved murder.

Actually I'd forgotten all about that incident until I heard Lucia's teary-eyed tale of Sue and felt a responsibility to tell you about what Sue Weaver Cause is doing and why I believe it is so important.

Let's face it. Most of us lack awareness about what a background check can and cannot do. I've had the opportunity to speak with private investigators in the past who told me they use any one of several searchable databases. The problem is trying to figure out which database to search and for what.

Sue Weaver Cause wants to ultimately get legislation passed to require more thorough screenings based on the following five areas:

- 1) Social Security Number Verification
- 2) Address Trace for the Past 7 years
- 3) CountyLevel Criminal Searches
- 4) Multi-Jurisdictional/National Criminal Database
- 5) National/State Sex Offender Registry

The average background check may only include one or two of the above items - hardly enough information to determine if these people should or should not have access to your family and loved ones.

Coming up on August 27<sup>th</sup>, Sue Weaver Cause is rolling out a new public awareness campaign and certification program.

How it will work is this: organizations who agree to use certain approved screening companies and adhere to stringent background checking guidelines will receive the Sue Weaver Cause stamp of approval and certification.

Consumers will ultimately feel more confident about working with certified companies rather than those that aren't for obvious reasons.

The program will be launched on the seven year anniversary of Sue's death, and the week before, the organization will be out at the Vision Women's Expo on August 22-24 with a booth and KVIL on hand to set hundreds of butterflies free in honor of Sue's memory.

To find out more about Sue Weaver or to get involved with the Cause either by donating time or money, please visit the website at [www.sueweavercause.org](http://www.sueweavercause.org)

We all know the old saying about an ounce of prevention....now let's do something about it.

Read more about me at [www.shelleykaehr.com](http://www.shelleykaehr.com)



Sue Weaver

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