

NETWORK NEWS



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

Stalked: A Personal Account of Coping with a Stalker

By: This Author wishes to remain anonymous

Girlfriend, wife, daughter, sister, professor, and step-mother: I have answered to all of these names and titles at differing times over the years and now I add another one: Victim.

Victim? According to Webster's Dictionary, a victim is defined as: 1) One harmed or killed by another; 2) One harmed by or made to suffer from an act, circumstances, agency or conditions; 3) One tricked, swindled or taken advantage of. I certainly do feel harmed and taken advantage of and made to suffer through no fault of my own. From a legal perspective I am now considered to be a victim because menacing by stalking is a crime.

This crime has occurred because there is a man who doesn't understand common words and phrases: no; no thank you, I am no longer interested; thanks, but no thanks; I don't want to see you anymore; and please don't contact me again. The Ohio Revised Code 2903.211(A) indicates that Menacing by Stalking occurs when there is a pattern of conduct that causes another person to believe that the offender will cause physical harm or mental distress to the other person. I am now a woman who lives with some degree of fear and anxiety; a woman who looks over her shoulder when walking in parking lots and a woman who wonders about answering the phone. In short, a victim, one of 1,006,970 women who are stalked in the United States each year (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2004). Women who are stalked receive unwanted phone calls, letters or items, their pets are threatened or killed and they are followed and assaulted. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, 87 percent of stalkers are men and the average length of stalking is 1.8 years.

The irony of this stalking situation is that I work for a domestic violence agency. My job is to educate people about domestic violence prevention. This type of thing doesn't happen to people like me. But, of course it does; domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic strata, races, and educational levels.

When I found myself involved in this type of situation, the question became what, if anything, should I do? I am an educated woman and due to my professional position, one who knows the right people to call and how to work within the legal system and law enforcement. It was still difficult and very troubling to come to terms with my situation and decide to take legal action. I wanted to rationalize his actions away. I know it will just go away, it will stop, he isn't really dangerous, or he will get over it in time. The thought of having to go to court and potentially seeing him in person was overwhelming. It is troublesome and burdensome to file a petition for a protection order to keep someone away from you. What if he retaliates? What if it causes him to escalate the harassment and pushes him to cause physical harm or more severe mental distress?

I finally took legal action because more experienced friends in the field of domestic violence recognized the actions of a stalker. I was too naive to believe I was being stalked, and I was ashamed to admit that I was in this situation. My friends encouraged me to take legal action because they were frightened for me. Obsessional/delusional stalkers can create a fantasy world that has nothing to do with reality. Their world and the world of their victim are two disparate places. When I tried to rationalize his behavior, my friends countered with suggestions to "lose the

Stalked: A Personal Account of Coping with a Stalker (continued from page 1)

rational thinking.” The person who engages in this type of behavior is not thinking rationally and there is no way to second-guess what the next incident or type of contact will be.

Victim? Oh yes, I felt very much the victim while at the courthouse obtaining a civil protection order (CPO) - a degraded and embarrassed victim. Once the initial CPO paperwork was completed and returned to the clerk, I was told to wait on the bench in the hallway. No one came to tell me how long I would have to wait or what the next step will be or when it might happen. Sitting in a courthouse as a member of the domestic violence community guarantees I was sure to see people I recognized. I hoped no one would ask why I was there.

Obtaining a CPO is a daunting process. When I was finally in front of the judge I had to admit that I was afraid and was petitioning the court for some relief. Indeed, a humiliating experience, standing there while the threatening letter is read detailing what this person wanted to do to me. Oh, I know ...”it isn’t my fault, I shouldn’t feel ashamed, his actions caused this, I don’t have to live in fear, etc.” All these statements are true, but it was a challenge to believe them at the time I was in a courtroom telling the judge that I was afraid to be alone at night and fearful for my physical safety.

It literally took hours to have the order signed for my protection. All this and I still had no certitude about my safety. Will this temporary anti-stalking order be effective? Will the threat of being arrested cause him to stop the unwanted contact? There is no way to predict. Stalkers are irrational and unreasonable. The statistics, however, are not in my favor. Out of the 28 percent of female victims who obtained protection orders, 69 percent had the orders violated (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2004).

