



Touchpoints

2010 Vol. 6 | Issue 3

www.ccafv.org





Touchpoints

2010 Vol. 6 | Issue 3 www.ccafv.org

Table of Contents

- 2..... Public Education
- 3..... Legal System
- 6..... Health Care
- 8..... Victim Services
- 11..... Faith Community
- 13..... Business Community
- 15..... Spotlight

Board Members

Rev. Dr. Charles Booth

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (Chair, Faith Community Task Force)

Bishop Fredrick Campbell

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Al Dietzel

Community Advocate

Bishop Callon Holloway Jr.

Southern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Janet Jackson

United Way of Central Ohio

Chad Jester

Nationwide Foundation (Chair, Victim Services Task Force)

Sheriff James Karnes

Franklin County Sheriff

Katie Lloyd

The Dispatch Printing Company/Alive (Chair, Public Education Task Force)

Jeff Lyttle

JP Morgan Chase (Chair, Business Community Task Force)

Judge James Mason

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Division

Yvette McGee Brown

Community Advocate

Michael Mentel

Columbus City Council

Dr. Olivia Thomas

Nationwide Children's Hospital (Chair, Health Care Task Force)

Sharon Turney

Victoria's Secret Direct

Abigail Wexner

*Founder of Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence
(Chair, Board of CCAFV)*

John F. Wolfe

The Dispatch Printing Company



“During Lisa’s remarks, she went on to say that, “there is no real difference between a murderer and Glenn Zimmerman except for the fact that I continue to breathe.”

Karen S. Days

President, Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence and Interim President, Center for Child and Family Advocacy

A Woman of Valor

On May, 13, 2010, I had the privilege of serving as the keynote speaker at the third annual Women of Valor Luncheon. The purpose of the luncheon is to recognize amazing women in central Ohio who have made substantial contributions to advancing the health of women, children and families. The 2010 honorees were the award-winning anchorwoman for WBNS 10-TV, Andrea Cambern, and world-renowned artist and education icon, Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld.

While I was immensely impressed by the honorees, I was in awe of the guest speaker, Lisa Schartiger. On February 19, 2004, Lisa was attacked by her now ex-husband, Glenn Zimmerman. After forcing Lisa’s car off the road, Zimmerman proceeded to stab her 32 times. Amazingly, Lisa survived and fortunately, Zimmerman was charged with attempted murder. To avoid going to trial, Zimmerman pleaded guilty and he received eight years in prison. He is scheduled to be released in 2012.

Lisa worries that when Zimmerman is released he will attempt to see their now seven-year-old son, who understands what Zimmerman did to his mother. Immediately after the attack, Lisa was also worried about her son. As she was gasping for breath she begged her mother to take care of her boy. Her injuries included a severe concussion, two collapsed lungs and a dislocated collar bone. During her remarks, she went on to say that, “there is no real difference between a murderer and Glenn Zimmerman except for the fact that I continue to breathe.”

Today, Lisa does more than just breathe. Since her recovery, Lisa has become an outspoken advocate for the prevention of family violence. She works tirelessly to prevent other women from experiencing what she went through. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines the word valor as: *strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness*. This describes Lisa perfectly.

Telling Amy’s Story at The Ohio State University

On Monday, October 4, 2010, over 140 students at The Ohio State University (OSU) attended the *It’s Abuse* Movie Awareness Night featuring *Telling Amy’s Story* at the Gateway Film Center. *Telling Amy’s Story*, produced by Penn State Public Broadcasting and funded by the Verizon Foundation, follows the timeline of a domestic violence homicide that occurred on November 8, 2001.

Students took away valuable information on relationship abuse through *It’s Abuse* materials, watching *Telling Amy’s Story* and listening to an expert panel comprised of OSU students, faculty and staff and moderated by the Interim Director of Operations for the Coalition, Sheryl Clinger.

“With women ages 16-24 experiencing the highest per capita rates of intimate violence, it is vital that college students be aware of the warning signs of relationship

abuse and know what campus or community resources are available to help,” says the Coalition’s Public Education Task Force Chair, Katie Lloyd.

The *It’s Abuse* Movie Awareness Night was created through a partnership with the Coalition, Verizon, the Gateway Film Center and OSU. An initiative of the Coalition, the *It’s Abuse* campaign is designed to educate college students about the issues surrounding relationship abuse. After piloting the campaign at OSU in 2006, the *It’s Abuse* campaign is currently in eight other collegiate institutions in central Ohio.

For more information on the *It’s Abuse* campaign, please visit www.itsabuse.com or contact the Coalition at 614-722-5985.

