



Changing Attitudes

Changing Lives

Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence



stop Violence

Domestic Violence
happens because we let it.
And it will stop when
we say it must.

– The Family Violence Prevention Fund



Dear Partners and Friends:

The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence is about change...changing our culture to eliminate any tolerance for family violence.

In the Coalition's three years of existence, we have learned the only way to effect change is to look at every institution that touches a victim's life. This is why the Coalition is organized around five task forces – or touchpoints – where victims and institutions interact. These touchpoints present opportunities for positively changing a life. We find them in our courts, doctors' offices, workplaces, social service agencies and places of worship.

Our task forces are working to capitalize on these opportunities, not duplicate the work of the many fine programs already in existence. We are focusing on gaps and barriers as they exist system-wide. A good example of this is our Health Care Task Force. We quickly realized that a lack of protocols and policies for addressing family violence victims in hospital emergency departments and clinics meant we were missing opportunities to identify and help those in need. Now we are developing uniform standards and training for all our local hospital emergency departments so they will be able to respond more effectively to victims.

Today our direction is clearer, yet no easier. We know it will take all of us working together to stop the cycle of violence in our community.

We also know that success is not possible without our partners, the nonprofit agencies, businesses, governmental organizations and volunteers who give their time to marshal the resources for change. To them, we owe our deepest gratitude. Their accomplishments are chronicled here in our community report.

We look forward to a time when families live in peace and violence is a thing of the past.

Abigail Wexner, Founder and Board Chair





It Takes an Entire Community to Stop Abuse.

History

The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence was founded by Mrs. Abigail Wexner in 1998. Our purpose is to improve the way individuals and institutions respond to family violence. We do this by forming alliances with the corporate, medical, law enforcement, religious/faith communities and with social service agencies. By fostering collaboration, we can raise awareness and develop large-scale initiatives for prevention and intervention.

Working through Five Victim Touchpoints to Change Lives

A family violence victim will look to her doctor, lawyer, religious leader, employer or a social service agency for help. If any of these *touchpoints* fail her, the abuse could continue. The Coalition's job is to guide resources to these five institutional *touchpoints* to ensure they are prepared to respond appropriately to victims.

These *touchpoints* have evolved into five Coalition Task Forces: Legal System, Health Care, Faith Community, Business Community/Public Education, and Victim Services.

Startling Statistics Tell the Story

It starts with abuse and too often ends in murder. Domestic violence is a pervasive and pernicious crime. It's particularly heinous because history shows it is passed from one generation to the next. Here are the facts in Central Ohio:

- CHOICES, a local domestic violence organization, receives nearly 30 calls a day on its 24-hour hotline.
- Eighty percent of violent juvenile offenders and adult prisoners come from homes in which domestic violence occurred.
- Seventy-five percent of employed victims are harassed on the job by their abusive partners.
- Columbus Police make up to 40 domestic violence arrests every day.

The Need for Reform

In 2000, the Coalition commissioned a study by the prestigious Urban Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, research organization based in Washington, D.C., to inventory our community assets, gaps in services, and the barriers victims face as they seek help and protection. The study concluded that institutional reform was a key ingredient in stopping the cycle of violence and helping families at risk. It also found that collaboration among our key institutions that respond to victims is necessary to bring about change.

As a result, the Coalition's board has established four priorities: judicial reform, training and education, enhancement of victim services and public awareness. These priorities are being advanced through the work of our task forces.

Mission

The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence is a private, non-profit organization founded to create a community culture that does not tolerate family violence.

Vision

To break the cycle of family violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods throughout our community

The number of domestic violence charges filed locally has **increased 180%** since 1994.



The Coalition Today

In the past three years, the Coalition has experienced several changes. Many of these changes are reflected in our leadership and organizational structure.

In 1999, we welcomed our extremely knowledgeable and capable Executive Director, Karen S. Days. Under her leadership, we have coalesced into an organization that originates programs designed to foster change within our local institutions. Four new staff members have joined Karen to further the work of the Coalition.



The Coalition is organized around five task forces whose initiatives are detailed in this report.