It doesn’t end with a temporary protection order or an ex parte (from one side only) order. I still had to face the next hurdle of potentially seeing the stalker face to face at the final hearing where another judge would determine whether my case warrants a civil protection order. The respondent, as the stalker is

**Ohio Revised Code §2903.211
(A) Menacing By Stalking:**

No person by engaging in a pattern of conduct shall knowingly cause another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the other person or cause mental distress to the other person.

referred to, has the right to attend that hearing and present his side. He also has the right to bring legal representation. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect him to show up with an attorney to fight the protection order. Not only did I have to see him in the hallway and then the courtroom, but he arrived with counsel, and I did not. Fortunately, my court advocate encouraged me to seek a continuance of

the hearing. I did not want to sit there without counsel and be questioned by the opposing attorney. I was not going to participate in a hearing without legal representation. I was outraged that I was being forced to attend yet another hearing and be in the same space with him again.

The judge granted me a continuance so that I could obtain legal counsel. Now I would have to hire an attorney, be cross-examined by the opposing attorney, and be face-to-face with my stalker. The injustice of this situation still boggles my mind. I had to PAY someone to defend me against the actions of a stalker. All I could think was “HE has been tormenting ME and I had to hire an attorney.” It seemed as though I had stepped into the twilight zone. I had already missed work to attend two hearings. Now, I needed to find an attorney and take more time off work to attend yet another hearing. I would be humiliated once again when someone else read the threatening letters. Then, there was still no guarantee that a judge would find sufficient evidence to issue a CPO. This became an unreal scenario. I felt so powerless and out of control. I was referred to a reputable and experienced domestic vio-

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

ODVN is in the process of collecting information on activities and special events going on in Ohio during the month of October. Please visit our website at www.odvn.org in late September to view the calendar of events.

Stalked: A Personal Account of Coping with a Stalker (continued from page 2)

lence attorney who agreed to take my case. He required a written chronology of the events. Fortunately, I had kept a list of unwanted events, emails, and mailings, etc. This type of documentation is crucial to proving a case of stalking.

When the day of the final hearing arrived, I was sick to my stomach. It is no wonder women do not always follow through with legal proceedings against their assailant. It was a nerve-wracking experience. My attorney questioned me and then the opposing counsel asked questions. I did my best never to look at the respondent and I also tried valiantly to keep my hands from shaking and my voice strong. I refused to give him the satisfaction of seeing me tremble. A very long hour passed with the opposing attorney attempting to portray me as over-reacting to a little poor judgment. He insinuated I sought protective relief only because I worked in the domestic violence field and was overly influenced by my work.

For me, justice prevailed and the judge granted me a two-year CPO. The respondent was ordered to stay away from me by 500 yards and two city blocks. There are numerous other restrictions on the protection order he must follow or be arrested. I have to carry the CPO papers with me at all times and keep another set in my office and at home in case I need to present them to an officer or sheriff's deputy.

Perhaps there are some lessons in my story for all advocates who work with women involved in domestic violence. First, when I crossed that line from "working in domestic violence" to "being a victim of stalking" I became painfully aware of how that label adds to the distress. To me, victim is a pejorative word and keeps one in that mindset. When a man has already taken away your freedom and sense of security, hearing "victim" exacerbates feeling powerless. Victim equals a loss of control. As advocates, we need to empower women during stalking cases or other types of domestic violence. Perhaps using survivor would be a better word choice. I don't know what the exact term should be, but there has to be a better word from the very community trying to aid and protect her.

Secondly, it is very difficult to know how or where to begin to seek help. Even though I work in the field of domestic violence, I still found myself intimidated by the entire process. At each step, I wanted to drop the whole thing and put my head in the sand. I found the system to be daunting and not very user-

friendly. Figuring out the legal and law enforcement system is tricky at best.

Where do you start? Where you go to obtain help really depends on what type of relationship you have had with the stalker. Depending on whether you were married, had children or don't even know him determines what court you need to approach. Have you filed a police report to document the behaviors, do you have a copy of the police report, have you kept a log to document the unwanted activities? Do you contact the city prosecutor or the county prosecutor? How do you know the difference? Is it a civil case or a criminal case, again, how do you know the difference?

For women who have access to a computer, there is a great deal of helpful information on the Internet. In my situation, it was important from a legal standpoint to have sent a registered letter telling this person that I wanted no further contact from him. During the final hearing, the judge noted the fact that the stalker continued to contact me even after he had received such a letter.

