

The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.

Katherine Ezawa, MSSA, LSW
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What a year we've all had! The uncertainty and unique situation that all of us have been facing has produced truly terrifying results for people living in violent environments. **For the first time in decades, domestic violence rates are rising. In Ohio, deaths as a result of domestic abuse have increased by 35%.** Unfortunately, at the same time, major federal and state funding for shelters is dramatically decreasing. This reality has been challenging, yet has not diminished our commitment to serve Richland County's domestic violence survivors.

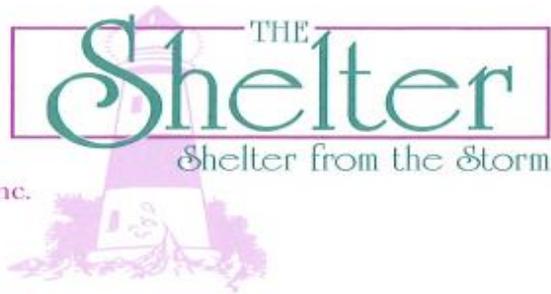
As a matter of fact, we made a bold move to purchase the building adjacent to our existing Shelter. The need for this expansion is highlighted by the findings of the 14th annual "Domestic Violence Counts Report, Ohio Summary." This report found that on September 12, 2019 there were "263 Unmet Requests for Services [during the survey period]... of which 91% (239) were for Housing and Emergency Shelter." This survey reflects the experience of the people we serve and is the impetus behind our expansion. Once fully renovated, this recently acquired space will increase our client capacity by 70%. If our Shelter is full, the next closest shelter is 22 miles away, substantially smaller, and unable to regularly accommodate the overflow from Richland County. Our expansion will allow us to address the spike of domestic violence within our community and avoid forcing survivors to travel for help.

Regardless of outside factors, we are committed to ensuring that the domestic violence survivors in Richland County have a place to seek out safe haven and continued support.

You can help us achieve this mission by becoming one of our valued community partners. You have the power to ensure our doors remain open, the renovations in our newly acquired space will be completed in a timely way, and our quality services continue unaffected by the chaotic times we are living in.

From the onset, this organization has been sustained by the community and, with your support, our robust programming will continue through generous community partnerships. The Shelter has been a steady, consistent, and reliable resource to the Richland County community. Funding foundations have seen the unique and profound impact we have already made in this community and are highly encouraging and supportive of our future plans, which includes technological updates so our services remain relevant and accessible, in addition to renovating our recently acquired property. **We hope that your organization will officially join us in our mission by becoming one of our community partners.**

As one of The Domestic Violence Shelter's community partners, your organization will be recognized on our website, via our social media accounts, in our monthly e-newsletter, and you will also receive tickets to The Shelter's signature fundraising events, along with the other benefits described on the enclosed forms.



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In addition to your company's exposure to our unique audience of subscribers and followers, there are many tangible positives for businesses that invest in local non-profits. ***The Chronicle of Philanthropy* states that for every \$1 a company invests in corporate philanthropy, \$6 is realized through growth in business revenues.** These statistics make partnering with The Domestic Violence Shelter a sound philanthropic investment in our community and a worthwhile business decision.

Throughout 2020 we served a broad swath of the local community and facilitated phenomenal and highly necessary programming. Some examples are:

- emergency housing for 125 individuals with an average stay of 22 days
- crisis line services and safety planning for 1,189 callers
- sexual assault advocacy for 114 survivors
- facilitated 32 support groups

Your support will help keep our services intact throughout 2022 and beyond. Enclosed in this packet of information are sponsorship program details and benefits, a participation agreement form, and a few articles discussing our imperative contribution to the community. Confirmation of your involvement must be received by December 1, 2021 to ensure you receive the full benefits for 2022. **We will be in touch within the next few weeks to set up an appointment to discuss all of the possible manifestations of our collaboration with you; think of our suggested levels as a start point. This partnership must feel comfortable for everyone involved and can be modified based on your company's needs and interests.**

