

Dear Shatterproof Volunteers,

National Volunteer Week is here, and while I'm grateful for a designated moment to pause and say thank you, the truth is: appreciation for you doesn't live on a calendar.

I'm in constant awe of the dedication, courage, and the heart you bring to Shatterproof.

Last summer, when we named our volunteer purpose statement, one line kept rising to the surface: *volunteerism is the heartbeat of Shatterproof – loud, visible, and impossible to ignore*. That statement may be true for many organizations, but for Shatterproof, it's everything. You are how this mission breathes, moves, and shows up in the world.

You show up ready – and honestly.

You show up saying:

- *"I lost someone last week, and I need to turn this grief into action."*
- *"I'm in recovery now, and something I didn't expect is how much I want to help others who are here too."*
- *"My friend is struggling and I feel out of options, but I need to do something that might help someone."*

The list goes on. And what humbles me most is that you show up on your lowest lows and your most hopeful moments - and choose to do something meaningful with it.

So thank you.

Thank you to those who have been patient as we've worked to rebuild and reimagine volunteerism here.

Thank you to those who throw on purple shirts to make sure walkers feel welcomed, supported, and loved.

Thank you to those who find the courage to share your story - in corporate conference rooms, middle school gyms, town halls, community spaces, and letters to Congress.

Thank you to those working tirelessly to expand access to naloxone and distribute it, because you wish someone had handed it to you when it mattered most.

Every day, you help us carry forward what Shatterproof was founded on – a father's promise to his son that others would be spared his tragedy – and grow it into something nationwide: building community, driving change, ending stigma, supporting recovery, and saving lives.

Please know this: you are seen. You are valued. And you are the heartbeat of this organization.

Not just this week – always.

With so much gratitude,

Gab 😊

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