Thirdly, the role of the court advocates is vitally important. Having someone with you to hold your hand and make sure you don't have to look directly at the stalker makes such a difference. I was surprised at my reaction when I had to face the stalker again. A surge of adrenalin took over and I found my knees weak and my hands started to shake. My court advocate kept me apprised of the stalker's whereabouts, and she literally positioned herself between him and me in the hallway and courtroom. Seeing her face in the courtroom gave me courage and I would not have survived this ordeal without her next to me.

Fortunately, I did survive this ordeal. Many other women are not so lucky. If you are being threatened or fear for your safety from an intimate partner, take courage, educate yourself about the resources and options available to you, and take action. It can make a difference and can save your life.

According to the Department of Justice (2004), 80 percent of the women who are stalked by a current or former intimate partner are assaulted by him, 31 percent are sexually assaulted and most women killed by an intimate partner were stalked by him first.

Rethinking Our Advice to Stalking Victims

By Tracy Bahm, Director of the Stalking Resource Center

The Stalking Resource Center is always looking for the best, most up-to-date advice to give stalking victims. We subscribe to many journals and newsletters, and we read books on stalking. As we talk to practitioners in the field, we learn more about this crime and what can be done to help keep victims safe. One result of this search is that we are constantly rethinking and reevaluating the criminal justice system's responses to stalking.

Because stalking has been recognized as a crime for only about a decade, our approach to the problem is still in its infancy. Creative practitioners around the country have developed great ways to respond to the crime and to keep victims safe. Those ideas, shared and spread around the country, have gained wide acceptance. For the most part that's great. But what do we do when we find out that our well-intentioned advice might actually be putting victims in danger? Experts are now struggling to find the best advice for victims about whether, when, and how they should respond to contact from their stalkers.

One common piece of advice is telling victims that if they "just ignore the stalker, the stalking will stop." Experience has taught us that this advice seldom works. The stalker is pursuing the victim for a reason, and the behavior is likely to escalate if he or she is not getting the desired reaction from the victim. For example, if a victim who is being stalked via the Internet completely stops using the computer (even if that were possible), the stalker usually recognizes that he or she is being ignored and does something else to get the victim's attention. Rather than ignoring the behavior, victims of stalking should seek help from trained advocates and law enforcement officers who can help them assess the threat level that the stalker poses and advise them what measures they can take to stay safe.

We are also reconsidering what to tell victims who report that stalkers are harassing or threatening them by phone. The standard advice has been that victims should disconnect their phones and get a new, unlisted phone number. Getting a new number is a good idea, but it turns out that disconnecting the old one may be a mistake. The Seattle Police Department's Domestic

Violence Unit has found that when stalking victims disconnect the phone, virtually 100 percent of the stalkers escalate their contact to in-person stalking. The Seattle Police now advise victims to get a new phone number but keep their old phone line active and connected to an answering machine to capture any possible evidence.

So, if ignoring stalkers doesn't work, what about the advice many well-meaning professionals often give victims, to tell their stalkers—once and forcefully—to leave them alone? This advice may serve a purpose if the stalker doesn't understand that his or her attentions are unwelcome and fear-inducing. Such stalkers may stop if they are appropriately warned. However, much stalking involves unmistakably deliberate behavior that could never be confused with innocent, possibly welcome, non-criminal behavior. In such cases, encouraging a victim to have contact with the stalker, in any form, only increases the stalker's sense of power and control. Even when a warning seems appropriate, a great deal of thought and safety planning must precede contact with the stalker. Trained law enforcement officers or other legal agents, rather than the victim, should deliver the warning (which should not be a substitute for criminal charges). Because stalkers are dangerously unpredictable, warnings can put them "over the edge," further endangering the victim.

So, as we work with victims, we need to keep helping them with safety planning and threat assessment, and keep looking for better ways to address the problem of stalking. But, as we do this, we must think through the ramifications of all our advice and regularly reevaluate strategies to make sure they are working as intended. Never underestimate the potential threat that a stalker may pose. And, as you figure out what is effective and what isn't, please share your insights with us, so we can pass them along to other practitioners in the field! Contact us at src@ncvc.org.