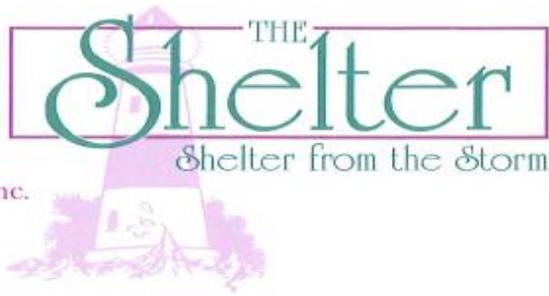
We sincerely look forward to hearing from you and eagerly anticipate a mutually beneficial partnership. If you have any questions, please contact us at (216) 201-0878 or by email at shastings@thedvshelter.com.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ezawa
Executive Director

Sarah Hastings
Director of Development
Pronouns: she/her/hers

The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.
PO Box 1524
Mansfield, OH 44901
419-774-5843
419-774-5840 (crisis line)
www.thedvshelter.com



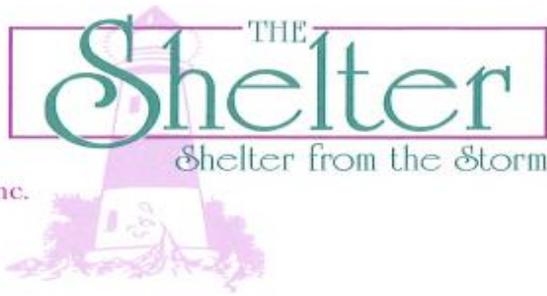
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2022 Community Partner Investment Levels

INVESTMENT LEVEL	Platinum Level - \$10,000	Gold Level - \$5,000	Silver Level - \$2,500	Bronze Level - \$1,000
Nite at the Races – April 9, 2022				
Save the Date eBlast	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Event Invitation	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Program Ad	Prominent Full Page	Interior Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page
VIP Event Tickets	16 Tickets (2 tables)	8 Tickets (1 table)	4 Tickets	2 Tickets
Event Acknowledgement	Verbal / AV	Verbal / AV	Verbal / AV	Verbal / AV
Event Web Page / Social Media	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Press Release Sponsor Mention	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Domestic Violence Awareness Month - March				
Annual Meeting Program	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Event Acknowledgement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
eBlast	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April				
Event Acknowledgement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
eBlast	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Sleep Out 5k – October 2022				
Save the Date eBlast	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Registration Flyer	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Race Registration	12 Registrations	8 Registrations	4 Registrations	2 Registrations
Event Acknowledgement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Swag Bag	Items can be Donated			
Event Web Page / Social Media	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Press Release Sponsor Mention	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Promotional Advertising				
Acknowledgement on Donor Wall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sponsor Web Page	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
“The Shelter News” – monthly eNewsletter	Prominent Logo Display	Logo Display	Logo Display	Name Listing
Social Media	Quarterly Acknowledgement	Quarterly Acknowledgement	Quarterly Acknowledgement	Quarterly Acknowledgement





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SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

1. Check your level of investment:

- Platinum Level – \$10,000
- Silver Level – \$2,500
- Gold Level – \$5,000
- Bronze Level – \$1,000

2. Complete the following:

CONTACT NAME: _____

COMPANY: (Please write company name as it should appear in print) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

3. Check payment option:

- Payment enclosed (check made payable to The Domestic Violence Shelter)
- 1st Quarterly Payment of _____ is enclosed
- Charge my (please circle) VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

TOTAL AMOUNT TO CHARGE: \$ _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ SECURITY CODE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

4. Mail agreement by December 1, 2021 to:

The Domestic Violence Shelter
c/o Sarah Hastings
P.O. Box 1524
Mansfield, OH 44901



THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER, INC.



1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. The Domestic Violence Shelter, located in Mansfield, has been working for over 40 years to support people as they remove themselves from dangerous situations and help individuals in the community learn how to prevent violence from starting. Support The Shelter by running or walking in our inaugural 5k and 1 mile fun run.