Deaf Survivors of Domestic Violence: Barriers and Support

**By: Stefanie Day, MA, MS, LPCC-SC
DWAVE, Board Officer**

Deaf domestic violence victims and survivors experience a broad range of barriers when seeking help from support agencies and law enforcement. Victims may experience the following disincentives when reaching out:

- Shelters failing to provide accessibility measures.
- Interventions, provided via an inappropriate interpreter, reduce privacy and rapport between the victim and the service provider.
- Interpreters untrained for crisis situations reduce interpretation quality.
- Non-signing staff or officials using a victim's family member or friend as an interpreter.
- Lack of understanding about the Deaf-world, projecting Hearing cultural norms and expectations, and neglecting to recognize the close ties within the Deaf Community can result in repeated exposure to perpetrators.
- Victim's lack of awareness about available services, victim rights, and the domestic violence legal response. This information is not presented in accessible formats for Deaf people.

These barriers discourage Deaf victims and survivors from reaching out to law enforcement or support services for protections. Though the barriers can be overwhelming, they can be mitigated by working with a Deaf victim. The following steps can ensure the best assistance:

- Find out from the Deaf victim—not others—what form of communication she prefers.
- When both parties are Deaf, two sets of interpreters will be necessary.
- When scheduling interpreters, officers and court officials will need to ensure that the interpreter has current certification for legal settings.
- Awareness of Deaf culture and communication helps to establish rapport and trust with the Deaf victim.
- Deaf persons use eye contact as an important component of communication and looking away could be understood as cutting off communication. A Deaf person's facial expressions are incredibly relevant and contain much of their meaning and the grammar of their language.
- When a Deaf victim or survivor is using American Sign Language to re-tell the story, she may be very demonstrative and emotional; however, this is how the language works. Unfortunately, this is sometimes mistaken as acting out or severe trauma.
- Determine other service needs and refer to a Deaf provider if available.

For further information and qualified support services, contact Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE) at www.dwaveohio.org or via videophone at 614-678-5476.

When a Deaf victim is using American Sign Language to re-tell the story, she may be very demonstrative and emotional; however, this is how the language works.





Domestic Violence Homicides

By: Lisa Cammelleri, Sergeant, Domestic Violence Unit, Columbus Division of Police

Each day in the U.S., 5 to 11 women are killed by an intimate partner. For each of these homicides, 9 near-death experiences are reported. Though the abusers intend these attacks to be fatal, victims are saved because of improved medical care.

Domestic violence homicide is the one category of murder that is preventable through early intervention and assistance by social services and the criminal justice system. However, in order to attain this success, there must be a goal of zero-tolerance for domestic violence in the community.

Persons who abuse their partners are potentially dangerous and some are more likely to kill, especially when certain conditions exist.

1. Ownership

The abuser who threatens, “death before divorce” or “if I can’t have you, nobody will,” is stating a fundamental belief that his partner has no right to life apart from him.

2. Timing

When an abuser believes that his partner is leaving him, this may be when he chooses to kill. Women are most likely to be murdered when attempting to report abuse or when leaving an abusive relationship.

3. Depression

If an abuser is acutely depressed, he may be a candidate for homicide and suicide.

4. Threats

The abuser who has threatened to kill his (ex) partner, himself, the children or her relatives must be considered extremely dangerous.

5. Weapons

Abusers with access to or possession of weapons, and/or has used or threatened to use them, has an increased potential for lethal assault.

6. Hostage-Taking

Hostage-takers are at high risk for homicide. Between 75% and 90% of all hostage situations in the U.S. are related to domestic violence.

7. Drugs and Alcohol

Abusers with a history of drugs and/or alcohol problems show a higher risk of murdering their partner. Intoxication at the time of an assault shows a significant homicide risk for partners.

Each day in the U.S.,

5 to 11

women are killed

by an intimate partner. For each of these homicides, 9 near-death experiences are reported.

8. Escalation of Risk Taking

When an abuser begins to act without regard to the legal or social consequences that previously constrained his violence, the chances of homicide increase significantly.

9. Fantasies of Homicide or Suicide

The more an abuser has developed a plan about whom, how, when and/or where to kill, the more dangerous he may be. The abuser who has previously acted out part of a homicide or a suicide fantasy may be invested in killing as a solution to his problems.

Law enforcement uses these factors to assess the lethality of a particular domestic violence offender. Research has consistently confirmed that a combination of these factors is a solid indication of an abuser’s potential for lethal harm. Because domestic violence homicides could be prevented, we, as a community along with our legal system and victim services, have a responsibility to achieve the goal of zero-tolerance for domestic violence.

