



The Domestic Violence Shelter Organization Profile

History:

The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization that opened its doors in 1978 as one of the first three domestic violence shelters in Ohio. The Shelter was founded by a group of concerned citizens who were moved to provide much needed assistance to victims of domestic violence who found themselves in danger and no options for safety. The program began in an office downtown Mansfield with all volunteer staff. A few years later, a very generous community member donated a three story house. After several renovations, the house became a 4-bedroom shelter with administrative offices on the third floor.

In 1998, The Shelter with a grant from Richland County Foundation purchased its current facility. In 2007, The Shelter became a dual-focused program, also providing 24/7 advocacy and support to survivors of sexual assault who present in the emergency room at OhioHealth Mansfield and Avita. In 2022, an annexed building was renovated to increase beds. Our current property has over 12,500 square feet with space to sleep 48 survivors. The Shelter has moved from providing primarily emergency shelter to becoming a full-service organization that provides a full range of services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

<https://www.thedvshelter.com/>

Mission: To build a peaceful community by providing safety, education, and supportive services while empowering survivors and those affected by domestic and sexual assault.

Vision: Ending domestic violence and sexual assault in our community

Core Values:

- Respect for our clients
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Always ethical
- Excellence and effectiveness in our program and services

2023 Budget Size: \$1,059,000

Staff Size: 22

- Three direct reports to the Executive Director
 - Program Director
 - Development Director
 - Administrative Assistant (finance & HR)

Key Strategic Themes:

- Education and Awareness
- Collaboration
- Financial Sustainability
- Strong programming

Strategic Objectives:

- Stakeholder Satisfaction
 - Strengthen and expand programming
- Financial Stewardship/Performance
 - Gain further financial stability
- Internal Process/Efficiency
 - Increase awareness, education, and understanding
 - Improve community presence by developing and cultivating relationships that continue opening up the dialogue
 - Ensure solid infrastructure as organization grows in line with serving clients
- Organizational Capacity
 - Grow and strengthen staff

Primary Services:

- **Emergency Shelter** serving an average of 165 families members annually - The Domestic Violence Shelter provides more than just a shelter from abuse. We offer a diverse range of life-saving, supportive, and educational services and tools to help survivors and their families escape a life of domestic violence and begin a new life of safety, dignity and self-sufficiency.
- **Sexual Assault Response Team** - The Shelter works with local law enforcement, social service agencies and medical facilities to provide immediate support to victims of sexual assault. The Response Team assists the survivors at the time of the incident and as they journey through recovery. Medical, mental health, legal and supportive services are accessed through the team's efforts. The advocate is a constant presence in the life of the survivor through their difficult healing process.
- **Youth Advocacy** - Specialized services for young victims include health and mental health services, alternative locations for education if needed, and family counseling referrals. Young victims are provided training in recognizing dangerous relationships and information about resources available to help. Preventive Programs for schools and youth groups enhance decision-making skills so preteens and teens learn to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships. The programs focus on teaching respect and appropriate behaviors toward others.
- **Family and Legal Advocacy** - Advocacy services are available to both residential and non-residential victims. Counseling referrals, problem solving assistance, and support services are available both day and evening. All services are focused upon empowering

survivors and enabling them to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. Legal advocacy services provide a vital link to the criminal justice system. Advocates assist with filing criminal charges and obtaining protective orders. Above all, the advocates provide support, information and encouragement to survivors.

- **Outreach Program** – Outreach services focuses on helping each client and their family develop the personal skills and crucial support system to aid them on their path to safety. The main focus is helping survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and stalking rebuild their lives in a way so they have all of the vital tools needed to avoid returning to an abusive relationship. Both during and after a survivor’s stay, the Outreach advocate provides resources and referrals for empowerment and basic needs as well as assisting in updating family safety plans.
- **Speakers’ Bureau** – Speakers for The Shelter are trained to raise awareness and speak to community groups regarding the realities of domestic violence.
- **Volunteer Opportunities** – The Shelter offers two primary volunteer opportunities
 - Volunteer in The Shelter: Volunteers receive forty hours of intensive training on the issues surrounding domestic violence and are required to complete background checks. They can then assist with the hotline, the sexual assault response team, or with other programming.
 - Volunteer as a Friend of The Shelter: Friends of The Shelter assist with fundraising efforts, plan and implement special events such as holiday parties, and they solicit goods and services from the community.

Primary Grants:

- Violence Against Women Act – \$35,000
- Family Violence Prevention & Services Act – \$43,700
- Victims of Crime Act- \$271,253
- TANF/Title XX- \$100,000
- Marriage License and Divorce Fees- \$25,000
- State Line Item Funding for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs- \$200,000

Primary Fundraising Events:

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Luncheon** – kickoff for Domestic Violence Awareness Month honoring community advocates and raising awareness through education
- **Run for the One 5K** – walk and run fundraiser supporting the Domestic Violence programs within the organization
- **Nite at the Races** – the largest fundraiser for the organization with table and ticket purchases, sponsorships, and silent auction
- **Food Truck Thursday** – a fund & friend-raiser for the Domestic Violence Shelter programs and services with local food trucks and raffle prizes

Board of Directors:

- Monthly meetings
- Required Committees: Nomination, Personnel, Finance, Executive/Strategy, Development/Fundraising