RACE INFORMATION

Date: October 31, 2021

Location: North Lake Park, 625 Hope Road, Mansfield, OH 44903

Time: 5k at 2.00pm, 1-mile fun run at 3.00pm

REGISTRATION

Pre-Register: OhioRaceDay.com -OR- mail form to The Domestic Violence Shelter, Attn: Sarah Hastings, P.O. Box 1524, Mansfield, OH 44901

Race Day Registration: 12.30 – 1.30pm at North Lake Park

Entry Fee: \$25 by October 10, 2021
\$30 after October 10, 2021 and no guaranteed race shirt

Top Overall Female/Male, Top Female/Male in each of the following divisions: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+, and Best Costume Children/Adults will receive an award

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____ Age on race day: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Select: 5K or 1 Mile Fun Run

Gender: F M T-shirt size: Adult: S M L XL 2XL (\$2 extra) Youth: S M L

Additional donation to the Domestic Violence Shelter: \$ _____

Waiver and Release: In consideration of the acceptance of the entry, I waive, for myself and my heirs, all claims of damages against the sponsors of the Run for the One 5k, their representatives, and all race officials and volunteers for any injuries received during and as a result of this event. If I should suffer injury or illness, I authorize the race officials to use their discretion to have me treated and be transported to a medical facility. I take full responsibility for this action. I certify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently prepared myself for this event.

Participant signature (or parent/guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

*** Make Checks payable to: The Domestic Violence Shelter
(please write "Run for the One 5k" on the memo line)**

Sponsored by:

Rinehart, Walters, Danner and Associates Insurance
Key Bank
Richland County Prosecutor Park National Bank
Kleshinski, Morrison, and Morris, LLP
Southern Title of Ohio Ltd.
Mechanics Bank
McDonald's of Richland County



Mansfield News Journal

Domestic Violence Shelter in Richland County urges Congress to pass funding fix

By Monroe Trombly, Published 4.5.21

MANSFIELD - The Domestic Violence Shelter in Richland County is urging Congress to pass a bill that would steer more money into the federal Crime Victims Fund, the shelter's largest source of funding.

The fund, established in 1984 when Congress passed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), collects fines from white collar prosecutions.

Mary O'Doherty, executive director of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, told the Columbus Dispatch last year that a shift in strategy by the Trump administration led to fewer federal convictions and a steep decline in those deposits.

Shelters and programs across Ohio were notified in October that the state's share of the federal VOCA money for that fiscal year was down by more than \$20 million, sharply reducing the grants that flow to dozens of organizations that help families affected by domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Shelter laid off five full-time workers, or about 20% of its staff, as a result of that decline, but no programs or services were reduced.

Kathy Ezawa, executive director, said in an interview that the shelter's federal VOCA funding will be cut once more when the next funding cycle begins Oct. 1, perhaps by 34%.

"We are hoping to not cut any further positions or services as a result of the funding," Ezawa said.

The U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month passed the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act. The Senate takes it up next.

Ezawa said Congress is also considering bills that would increase funding for programs created under the Violence Against Women Act.

"Passage of these bills is vital to keeping shelters across the county open and available for victim services," Ezawa said.

The decline in funding comes at a time when violence at home has been on the rise.

In the past year, calls to the shelter's emergency hotline increased by 40%.

And while the number of domestic-violence-related incidents reported to Mansfield police has remained consistent over the past few years, the level of abuse during the coronavirus pandemic has been more severe than usual.

Joe Petrycki, assistant chief of the Mansfield Division of Police, said the department has had a spike in felony domestic violence cases.

"Leaving an abusive relationship is difficult without a pandemic, but especially hard when public health messages about the coronavirus were telling people to stay home," Ezawa said.

Ezawa is pushing for Ohio to increase funding for domestic violence programs.

Legislators included \$1 million for domestic violence shelters in the budget in 2019, but that worked out to about \$12,000 per program, according to Ezawa.

"Those funds will help to offset the decrease in federal funding but in no way makes up for the difference," Ezawa said. "We are asking Governor DeWine to increase state support to \$5 million a year in this next budget cycle."

The Domestic Violence Shelter's hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If experiencing domestic abuse, or in need of education and support, call 419-774-5840.

The Columbus Dispatch, a sister paper to the News Journal, contributed to this report.