To learn more about domestic violence and the legal system, please contact the Coalition’s Legal System Task Force Director, Kristi Timbrook at 614-722-8215 or via email at Kristi@ccafv.org.



Domestic Violence in the Somali Community

**By Ayan Hassan, Somali Outreach Advocate,
Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit, City of
Columbus Prosecutor's Office**

Domestic violence is universal and, like any other culture, it exists in the Somali community. While there is no single factor that causes domestic violence in the Somali community, factors unique to Somali families exacerbate existing domestic violence.

Cultural Factors Impacting Domestic Violence

As refugees/immigrants are adjusting to a new language and customs, cultural barriers lead many immigrants to isolation. Many victims do not have a support system and do not report the abuse. A victim may not call the police if her husband is beating her. She may fear she would be labeled an aggressor by her community for instigating an investigation by people from outside the Somali community.

Gender role changes could cause frustration among Somali families. Traditionally, in Somali families, men are breadwinners and heads of the household. They do not get involved with daily household chores. In America, many Somali women get the opportunity to work while many Somali men are unemployed. Sometimes, when a woman asks her husband to help at home, he believes his manhood is undermined and that she is taking advantage of living in America. This may be used as an excuse for abuse.

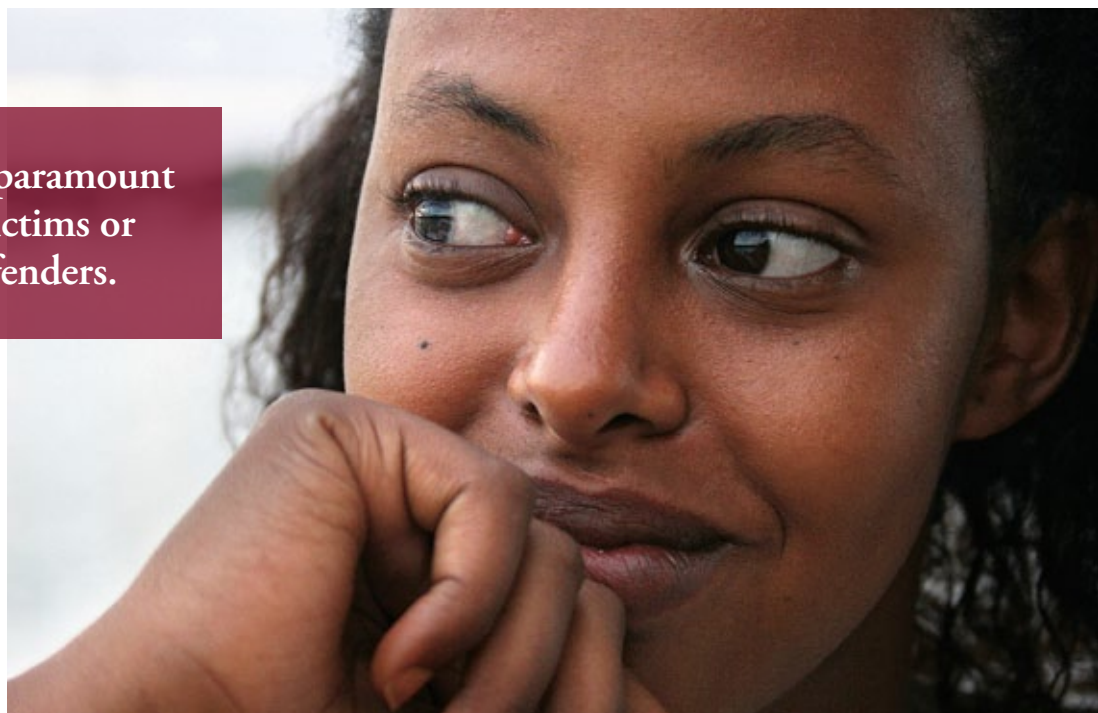
Traditional Somali ways of solving domestic violence conflict with the American court and advocacy system responses. While some domestic violence is considered a crime in America, many Somalis believe domestic violence is a family matter to be solved without the American courts and police. Some Somalis feel that when domestic violence occurs, the priority is immediately reuniting the family while relatives of both sides meet to resolve the problem.

Cultural competency is paramount when assisting Somali victims or working with Somali offenders. By carefully constructing advocacy around the Somali woman's victimization and community needs, progress can be made.