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Visit our website at
www.odvn.org

We welcome submissions to Network News; however, all articles submitted will be subject to editorial approval. For permission to reprint articles from Network News please contact Becky Mason.

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Cyberstalking

By Tana Carpenter, Resource and Technology Coordinator

What is Cyberstalking?

To answer this question stalking must first be defined. Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention, harassment and contact. This pattern of conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Following the victim
- Appearing at the victim's home or place of work
- Making threatening or harassing contact with the victim by mail or phone
- Sending the victim unwanted gifts
- Vandalizing the victim's property
- Making threats to harm the victim or others close to the victim
- Securing personal information about the victim.

Cyberstalking comes into play when technologies are used to stalk the victim. Emerging technologies give stalkers an ever increasing number of methods by which to harm their victims. Methods used by perpetrators include:

- Using satellite technologies to track or follow the victim
- Making unwanted and frightening contact with the victim through email
- Leaving threatening messages on answering machines
- Sending correspondence online that install spy ware on the victim's computer
- Securing personal information on the World Wide Web
- Impersonating the victim in chat rooms.

While there are a specific set of tools used to cyberstalk; stalking is stalking, whether the stalking is done in person or through the use of technologies.

According to The National Center for the Victims of Crime:

- 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime
- The average duration of stalking when it involves an intimate partner is 2.2 years
- Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia

(continued on page 6)

If you believe you or someone you know may be the victim of a stalker:

- Trust your instincts, it is possible that phones, computers, automobiles or emails are being monitored
- Plan for safety, don't transmit sensitive information via tools of technology
- Use a computer that the abuser does not have access to
- Create a new email account and change the password often
- Consider turning cell phones off when not in use, satellite technology requires an energy source
- Don't use pins or passwords that would be easily identified by the abuser
- Be mindful that cordless phones, cell phones and email can be monitored
- Find out where your records or data will be stored or posted and who will have access
- Use a search engine to search for your name on the Web, many private organizations and government offices make their records public
- Have your vehicle searched for satellite transmission devices

Keep you and those you care about safe. Advocate for informed consent with regard to public records posting. If you would like more information about stalking or technology safety contact Tana at 1-800-934-9840, Ext. 224.

The National Center for Victims of Crime

Stalking resource center

The Stalking Resource Center is a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. Launched in July 2000, with initial funding from the Violence Against Women Office of the U.S. Department of Justice, their dual mission is to raise national awareness of stalking and to encourage the development and implementation of multidisciplinary responses to stalking in local communities across the country.

They serve Violence Against Women Office grantees; criminal and civil justice system practitioners; community based agencies; media representatives; stalking victims; and the general public.

The Stalking Resource Center can help with training, technical assistance, protocol development, resources, and help in collaborating with other agencies and systems in your community.

For more information on the Stalking Resource Center, visit their website at www.ncvc.org/src or call 202-467-8700.

ODVN WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Jo Simonsen joined the ODVN staff in February 2004 as the Prevention Specialist. Prior to coming to ODVN, she was the Coordinator of the Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force for the Ohio Department of Health. Previous to her work with ODH, Jo worked as a Project Coordinator for the Ohio Coalition on Sexual Assault, managing the development and implementation of their statewide public awareness campaign. The campaign was recognized with a 2001 ADDY award from the Advertising Federation of Columbus. From 1992-1994, she worked at Turning Point in Marion, Ohio as the Community Education Director, then later was a member of their Board of Trustees.

As Prevention Specialist at ODVN, Jo will provide training and technical assistance to community prevention projects receiving funding from the Anthem Foundation and support the continued development of statewide capacity for the prevention of family and intimate partner violence. She also assists the DELTA Project Coordinator with service delivery and participates in the CDC-DELTA workgroup studying prevention-focused models for workplace violence prevention.

Jo says about her work at ODVN, "I am thrilled to be at an organization and in a position that allows me to contribute my skills and experience so that they may propel Ohio efforts for preventing family violence."

“Why Does He Do That?: Inside the Minds of Angry & Controlling Men” Invitation to the Book and Seminars by Lundy Bancroft

By Reiko Ozaki, LISW, Training & Technical Assistance Specialist

This book is amazing! Lundy takes us into the minds of abusive men and into the homes filled with confusion and chaos created by these men. While reading this book, you will understand why some abusive behaviors are so difficult to grasp. Women who feel confused in their relationships as well as professionals who doubt that the abuse exists in some cases will have many light bulb moments throughout the book.