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cleveland.com

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, calls to domestic violence hotlines are more complex -- and more frightening: Coping Through COVID

By Evan MacDonald, Published on 2.4.21

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The calls to Ohio’s domestic violence hotlines have changed dramatically since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Survivors are spending more time on the line, describing issues that are complicated by isolation and logistical matters related to COVID-19. And their accounts are more frightening, involving escalating levels of violence as they’ve been sheltering with abusers.

“Survivors are describing situations that are more complicated. They’re describing situations that are more lethal,” said Mary O’Doherty, the executive director of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network in Columbus. “It really does seem scarier from the perspective of the folks who are handling those hotline calls.”

The pandemic has created a “perfect storm” of risk factors for domestic violence, experts said. Job losses and uncertainty over evictions has led to more financial insecurity. Parents are under more stress at home due to the closures of schools and day cares. And more people are using alcohol to cope, as [liquor sales have spiked during the pandemic](#).

More than half of Ohio’s domestic violence programs reported an increase in the number of people seeking shelter, calling hotlines or requesting services in 2020, according to a survey the ODVN conducted last month. Some reported nearly triple the number of people requesting services. And 58% of the state’s domestic violence programs reported more severe injuries, including a notable rise in strangulations.

The ongoing cleveland.com series “[Coping Through COVID](#)” aims to help Northeast Ohio residents manage the stress of COVID-19 by examining the mental-health and behavioral-

health aspects of the pandemic. The series tells individuals' stories and explores various challenges and strategies with experts.

The isolation that's intended to limit the spread of the virus has left many confined at home with abusers, experts said. Abusers are using the pandemic to control partners by threatening to kick them out if they go to work and bring the virus back into the home. They're also monitoring social media use and phone calls, further isolating survivors from friends and family members, said Melissa Graves, the CEO of the Journey Center for Safety and Healing in Cleveland (formerly the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center).

"In a COVID environment, in this world where so much is out of people's control, abusers do tend to try to exert control where they can. And it often ends up in increased abuse," Graves said.

Calls to domestic violence hotlines have increased from an average of 22 minutes to closer to 45 during the pandemic, said Terri Heckman, the executive director of the Battered Women's Shelter and Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties. Survivors who are thinking of leaving abusive relationships suddenly have more to consider, such as whether they can access the internet at a shelter for remote work.

"Every single client talks about the COVID impact before they talk about the actual abuse that happened," Heckman said.

Domestic violence is frequently underreported, and experts believe the pandemic has exacerbated the issue. Calls to Ohio's domestic violence hotlines [decreased early in the crisis](#), as many survivors struggled to find a safe time to call while they were isolated with an abuser during Ohio's stay-at-home order. For those reasons, the true impact of the pandemic may not be apparent for some time.

"I don't think we're going to know, for a couple years, exactly what has happened during this time," Heckman said.

Isolated at home

Before the pandemic, survivors often turned up at shelters with a story of how they packed a bag and left while an abuser was at work. But it became harder to escape an abusive situation when the abuser was always home.

The Journey Center used to get 80% of its calls from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., when either the survivor or the abuser was at work. The pandemic forced survivors to find other times when they were safe to make a call, Graves said.

"Our calls we suddenly coming in the middle of the night, when the abuser was sleeping," she said.

Those challenges led to a decrease in calls to domestic hotlines early in the pandemic. The Journey Center typically receives about 450 calls per month, but that dropped to 350 during the stay-at-home order, Graves said. Calls to the Battered Women's Shelter dropped by roughly 60%, Heckman said.

Survivors are finding it harder to take some of the "mini steps" that could lead to them deciding to leave, such as visiting a family member for a heart-to-heart or attending a support group meeting, experts said.

As a result, fewer survivors are turning up at residential shelters to ask for help. Before the pandemic, three-quarters of the survivors who came to the Battered Women's Shelter walked in themselves. Now the shelter is getting the "worst of the worst," the survivors who end up hospitalized with serious injuries or whose abuser has been arrested, Heckman said.

Part of the reason that's happening is because survivors are weighing the risk of staying in an abusive home versus the uncertainty of the pandemic, experts said. But they never expected the isolation to last almost a full year.

"Unfortunately, we're going to hear about domestic violence victims who said to themselves 'as soon as this is over, I'm leaving,' never thinking this would stretch out as long as it has," Heckman said.