For more information, please contact:

- The Somali Women & Children's Alliance (SWCA). *The SWCA offers a variety of programs designed to assist in preparing refugees and immigrants for their new role in American society and helping them to achieve their full potential as residents and citizens. Visit www.swaca.org/ or contact 614-473-9999 for more information.*
- The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence at 614-722-5985 or visit www.ccafv.org.

**Cultural competency is paramount
when assisting Somali victims or
working with Somali offenders.**



Improving Health & Safety for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

Despite the high prevalence and serious consequences of intimate partner violence (IPV), there is limited evidence of effective strategies to address this serious public health issue. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Jack Stevens, Dr. Philip Scribano and Dr. Kelly Kelleher of the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) are investigating the acceptability, safety, efficacy and cost of a Telephone Care Management (TCM) intervention to prevent further IPV.

Participants are identified via an electronic home safety screening at a kiosk upon entry in the NCH Emergency Department. When a positive IPV screening occurs via the kiosk, an automatic page is sent to a hospital social worker. The family then receives a safety assessment and an invitation to participate in the ongoing TCM study. To date, over 30,000 home safety screens have been conducted, and over 3,500 positive IPV screens have been identified.

In this randomized, controlled trial, Doctors Stevens, Scribano and Kelleher expect that victims who receive the TCM intervention will have less recent IPV and greater perceived health, relative to the control group recipients. These positive outcomes will be influenced by social support and effectiveness in obtaining community resources. Preliminary analyses of the relevant outcomes of the TCM intervention will be conducted in the coming year.

“This research brings innovative technology to the forefront of health care, and provides women experiencing intimate partner violence with access to a variety of needed services to improve safety and well-being,” says Dr. Scribano. “Through regular telephone touchpoints, by highly trained research staff, we have been able to address a wide array of needs identified by these women.”

For more information about the study, please contact Dr. Jack Stevens at 614-722-8021 or via email at jack.stevens@nationwidechildrens.com.



Higher Health Costs For Domestic Violence Victims

A recent study published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* finds victims of domestic violence endure significantly higher health costs than other women for three years after the abuse ends. Dr. Amy Bonomi, co-author of the study, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science at The Ohio State University, and CCAFV Health Care Task Force Member says, “Women may continue to experience physical and emotional consequences even years after the abuse ends, and that is reflected in their health care costs.”

From 1992-2002, researchers looked at the health care costs of over 850 victims identified from an original group of 2,026 women patients from Group Health Cooperative, a health system in the Pacific Northwest. In order to make sure that it was the abuse that was driving the cost differences between abused and non-abused women, the study took into account a wide variety of factors that may also be related. These factors included the women's age, race and ethnicity, education and income, marital and employment status and other influences.

Overall, abused women's health care costs were \$585 greater per year than non-abused women during the period of abuse. After the abuse ended, health costs were \$1,231 higher in the first year, \$1,204 higher the second year, and \$444 higher the third year. By the fourth year after abuse, health care costs were similar to that of other women.

Dr. Bonomi feels researchers don't have data to explain why health care costs are actually higher for the first two years after the abuse ends than they were during the years of abuse. However, she believes she has one possible explanation. “Women may not be accessing health care services that they should be while they are with an abusive partner,” says Dr. Bonomi. “They may fear of retaliation, particularly if they are in a controlling relationship.”


(Continued from previous page)

While their findings were conservative; it is likely that the true health care costs for many abused women are higher than are reported. Some victims participating in the study may not have admitted to being abused; therefore, were not included among the abused victims.

Researchers: Prevention Saves Money

Dr. Bonomi believes the results show that abuse prevention efforts can actually save the health care industry significant amounts of money. "Victims of abuse require more health care resources for years after their abuse ends," says Dr. Bonomi. "If we can prevent domestic violence, we are not only helping the women involved, we are also saving money in our health care system."

To read the full article, please visit <http://ehe.osu.edu/news/2010/bonomi-abuse-costs.cfm> or contact Dr. Amy Bonomi at abonomi@ehe.osu.edu.



This study is the first to look at how health care costs of abused women change from year to year after the abuse ends. This study looked at costs during the years of abuse and then during each year up to 10 years later.



Ohio Selected to Receive Project Connect Grant from Family Violence Prevention Fund

The Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) has chosen the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) as one of ten sites in nine states that will receive \$250,000 for a groundbreaking two-year violence prevention initiative designed to improve the health and safety of women and children. *Project Connect: A Coordinated Public Health Initiative to Prevent Violence Against Women*, is funded by the Office on Women's Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It will find new ways to identify, respond to and prevent domestic and sexual violence, and promote an improved public health response to abuse.