- Legal System
- Health Care
- Faith Community
- Business Community/Public Education
- Victim Services

Statistic Sources: Columbus Division of Police, CHOICES, Ohio Department of Human Services Report

The Legal System Task Force focuses on the criminal justice system – our courts, police, prosecutors and advocates. When victims end up in court, too often the system fails to protect them. A study commissioned by the Coalition found that a typical sentence for a batterer is probation and a \$30 fine – less than the cost of a typical speeding ticket.

Domestic violence crimes clog the Franklin County Municipal Court, and Court records show a high number of repeat offenders and dismissals.

The Legal System Task Force is focused on reform through pro bono legal assistance for victims, judicial reform, and improved training of law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

Family Violence...It's Not a Private Matter. It's a Crime.



Helping a Brave Woman Get Her Life Back. Jane was repeatedly abused by her husband. One day he choked her until she passed out. Jane pressed domestic violence charges and was granted a protection order. Fearful for herself and her children, she decided to end the marriage. The Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic, with funding from the Coalition, handled her divorce for free, relieving her of that burden and stress. Jane's bravery in putting safety before financial security is an inspiration to all who know her.



There were more than **6,000** domestic violence cases in our community last year.

Legal System Task Force Initiatives

CourtWatch

For the first time in our local history, a group of researchers began the systematic process of tracking and monitoring domestic violence cases in Franklin County Municipal Court.

In Phase I, CourtWatchers studied more than 1,500 misdemeanor cases with the goal of improving the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence.

Joint Prosecutors & Law Enforcement Training

To improve the prosecution of batterers and improve conviction rates, the Legal System Task Force has organized family violence training for nearly 200 law enforcement officers and prosecutors. Attendees will learn from national experts about best practices for the handling of family violence cases. Topics will include evidence collection, court testimony, and prosecution without a witness. This session will mark the first shared training of these two groups on this topic in 20 years.

Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic

When low-income victims need legal help, they have few places to turn. Through Coalition funding, the Capital University Law School launched its Family Advocacy Clinic in October 2000 to provide free legal services to qualified persons. Since its inception, clinic attorneys have helped over 486 victims with protection orders and divorce proceedings. Future plans call for the addition of contested custody cases to the clinic's roster of services.

Legal System Task Force Members

- Janet Jackson, Chair**
Columbus City Attorney
- Lesley Ashworth
Domestic Violence Unit,
Columbus City Prosecutor's Office
- Angela Canepa
Franklin Co. Prosecutor's Office
- Judge Cynthia Cecil Lazarus
Tenth District Court of Appeals
- Susan Donofrio
The Legal Aid Society of Columbus
- Judge James Green
Franklin Co. Municipal Court
- Timothy Harildstad
McNamara Law Office
- Gail Heller
CHOICES
- Marya Kolman
Franklin County Domestic Court –
Mediation Services
- Chief Steve Martin
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- Roberta Mitchell
Capital University Law School
- Anne Murray
Columbus City Prosecutor's Office
- Nancy Neylon
Ohio Domestic Violence Network
- Mark Real
Children's Defense Fund – Ohio
- Deputy Chief John Rockwell
Columbus Division of Police
- John Saros
Franklin County Children Services
- Carole Schneider
Public Defender's Office
- Kevin C. Shannon
Prosecutor, City of Reynoldsburg,
City of Hilliard, Village of
Groveport, City of Whitehall



Doctors Can Save Lives Just by Asking Questions.

Family violence victims often end up in emergency rooms or a doctor's office. Yet our hospitals and health care professionals have no formalized program to assist victims. In many cases, no one even questions the cause of an injury – and the victim may not

volunteer the information because of embarrassment or fear of retribution from her spouse or partner.

To better respond to victims, the Health Care Task Force is focusing on several initiatives that will have wide-reaching benefits.

Health Care Task Force Initiatives

Pediatric Resident Training

Long trained to identify and report child abuse, all first-year pediatric residents in Franklin County now receive training to recognize and respond to the symptoms of domestic violence. This milestone will improve the screening and identification of abused adults who bring their children in for medical care, and it will offer protection and assistance to victims and their families. This is the first time this comprehensive training has been done in Franklin County.

Countywide Emergency Department Protocols

Today, hospital protocols for screening, reporting and assisting family violence victims are not standardized. At one critical victim touchpoint – emergency departments – individuals may or may not get the help they need to stop family violence. The Coalition's Health Care Task Force is working to change this. By developing countywide protocols to improve screening, identification and treatment, we are helping to ensure that victims get help beyond physical healing.