Common myths, such as “he is abusive because he was hurt by other women in the past,” “he gets too angry,” “he needs to learn stress management skills,” and “there are just as many abusive women as abusive men” are explored and dispelled. Lundy identifies nine different types of abusive men and explains how they are in relationships with their partners, children, and others including the legal system. Lundy offers many suggestions to battered women throughout with sensitivity and even empathy to keep themselves and their children safe.

The author knows the dynamics of domestic violence thoroughly and explains it in a very easy-to-read format. I highly recommend this book to any women who are in an abusive relationship, and professionals who work with survivors of domestic violence and their children. I also believe that this book will be helpful for those who work with abusive men, including professionals in batterers intervention programs, probation and parole officers, prosecutors, judges and anyone who works with perpetrators of domestic violence. Professionals who work with children will have further understanding into the family experience children have growing up with domestic violence. This book will definitely help us reduce the chance of being manipulated by abusive men we encounter in our counseling offices and courtrooms.

The former co-director of Emerge, the first batterers intervention program in the U. S., Lundy not only has worked extensively with abusive men but also with women and children as he spent many years serving as a Guardian-Ad-Litem. He has also authored “The Batterer as Parent” (with Jay Silverman) and “When Dad Hurts Mom” recently. Lundy currently travels around the U. S. and abroad training various judicial

agencies, battered women’s programs, batterers intervention programs, and other professionals.

The books mentioned above are available from the ODVN Clearinghouse. To borrow any ODVN materials, please contact Tana Carpenter at tanac@odvn.org, or 1-800-934-9840, ext. 224.

Please mark your calendars for the following remarkable opportunities!



December 2, 2004

Helping Battered Women and Children: A Lundy Bancroft Seminar

This seminar is recommended for DV victim advocates, child advocates, and allied professionals in court systems, child protective services, mental health services and other fields who would like to learn about how to assist survivors and their children without re-victimizing while holding abusers accountable.

December 3, 2004

Working with Abusive Men: A Lundy Bancroft Seminar

This seminar will be designed specifically for professionals who currently work with, or are planning to work with abusive men in batterers intervention programs. DV probation officers and other professionals who want to learn appropriate programming for men who abuse their partners may find this seminar helpful.

These two separate seminars will be held in Columbus, Ohio. The registration brochures will be mailed by early October. The registration information will also be available on ODVN’s website at www.odvn.org. If you have any questions about these seminars, please contact Reiko Ozaki at reikoo@odvn.org, or 1-800-934-9840, ext. 228. Stay tuned!

Check It Out!
NEW RESOURCES FROM ODVN'S
RESOURCE CENTER

The ODVN Resource Center has new resources available in Spanish. Materials may be borrowed for free by ODVN member organizations and by residents of Ohio. For more information or to borrow resources from our clearinghouse please contact Tana Carpenter at extension 224.



Wrestling with Manhood: Boys, Bullying & Battering (2002)

Sections of this video include: Taking Wrestling Seriously, Happy & Escalating Violence, Making Men: Glamorizing Bullying, Homophobia & Constructing Heterosexuality, Divas: Sex & Male Fantasy, Normalizing Gender Violence, and "It's Only Entertainment". This video addresses the enormous popularity of professional wrestling among male youth, addressing its relationship to real-life violence and probing the social values that sustain it as a powerful cultural force. Designed to engage the wrestling fan as well as the cultural analyst, this video will provoke spirited debate about some of our most serious social problems. Publisher: Media Education Foundation
Length: 60 Minutes

Ya No Mas! (2003)

This Spanish language video-based workshop about emotional and physical violence against women is designed for use in self-help groups and public forums. This video workshop uses dramatic re-enactments and on-camera interviews to educate and initiate discussion about the various forms of domestic abuse suffered by millions of women. There is a bilingual facilitator's guide that accompanies this resource. Publisher: Intermedia, Inc.
Length: 27 Minutes

Hacia la Luz: Una guía para mujeres que han padecido abusos

Into the Light: A Guide for Abused Women

This resource in Spanish offers concrete information on resources and choices for women in abusive relationships. ODVN also has this resource available in English. Publisher: KIDSRIGHTS

NEW TRAINING FROM THE
ODVN TRAINING INSTITUTE

Advocacy in Prevention: Peaceful Relationships For Teens

This two-day training is designed to introduce the components of prevention programs to advocates and allied professionals. On the first day, participants will explore social change theory and the practice of prevention as it applies to the field of domestic violence. On the second day, participants will examine the practical application of prevention strategies for use with adolescent populations. Facilitators will share models and best practices for the development of comprehensive strategies addressing teen dating violence and promoting healthy relationships.

