



TERRIE HESS
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Annual Brunch

APRIL 15, 2026

ROWAN EVENTS CENTER

10:00 AM

Melanie is a survivor of child sexual abuse and sexual assault who uses her lived experience to bring hope, clarity, and compassion to others. Grounded in faith and driven by a commitment to truth-telling, she shares her story to illuminate pathways toward healing and prevention.

For more than a decade, Melanie has worked professionally with victims of crime, supporting children, families, and adult survivors across multiple systems. Her experience includes roles as a domestic violence crisis advocate, court-based victim advocate in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and Family Advocate and Forensic Interviewer at a Child Advocacy Center. She is trained by CornerHouse in forensic interviewing and has supported cases involving child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, domestic violence exposure, and child sexual exploitation.

Melanie is a nationally recognized public speaker and survivor advocate who has presented at local and national conferences since 2019. She has collaborated with organizations including SHIELD Task Force, the National Children's Alliance SHINE Campaign, Zero Abuse Project, multiple state Children's Advocacy Center networks and the National Organization with International Reach called I Have The Right To. She currently serves on SHIELD's board and is a Subject Matter Expert contractor with Zero Abuse Project's SurvivorSpace Initiative, creating survivor-led content and educational programming and as a facilitator with I Have The Right To, facilitating workshops on topics such as Healthy Relationships, Boundaries and Consent.

Melanie holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Keene State College and completed two national service terms with the AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program. Her work has been recognized with multiple awards for courage, dedication, and service to children and survivors.



SPEAKER

Melanie Barton

RSVP to: info@terriehesscac.org