Project SAFE

Research shows that when women are pregnant, they are more likely to be abused. That is why the Coalition has funded the creation of a family violence screening program for all pregnant women under the care of The Ohio State University's Ob-Gyn Clinic. During a 12-month period, over 580 patients were screened and 25 victims identified through Project SAFE. Not only are victims referred to appropriate sources of help, the program also educates staff, students and health care professionals about family violence.



Connecting a Victim to Someone Who Cares. Mary was pregnant. But no one knew there were serious problems at home until she revealed her abuse in a simple questionnaire given by the Ob-Gyn Clinic at OSU. Immediately a domestic violence coordinator from Project SAFE contacted Mary, helped her obtain a protection order and put her in touch with CHOICES, a shelter for victims. Mary was also enrolled in the High Risk Perinatal Project. Without Project SAFE would she have become another statistic?



One in 4

American women will be physically abused by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.

Health Care Task Force Members

Dr. Olivia Thomas, Chair

Children's Hospital
Carole Anderson
The Ohio State University
College of Nursing

Carol Boster
Community Volunteer
Phil Cass
Columbus Medical Association & Foundation

Wanda Dillard
The Ohio State University Health System

R. Reed Fraley
The Ohio State University Health System

Keith Goodwin
Children's Hospital
Florence Greasamar
Mt. Carmel Foundation

Elaine Haynes
Capital University College of Nursing

Gail Heller
CHOICES

Patrick Lay
Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers

Dr. Teresa Long
Columbus Health Department

Karen Morrison
OhioHealth

Nancy Neylon
Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Polly Owen
Columbus State Community College

Ann Salimbene
The Ohio State University

Dr. Fred Sanfilippo
The Ohio State University Medical School

Ann Schiele
Mt. Carmel College of Nursing

Ronald St. Pierre
The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health

Judith Talbert
Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic



Faith Can Be the Catalyst for Cultural Change.

Churches, temples and other places of worship exert a major influence on our behavior. Religious leaders are often the first people victims confide in when violence occurs in their families. Yet studies show many clergy feel ill-equipped to handle this problem.

The Faith Community Task Force is committed to helping local clergy by providing family violence training and practical solutions for families in crisis.

Our spiritual leaders can play a major role in changing attitudes, and directing families to existing resources within our community.



A Helping Hand Intervenes. A woman in an abusive relationship instinctively turned to her pastor for help. He had recently attended the Interfaith Clergy Forum on family violence sponsored by the Coalition, and was newly aware of community resources for victims. As a result, he was able to move her confidently to a safe shelter, away from danger. Education was the key to helping this family tap into existing programs designed for victims.



Churches/temples are often on the

frontline

with victims and abusers.



Faith Community Task Force Initiatives

Break the Silence Interfaith Clergy Forum

A Host Committee comprised of Bishop James A. Griffin, Catholic Diocese of Columbus; Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff, Temple Israel; Reverend Jesse Wood, Love Zion Baptist Church; and Abigail Wexner, Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence, spearheaded the first local event to educate over 250 religious leaders from numerous denominations on successful strategies for addressing family violence. National and local speakers helped our clergy understand the dynamics of family violence and the ways they can be most effective in helping victims.

Held October 31, 2000, attendees brainstormed ways to address family violence in their congregations. They received a Coalition "Toolkit," and signed a Declaration Against Family Violence, reaffirming their commitment to end this culture of violence.

Sabbath Weekend

To carry on the work begun at the Interfaith Forum, local religious leaders called for a *Break the Silence* Sabbath Weekend on January 19-21, 2001. On this date, congregations throughout Central Ohio heard a unified "no tolerance" message about family violence in pulpit sermons. Family violence prevention and referral materials were also distributed.

Catholic Diocese of Columbus Training

Led by Bishop James A. Griffin, the Catholic Diocese of Columbus has committed to a massive training effort directed at over 3,000 parish and diocesan staff. The Coalition is providing the tools needed for identification, intervention, and prevention of family violence. This training will serve as the prototype for other denominations.

Interfaith Youth Forum

The Faith Community Task Force is planning an event for local youth to help them avoid or break out of a cycle of violence.