Project Connect funding stems from the health provisions in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005. More than half the Project's funds are directed to ten geographically and ethnically diverse sites that will create comprehensive models of public health prevention and intervention that can lead to improved health and safety.

Each site will work with family planning, adolescent health, home visitation, and other maternal-child health and perinatal programs to develop policy and public health responses to domestic and sexual violence. *Project Connect* grantees will also provide basic health

and reproductive health services in domestic and sexual violence programs.

"We have long known that the public health system is uniquely positioned to identify and help victims of violence, and that strengthening the public health response to violence can do a tremendous amount to help victims and stop abuse," says FVPF Director of Health, Lisa James. "*Project Connect* is especially important because it will help improve the response to violence in the reproductive health and other programs where women seek care and services."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report 1,200 deaths and two million injuries to women from intimate partner violence each year. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that, on average, four women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends each day in this country. The latest research now shows that one in ten American children witnessed domestic violence in the last year and more than one-third of American children will witness family violence by the time they are 17.

For more information on *Project Connect*, please visit <http://www.endabuse.org> or contact ODVN's Economic Empowerment Director, Nancy Grigsby at 614-781-9651.



Partnering to Protect Families Affected by Domestic Violence

By: Cynthia Greenleaf, Communications Specialist at Franklin County Children Services

How can we help you?

How can we work together to help you better protect your children?

These questions are at the heart of Franklin County Children Services' (FCCS) groundbreaking new strategy for dealing with domestic violence. An extension of its innovative Alternative Response approach, FCCS' new Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Unit is transforming how central Ohio's child welfare professionals address the frequently intertwined issues of child abuse and domestic violence. "It's a complete shift in thinking and practice," said Lisa Distelzweig, the Child Welfare Casework Supervisor for FCCS' new IPV Unit.

The IPV Unit was trained on the *Safe and Together Model* which helps staff identify the impact of domestic violence on children. Central to the *Safe and Together Model* is the notion that keeping children with their non-battering parent, whenever possible, is always preferable. Instead of blaming, judging or pressuring the domestic violence victim, the approach validates whatever measures the victim has taken to help keep her kids safe. "It's about identifying each and every effort mom has made," says Lisa. "It's going with what they have and where they're at."

This collaborative approach helps foster a better partnership between victims and children services, focusing on their circumstances and individual strengths. Research has shown that carefully constructing a respectful partnership with the victim is the most effective way of keeping her, and her children, safe.

Developing a more specialized safety plan is another part of the *Safe and Together Model's* greatest strengths. Rather than using a cookie-cutter approach for every case, the new IPV Unit is listening closely to each family. They take into account what works and what doesn't. For example, if a mom has typically sent her children to a neighbor's house when a IPV incident is escalating, the caseworker will build on that as part of the safety plan.

The new IPV Unit is also paying closer attention to the specific tactics of batterers and subtle signs of coercive control. They are holding batterers more accountable for their actions and getting them to engage in the process. Some questions that may be asked to domestic violence victims are: does he control all the money or does he keep the kids from getting to school by hiding the car keys? By documenting precise patterns of control, a caseworker can conduct a detailed assessment and

get a clearer sense of how to help the parent and the children. It's about identifying day-to-day what occurs.

Lisa couldn't be happier with the unit's progress. She is especially heartened by the degree to which they have been able to engage victims as well as batterers. In time, she hopes that this collaborative approach to handling cases of domestic violence and child abuse will be standard practice and a common place at the agency and beyond.

For more information on FCCS's new IPV Unit, please contact Communications Specialist Cynthia Greenleaf at 614-341-6162 or via e-mail at clgreenl@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us.

Instead of blaming,
judging, or
pressuring

**the domestic violence victim,
the approach validates whatever
measures the victim has taken to
help keep her kids safe.**

.....

“It's about identifying each and every effort mom has made,” says Lisa. “It's going with what they have and where they're at.”

Intimate Partner Violence in Immigrant & Refugee Communities

The Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) created a report for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation titled: *Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Immigrant and Refugee Communities: Challenges, Promising Practices and Recommendations*. In regards to IPV, the report discusses challenges that confront immigrants and refugees, describes promising models of prevention and treatment, and offers stakeholders recommendations and funding suggestions.

The report also includes a literature review of domestic violence in immigrant and refugee populations. The findings from this review have concluded that research within immigrant and refugee populations is sparse and often conflicting. The report illustrates the complex issues that arise when working with diverse populations such as immigration status, language barriers, and a lack of knowledge regarding the social system in the U.S.

