

# Susan M. Schechter\*

*Class of 1964*

Susan Marlene Schechter was thought of as a “pretty, smart, fun, upbeat, bubbly, tall, slender, graceful, good athlete, with a little ditzzy side” while in high school after attending Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary and Hanley Junior High Schools... however, following graduation from University City High School in 1964, she came nationally-respected as a leader in the fight against domestic violence.

With a bachelor’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a master’s degree in social work from University of Illinois - Chicago, Schechter built a career in which her

capabilities, compassion and tireless efforts lead to meaningful contributions to the cause of ending violence against women and children.

In 1986, Schechter founded Advocacy for Women And Kids in Emergencies (AWAKE), the first U.S. program to address child abuse in families affected by partner violence that still being implemented in Boston. In 1995, she was appointed to the National Council on Violence Against Women. She joined the University of Iowa faculty in 1991 as clinical professor in the School of Social Work and received their Distinguished Achievement Award in 2002.

After publication of her third book, “Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Case,” in 2003, she received the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administration Award for Leadership for helping child welfare agencies improve outcomes for families.

Posthumously in 2004, the Family Violence and Prevention Fund established the Susan Schechter Leadership Development Fellowship and Attorney General John Ashcroft awarded her the Crime Victim Service Award.



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Schechter**  
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\*Award bestowed posthumously