Faith Community Task Force Members

Bishop James A. Griffin, Chair
Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Reverend Timothy Clarke
First Church of God

Reverend Alvin Hadley
Metropolitan Area Council of Churches

Bishop Callon Holloway, Jr.
Southern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mark Huddy
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Department of Social Concerns

Dr. Mazhar Jalil
Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio

Reverend Susan Kyser
Children's Hospital Pastoral Care

Reverend Ron Murdock
Zion Lutheran Church

Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff
Temple Israel

Bishop Bruce Ough
United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference Office

Reverend Gwyn Stetler
Trinity United Methodist Church

Reverend Keith Troy
New Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Reverend Jesse Wood
Love Zion Baptist Church



Family Violence Doesn't Stay Home, It Follows Victims to Work.

Family violence manifests itself in the workplace with harassment, poor attendance and loss of productivity. Most employers have no internal support system to help victims, much less policies or procedures to guide managers or supervisors who interact with individuals struggling with this

issue. The Business Community/Public Education Task Force is working with private and public sector employers to increase awareness, develop an emergency response mechanism, provide training, and establish victim-sensitive policies.

While Columbus has a long history of work on family violence issues and a strong shelter program through CHOICES, the public is not well informed about this problem. Headline news stories report the most horrible incidents, yet people fail to understand that this is a crime we can stop.

Bringing solutions to the public's attention is another primary objective of the Business Community/Public Education Task Force.

Business Community/ Public Education Task Force Initiatives

Workplace Forums

The Coalition has educated more than 200 businesses about family violence, from identifying community resources and victim needs, to defining policies on harassment. Through this effort, over 100,000 employees have received information.

Employer Action Plans

The Coalition has implemented a training and education program for businesses and other local employers. Phase I introduced the issue to large and small businesses. Phase II began training key staff. To date, 2,325 human resources and security personnel representing 24 companies have received training. Phase III calls for the development of individualized Workplace Action Plans, followed by the last phase – an internal communications campaign directed at employees.

Public Education

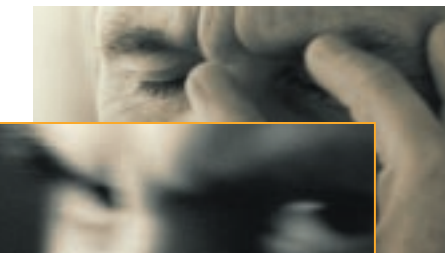
In order to change public attitudes, the Coalition Business Task Force is developing a community/public education campaign to promote "no tolerance" for family violence. This mass media effort is designed to provide information on the depth and breadth of the problem and introduce solutions that can improve our response to victims and families.

From Zero to Over 80 Active Cases in a Year. After one local business underwent Coalition-sponsored family violence training, numerous employees came forward to talk to their managers about harassing phone calls, abusive relationships and the need for time off work to meet with lawyers and go to court. The training helped managers know about local resources and what to do. Case numbers increased, but so did productivity by dealing sensitively with a problem that was already there.



Business Task Force Members

- Al Dietzel, *Chair*
The Limited, Inc.
- Susan Bass
The Limited, Inc.
- Frankie Coleman
The Ohio State University
- Brian Gallagher
United Way of Central Ohio
- Gail Heller
CHOICES
- Sally Jackson
Greater Columbus
Chamber of Commerce
- Julie Keckstein
National City Bank
- L'Tanya Lemon
Community For New Direction
(Safety Vision Council)
- Dr. Kurt Malkoff
Matrix Psychological Services
- Lynda Malster
Consultant
- Nancy Neylon
Ohio Domestic Violence Network
- Marcie Rehmar
Children's Hospital
(Safety Vision Council)
- Carole Tomko
Customized Organizational
Solutions
- Judy Tuckerman
Community Advocate
- Ric Wanetik
RWA Management and
Marketing Advisors



Employers lose **175,000** days
each year because of domestic violence.



Victims Are Frighteningly Alone When Resources Are Not Available.

Local social service organizations are doing a good job providing shelter and support to victims, yet gaps exist – particularly on a more global scale – as our large institutions interact with victims. The Victim Services Task Force is working to ensure that we develop the programs lacking in our community and to encourage collaboration among our key institutions that touch families in crisis.

Family violence is not restricted to any one neighborhood or socio-economic level. As we become increasingly diverse, our population includes non-English speaking people representing many different cultures and family attitudes. This makes our challenge to provide necessary services that much greater.