Challenges are presented for both victims and service providers. Many times, victims of IPV are reluctant to come forward. They do not want to project a negative image of their community while trying to survive in a society that can be unwelcoming and prejudice. According to the report, service providers indicated that they tend to avoid directly identifying themselves as an IPV prevention organization for fear of alienating the community.

Promising Practices and Recommendations

One of the major goals highlighted throughout the report is that changing community members' attitudes and social norms are critical not only to lessening victim-blaming and promoting help-seeking, but ultimately, to preventing IPV. It is imperative to raise awareness and identify the needs and concerns of the community. Without these discussions, changes in attitudes and social norms cannot happen.

There are numerous challenges to addressing IPV in any community regardless of gender, race or ethnicity. However, as a community, efforts need to be made to become more culturally competent and sensitive, while understanding the needs of our diverse community as it continues to grow.

For more information on the Intimate Partner Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Communities: Challenges, Promising Practices and Recommendations, please visit http://endabuse.org/userfiles/file/ImmigrantWomen/IPV_Report_March_2009.pdf. For more information on services and resources for non-English speaking people, please contact the Coalition's Victim Services Task Force Director, Christina Wilson at 614-722-5905 or via email at Christina@ccafv.org.





Jane's SON

threatened her, became violent with her and used her financial resources for his own gain.

Victim Services



The Reality of Elder Abuse

By: Andrew Capehart, APS Supervisor, Franklin County Office on Aging

Jane Smith is an 89-year-old widow living alone. A retired schoolteacher, Jane owns her home and lives on a fixed income. Jane worked hard her entire life and raised three children, two of whom live out-of-state. Her son Anthony, who lives locally, is a drug addict who has recently started threatening his mother with violence if she does not give him money for his habit. Several days ago, Anthony hit his mother repeatedly until she was unconscious because she had no money to give him for drugs. Jane remains in the hospital on life support.

Elder abuse is a reality. It happens all around us and more often than you may think. It happens in affluent communities and in rural settings. It happens to women and men. Franklin County Adult Protective Services, the government entity that investigates mistreatment of the elderly in our community, received 1,303 reports in 2009.

Many cases of elder abuse involve multiple forms of mistreatment. In the case of Mrs. Smith, we are confronted with a situation of not only physical and emotional abuse but one of exploitation as well. Jane's son threatened her, became violent with her and used her

financial resources for his own gain. In addition to abuse and exploitation, elder abuse includes neglect, which for individuals with considerable medical needs, can be just as serious as physical or even sexual abuse.

Some signs of elder mistreatment to watch for:

- **Abuse** – multiple or severe bruises, cuts, fractures or wounds; restraint or confinement; injuries at several stages; yelling or belittling an older adult; being extremely withdrawn or non-communicative.
- **Neglect** (Neglect by others, Self-neglect) – poor personal hygiene; home in extreme disrepair; untreated medical conditions.
- **Exploitation** – sudden or abrupt changes in finances; financial transactions by unauthorized individuals; purchase of expensive goods not wanted; unpaid utilities, rent/mortgage.

Abuse of the elderly is on the rise in Ohio and across the country. Given the fact that people are living longer, it is not an issue that will disappear. Therefore, it is important to report elder abuse to those that can help.

For more information on elder abuse, call the Franklin County Office On Aging: Adult Protective Services at 614-462-4348.



A Congregations Response to Family Violence

A young woman with three children, walked down the aisle of Southwestern Church of Christ during the Sunday morning worship services beaten and bruised. The Pastor was the first person in the sanctuary to notice her. She stated that she had just taken her last beating from her husband of 10 years. The pastor responded quickly by placing her and her children with a family from the congregation.

The pastor then made an announcement to the congregation regarding what had occurred during the worship services. Although donations were promptly made on her behalf; the experience left the pastor wondering “what’s next?”

Realizing that the church had done nothing to address family violence, the pastor then went to the police station to obtain information about programs or agencies involved with family violence. He was given a brochure for CHOICES, Franklin counties 24 hour crisis hotline and shelter. He then called CHOICES to explain, with a sense of urgency, the need for help on behalf of this young mother and her children. CHOICES referred the pastor to the Coalition’s Faith Community Task Force.

The pastor had the Faith Community Task Force Director provide training and resource material for the congregation. The advocacy team, from the newly formed Southwestern Church of Christ Domestic Abuse Task Force, was trained on how to recognize, respond, and refer victims of family violence. The Coalition’s training helped the advocacy team to be prepared for future victims that may come forward. To date, two more victims with children have sought refuge at this place of worship. The victim’s stated that they heard that this congregation “cared,” and that they knew it was a safe place to come for help.