Keeping shelters safe

Domestic violence services faced scores of new challenges the moment the pandemic arrived in Ohio. The first order of business was making sure the public knew that shelters were still open.

O'Doherty said the ODVN was "very concerned" the public might think shelters were forced to close, so they used social media and online newsletters to communicate the latest information. Graves said the Journey Center left pamphlets and other information in spots like grocery stores and pharmacies.

Shelters also needed to adapt to ensure that survivors weren't in danger of contracting COVID-19 at those safe havens. That required some social distancing measures, which limited the number of survivors they could help at one time.

"When the social distancing requirements went into place, many of our shelters had to reduce the number they could serve, because they had to spread out," O'Doherty said.

The ODVN used money from the federal CARES Act, the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief package, to set up a program that pays for hotel rooms for additional space. Since April 1, the ODVN has paid given money to 34 shelters to put 262 survivors in hotel rooms, O'Doherty said.

Shelters and other domestic violence services also invested CARES Act money in telehealth, allowing survivors to speak to counselors from home. But that solution hasn't been perfect

for survivors who are still living with an abuser and weighing whether to leave. Shelters like the Journey Center are still letting survivors come in for counseling if they don't have a safe place to attend virtually.

Telehealth hasn't been an ideal solution for the counselors, either. It was helpful to avoid a commute to and from work, which often allowed them to schedule an extra counseling session each day. But they struggled with the isolation they were living through, too. They missed having a coworker to speak with after a difficult session, Heckman said.

"They need the interaction of another therapist after a tough call," she said. "They long for the support."

What will be the impact?

Because the true impact of the pandemic is unclear, it's difficult to say whether there will be an increased need for domestic violence services once it's under control, experts said. But several factors could make a potential surge more difficult to address.

Domestic violence services are already facing budget crunches due to [continued cuts to programs funded through the Victims of Crime Act](#), the federal program that provides money for therapy and other services. O'Doherty said the ODVN's member programs are losing roughly \$7.7 million for the next fiscal year, and have seen budget reductions of nearly 40% over the past two years.

"Our programs have been cutting their staffs and cutting their services over the last few years to deal with these cuts," O'Doherty said. "So we're not in a good position to deal with what comes next."

The state of Ohio also devotes far less of its general fund to domestic violence programs than neighboring states, according to an analysis of state budgets compiled by the ODVN. Ohio spends roughly nine cents per capita on those services. That pales in comparison to the \$1.50 per capita spent in Kentucky and West Virginia, \$1.49 in Pennsylvania and \$1 in Michigan, according to the data.

The ODVN is asking Ohio to increase funding from \$1 million to \$5 million per year as part of the next state budget, O'Doherty said.

What can we do to help?

For the time being, experts said it's critical to look out signs of someone experiencing domestic violence during the pandemic. Heckman pointed to a story from Florida, where a [Walt Disney World ticket booker](#) heard someone yelling "get off of me" during a phone call. The ticket booker asked a few questions, then called law enforcement when the woman indicated she needed help.

During another recent incident, a [Florida waitress noticed bruises on a young boy](#). She flashed him a note to ask whether he needed help, which led to his parents being arrested on child abuse charges.

Graves suggested checking in on someone if you think they're in an abusive situation, because abusers often manipulate survivors into feeling isolated. But try to avoid being blunt and don't criticize their choices, because every situation is complex, she said.

"Just call to check in. Let them know you're thinking about them, and you're there for them if they need anything," Graves said. "That minimizes the isolation they're feeling."

Are you, a family member or a friend in crisis? Here's a list of agencies that can help.

Ohio Domestic Violence Network: Call 1-800-934-9840 or <https://www.odvn.org/find-help/>

Cuyahoga County Domestic Violence Help Line: Call 216-391-4357

National Domestic Violence Hotline: Call 1-800-799-7233 or <https://www.thehotline.org/>

Journey Center for Safety and Healing: Call 216-229-2420 or <https://www.journeyneo.org/>

Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties: Call 330-374-1111 (Summit) or 330-723-3900 (Medina) or <https://hopeandhealingresources.org/>