Victim Services Task Force Initiatives

Westland Area Latino Outreach

In collaboration with the United Way, the Coalition provided funding for victim advocacy, parenting workshops, and young teen education programs for Columbus' growing Latino community. The Norton Middle School, which has a sizeable Latino student population, held special classes on this subject.

Research

Working with the City Attorney's office and various other service providers, the Coalition is conducting a research project surveying all victims who interact with service providers and our courts. The results will help improve support services for victims.

Women of **all races** are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner.

Franklin County Domestic Violence Death Review Panel

The Coalition is working with the Columbus Board of Health to fund, develop and implement a Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. With representatives from the Coroner's office, Courts, Prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and various victim services organizations, the Panel will examine the circumstances surrounding all homicide and suicide cases in which domestic violence was a significant factor. The Panel will make specific recommendations in order to prevent future deaths and improve services to Franklin County families.

Action for Children Outreach

Nearly 100 childcare providers in Franklin County underwent training to recognize, prevent and report child abuse and neglect. Working with Action for Children, the Coalition funded the development of a comprehensive childcare curriculum that was presented to center directors and staff.

Service Provider Training

Our social service agencies and non-profit organizations will benefit from a professional development program to help them better understand and to recognize the symptoms of family violence. Coalition-sponsored training will help ensure the creation of effective treatment plans and appropriate referrals.



Elder Abuse Awareness

The Coalition provided funding for the Family Violence and Elderly Initiative educational campaign of the OSU Extension Franklin County. The Initiative reached over 7,000 senior citizens and their service providers. Phase II of this program will partner with Senior Options to provide training to Meals on Wheels volunteers to help them identify and respond to elder abuse.

Immigrant Services

To serve our non-English speaking community, the Coalition is working to train interpreters and advocates on the dynamics of family violence. This should assure better treatment and support for victims of different cultures and their children.



Reaching Out in Spanish. Her husband choked her. He blackened her eye. Her young son witnessed the violence, then killed a pet bird and chased another child with a knife. Rosa was not comfortable going to a local battered women's shelter because she didn't speak English. The Coalition helped provide a Spanish-speaking clinician to assist her son and to help her find the strength and resources to live independently from her husband.

Victim Services Task Force Members

Michael Mentel, Chair
Columbus City Council

Lesley Ashworth
Domestic Violence Unit,
Columbus City Prosecutor's Office

Pamela Bogutz
Community Volunteer

Ann Bryson
Children's Hospital Foundation

Maggie Cretella
The Columbus Foundation

Beth Gerber
Jewish Family Services

Gail Heller
CHOICES

Katie Huenke
Columbus Public Schools

Beth Morrow Lonn
YWCA of Columbus

Carole Menge
Lutheran Social Services

Roger Minner
Huckleberry House

Sara Murphy, Ph.D.
Catholic Social Services

Sara Neikirk
Communities In Schools

Karen Schwarzwald
YWCA of Columbus

Debbie Sendek
Prevent Child Abuse Ohio
At Children's Hospital

Dana Wilkie
Center For New Directions

Les Wright
WSMZ Radio

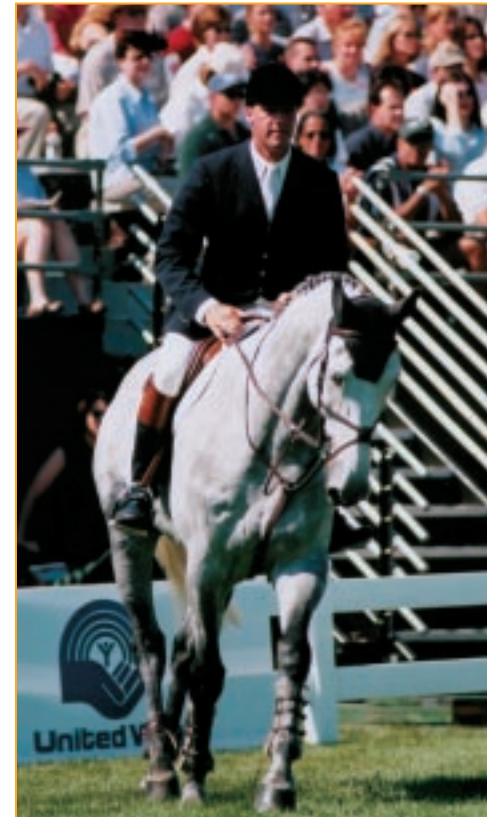
The Coalition Receives Broad-Based Financial Support.