The Southwestern Church of Christ’s Domestic Abuse Task Force is now comprised of three women and two men. Shelves were put in place to display family violence material and the church even purchased lime green shirts with their Domestic Abuse Task Force logo embroidered on the front of the shirt. This church is spreading the message in the congregation and the community that family violence will not be tolerated and they will hold perpetrators accountable.

For more information about family violence and the faith community, please contact the Coalition’s Faith Community Task Force Director, Frieda Gilyard at 614-722-5961 or via email at Frieda@ccafv.org.

Spirituality (spir·i·choo·al·i·tee)

noun

the way an individual finds meaning, hope, comfort and inner peace in one’s life.



What is Spiritual Abuse?

Spiritual abuse happens when a religious authority or spouse’s intimate partner misguides a victim in the name of God, Buddha, a higher power, etc. The perpetrator will try to take control over their victim and gain power in the relationship. Just as verbal or emotional abuse affects one mentally; and physical abuse inflicts pain and bodily injury on its victim, spiritual abuse affects one’s spirituality.

Perpetrators who choose to inflict spiritual abuse on their victims are very cunning. They exploit their victim’s spiritual relationship with all sorts of tactics and fabricated facts. A perpetrator may try to control, manipulate, or dominate their victim’s spirituality by using words or actions to tear down or weaken a victim’s faith. Some examples of spiritual abuse are:

- Attacking one’s faith.
- Using the Bible, Qur’an, or Torah to justify abuse.
- Not allowing her to attend services.
- Demanding that she serve her perpetrator claiming that it is the will of God.
- Tell her to pray harder to become a better person.

The long-term effects of spiritual abuse can lead a victim to question her faith and religion in general. The perpetrator can bring the victim to a state of mind that they lose confidence in their faith and become dependent and submissive to the perpetrator.



Faith Can Be The Catalyst For Change

“Faith can be the catalyst for change,” says Coalition Board Member and Faith Community Task Force Member Bishop Callon Holloway, Jr. of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Southern Ohio Synod. “The religious community must work together in changing attitudes about family violence and provide the moral authority for our community’s larger response to this issue that family violence is morally unacceptable.”

If and when domestic violence is addressed from the pulpit, it needs to be done with resources for follow-up that will protect the safety and confidentiality of the victims. Leaving an abusive relationship is

statistically the most dangerous time for a domestic violence victim. We need safe houses in our churches; education for our congregations; counselors in our midst; and people with experience navigating the danger of these situations.

The faith community will continue to hold different positions on how the Bible, Qur’an and Torah define gender and gender roles. But we must have new conversations, ask new questions, and find new unity to come together so we no longer are sidelining domestic violence.

Both men and women were created in the image of God. It is time to start educating our congregations to break

the silence on the issue of domestic violence and provide help for men and women who will be coming forward.

The role of the faith community is to reach out to those who are hurting. The faith community cannot allow themselves to become so busy that the safety needs of victims go unmet. The faith community is an extended family, offering acceptance, understanding, concern, affirmation, and comfort to all, especially to those who are hurting or disadvantaged.

To read the full article, please visit <http://dannimoss.wordpress.com/2008/05/07/it-is-time-to-being-speaking-the-church-and-domestic-violence/>.



Best Practice by Allstate Insurance Company

In regards to domestic violence, Allstate's slogan rings true for victims, survivors and advocates. Allstate has made a major commitment to empower victims of domestic violence. Recognizing that there is a significant gap in resources, programs have been designed to assist survivors with the multi-faceted economic challenges. The Allstate Foundation launched *SAFE HANDS: The Allstate Network for Empowering Women*, to provide support to victims of domestic violence. Through *SAFE HANDS*, The Allstate Foundation is committed to targeting long-term resources to end domestic violence. The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program provides a comprehensive network of services for domestic violence survivors and advocates, including:

- **Direct services:** Providing programming and funding support through a financial empowerment curriculum and training materials; community volunteerism by Allstate employees, agents and agency staff; and a grant program to allow service providers to address the complex, broad and often immediate range of the survivors' needs.
- **Thought leadership:** Supporting domestic violence advocates and service providers are found through national conferences and cutting-edge research. The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program will conduct an annual, national research poll to determine current awareness and perceptions about domestic violence in the U.S. The findings of this poll, conducted among a representative sample of adults in the U.S., will be used to continue to build the program and track progress over the coming years.
- **Public awareness:** Creating a national effort to raise public awareness and change societal attitudes about domestic violence.

The Allstate Foundation is working with the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Fund to develop and implement its new initiative. NNEDV and its membership of domestic violence coalitions will assist The Allstate Foundation in effecting social change, while providing valuable grassroots support to local service providers.