The Coalition is funded through the annual New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix which attracts donations from private individuals, foundations and corporations. Because of the generous underwriting of the Wexner family, 100% of the event proceeds benefit the work of the Coalition. While not a traditional grant-making organization, the Coalition funds initiatives formulated by the five task forces. These focus on institutional and cultural change, and involve the collaboration of at least two community organizations.

New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix

This year's Classic raised over \$1 million for the Coalition, making it one of the most successful fundraising events in the region. Attendees enjoyed a very special day at the Wexner home with competitive equestrian show jumping, live entertainment, a silent auction and carnival rides. Each \$25 adult admission contributed to the work of the Coalition.

An elegant black tie evening the night before helped raise additional dollars to fund family violence prevention efforts. By attending this event, Central Ohioans are helping to change cultural attitudes about family violence.



Over **9,000** guests attended the New Albany Classic in 2001.

Funding Distribution 2000–2002

Initiative	2000 Actual	2001 Allocated	2002 Estimated
Action for Children Outreach	\$44,045	\$0	\$40,000
Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic	\$229,712	\$398,114	\$385,892
Catholic Diocese of Columbus Training	\$75,000	\$0	\$0
Center for Safe Children	\$0	\$64,410	\$0
CourtWatch Franklin County	\$80,416	\$82,963	\$80,000
Elder Abuse Awareness	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
Employer Action Plans	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Franklin County Domestic Violence Death Review Panel	\$0	\$96,750	\$96,750
Interfaith Clergy Forum	\$82,960	\$0	\$0
Interfaith Youth Forum	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Joint Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Training	\$0	\$60,885	\$60,000
Project SAFE	\$23,510	\$23,435	\$23,435
Public Education Campaign	\$0	\$113,035	\$200,000
Urban Institute Study – Phases I & II	\$30,873	\$0	\$40,000
Westland Area Latino Outreach	\$0	\$63,000	\$104,000
Total	\$591,516	\$1,002,592	\$1,330,077

We Extend Our Deepest Gratitude to Donors and Volunteers.

A very special *Thank You* to every donor, partner, supporter and volunteer who has helped the Coalition further its mission.

Clearly, fulfilling our mission would not be possible without the contributions and support of the entire community.

2000 and 2001 New Albany Classic Sponsors

Grand Prix Sponsors \$100,000

Abercrombie & Fitch
Bank One, NA
The Limited, Inc. and Intimate Brands, Inc. Foundation

Classic Medal Sponsors \$50,000

The Columbus Dispatch
The Huntington National Bank Nationwide
Barbara Trueman and Family
United Way of Central Ohio

Gold Medal Patrons \$25,000

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Silver Medal Patron \$15,000

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The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence Board and Staff

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Franklin County Court of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch
- 8. Michael Mentel
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- 10. Deputy Chief John Rockwell
Columbus Division of Police
- 11. Dr. Olivia Thomas
Children's Hospital (Chair, Health Care Task Force)
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The Dispatch Printing Company
- 13. Katie Wolfe
The Dispatch Printing Company

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Coordinator
- 16. Lori Barton
Special Projects/Administrative Assistant
- 17. Christina Wilson
Administrative Assistant
- 18. Joel Dixon
Account Executive

Commitment Is Key to Our Efforts

The Board of Directors is comprised of leaders from government, businesses, religious, and community organizations in Central Ohio who are committed to reforming our systems and improving our response to family violence.

Board Members

- 1. Abigail Wexner
Board Chair
- 2. Frankie Coleman
The Ohio State University
- 3. Al Dietzel
The Limited, Inc. (Chair, Business Community/Public Education Task Force)
- 4. Brian Gallagher
United Way of Central Ohio
- 5. Bishop James A. Griffin
Catholic Diocese of Columbus (Chair, Faith Community Task Force)
- 6. Janet Jackson
Columbus City Attorney (Chair, Legal System Task Force)



**Columbus Coalition
Against Family Violence**

700 Children's Drive, 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43205

614.722.5985

614.722.5995 fax

www.theColumbusCoalition.org