To learn more about other workplace best practice organizations please visit Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence (CAEPV) at www.caepv.org/getinfo/bestprac.php.

Family Violence Prevention Cost Calculator for the Business Community

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a silent epidemic in the U.S. Every year hundreds of thousands of women are physically or sexually assaulted. Domestic violence knows no class, race or geographic bounds.

The American business community is greatly affected by this issue, but due to a lack of understanding and the stigma often associated with such abuse. Companies are often unaware of the true cost.

Texas Health Resources (THR) created an online Family Violence Cost Calculator to assist companies in understanding the annual health benefit and productivity costs of IPV.

How to Use

To use the calculator, determine the three figures below for your company or organization:

- The total number of employees.
- The percentage of employees that are female.
- The company's average hourly wage.

The Family Violence Cost Calculator takes these inputs and automatically calculates the health benefit, lost productivity and total costs.

Output

It is important to understand that the final estimated costs – health benefit and lost productivity costs – are an underestimation of actual costs. There are several reasons for this:

- The figures do not include cases where males are the victim of domestic violence. The incidence and costs associated with male victims are not well documented.
- The figures are based on only the most extreme cases of physical and sexual abuse. Mental, emotional and verbal abuse also results in excess medical care usage and absenteeism. However, incidence and cost estimates from the literature are not readily available.

Business Community

- The calculations do not include costs for non-absentee lost productivity, decreased productivity on the part of the victim (and/or co-workers) who are distracted physically, mentally or emotionally due to the abuse.

To access this tool go to the <http://www.texashealth.org/body.cfm?id=1848>, click on *Community Commitment* and then on *Family Violence Prevention*.



HopeLine® for Verizon Wireless

Verizon Wireless is a recognized corporate leader for its commitment to domestic violence prevention and raising awareness of the issue.

Verizon Wireless' commitment to domestic violence prevention began in 1995 when the company, then Bell Atlantic Mobile, introduced its HopeLine® program. For more than a decade, HopeLine® has grown significantly and is now a multifaceted program that includes a successful phone recycling and re-use effort, financial support for local and national domestic violence organizations, community/corporate awareness programs, and other partnerships nationwide.

The Verizon Wireless HopeLine® turns unused wireless phones into support for victims of domestic violence and helps protect the environment by disposing of wireless phones in an environmentally sound way.

Since the national phone recycling and re-use program was launched in 2001, Verizon Wireless:

- Has collected more than 7 million phones.
- Awarded more than \$7.9 million in cash grants to domestic violence agencies and organizations throughout the country.
- Distributed more than 90,000 phones with 300 million minutes of free service for victims.
- Properly disposed of nearly 1.6 million no-longer used wireless phones in an environmentally sound way.



#HOPE – A Direct Link to Help

- #HOPE is a service available across Verizon Wireless' nationwide wireless network. The call is toll and airtime free.
- By dialing #HOPE (#4673) then pressing send from any Verizon Wireless phone, callers are connected directly to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, where they can receive the confidential help they need through empowerment-based crisis intervention, information and resources.

Phone Drive Tips & Suggestions

Hosting a phone drive is simple. These suggestions can help you plan a successful drive in your community:

- Add a phone collection box at the following locations and events:
 - Company outings
 - School functions
 - Sporting events
 - Faith community events

For more information about the HopeLine®, visit www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline. Resource information is also available in Spanish.

Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence

655 East Livingston Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43205

www.ccafv.org



We invite you to share your comments on issues of importance in your lives. Send your letters, share your success stories and tell us your ideas by emailing touchpoints@ccafv.org.

Changing *Attitudes*
Changing *Lives*

4967



Thank You for Supporting The Classic

The 13th Annual New Albany Classic was Sunday, September 26 and once again raised over \$1 million to support the Coalition's initiatives.

Over 10,000 guests came out to the Wexner Residence to enjoy a day of family-friendly fun with activities and amusement for all ages. Guests were entertained by the Tween Brands Concert at the Classic featuring American Idol, Season 7 celebrity, David Archuleta and New Albany's own teen rock band sensation, New Hollow. The day

concluded with a world class equestrian competition of 30 scheduled teams of riders and horses from all over the world. Kent Farrington took home the grand prize atop Up Chiqui.

By attending The Classic, guests are helping to change cultural attitudes and break the cycle of violence in our communities. To learn more about the New Albany Classic, please visit www.thenewalbanyclassic.com. To learn more about the Coalition, visit www.ccafv.org.