This training will be facilitated by Mary Murray, a Seattle-based Prevention Specialist and ODVN staff. It will be held on October 28-29 in Canton, Ohio. Please contact ODVN for more information.

Ohio Coalition on Sexual Assault Announces:

PROTOCOL TRAINING

This one-day training provides medical personnel and other agencies that work with patients/victim/survivors of sexual assault an overview of the Ohio Protocol for Forensic and Medical Examination, including current information and annual updates. This statewide protocol was developed by the Ohio Department of Health in order to facilitate the provision of consistent, comprehensive, and sensitive medical treatment and evidence collection.

Regional trainings will take place during September, October, and November. Please call Ly at OCOSA at 888-336-2672 or visit www.ocosa.org for more information.

OCOSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The OCOSA Annual Conference is an opportunity to come together and share our collective wisdom about both fundamental and timely issues in the anti-sexual assault movement. The 2004 Conference will be held October 21 and 22, 2004 in Dublin, Ohio. Please call Ly at OCOSA at 888-336-2672 or visit www.ocosa.org for more information.

LOOK FOR ODVN IN YOUR COMPANY'S WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN



Community Shares of Mid Ohio and our thirty seven member agencies will be participating in these workplace campaigns in 2004:

Public/governmental workplaces

Combined Federal Campaign of Central Ohio
Miami Valley Combined Federal Campaign
Combined Federal Campaign of Southeastern Ohio
State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign
City of Columbus
Franklin County
COTA Central Ohio Transit Authority
The Ohio State University Community Charitable Drive
Columbus State Community College
Columbus Metropolitan Libraries
Westerville Public Schools
South Western City Schools

Private workplaces

COSI
Southeast Inc.
Ohio Civil Service Employees Association OCSEA
Suburban News Publications
Ohio Historical Society
Hahn Loeser and Parks
Millcraft Paper Company
WWHO UPN 53
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
AT&T
CNA Insurance
Wells Fargo

Community Shares of Mid Ohio was established as a coalition of nonprofit organizations for the purpose of collaboratively participating in workplace giving campaigns that provide vital financial support from employee donations to member nonprofits.

Community Shares member agencies are community-based, volunteer-led nonprofits preventing family, school, and neighborhood violence, homelessness and hunger, child abuse and neglect, and environmental devastation; protecting civil and human rights; increasing literacy, democracy and voter education, healthy lives, and diversity.

GOALS

Community Shares has identified several goals to serve its member agencies.

- To collaboratively raise funds for the benefit of member 501 (c) (3) nonprofits actively engaged in programs directed toward community improvement, social change, and citizen education and empowerment.
- To establish a strong financial base to ensure the continued existence and effectiveness of member agencies.
- To enhance the capacity of member agencies to accomplish their missions through funding, leadership development, training, and education.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To reach our goal to assist member nonprofits, we need the support of visionary community members like you who understand the importance of building the infrastructure and capacity of nonprofit agencies working for social and economic justice.

You can help us by introducing Community Shares to friends and colleagues who share your interest in expanding the capacity of progressive and environmental nonprofits and would be willing to speak on our behalf to develop new or expanded workplace campaigns. We can tailor a workplace campaign to meet the needs of employers and employees.

You can also help by remembering Community Shares and your favorite member agencies through your support in your workplace giving campaign. It's easy to give and easy to help when you give through payroll deduction. You can direct your campaign gift to one or several specific agencies.

Look for Community Shares in your federal, state, county, and city workplace as well as at The Ohio State University.

If your workplace does not include Community Shares, ask your campaign coordinator how you can make a gift through donor option to Community Shares or your favorite nonprofit.

And, please encourage your family, friends and co-workers to consider giving to Community Shares and our member agencies at the workplace.

You can reach Community Shares at 614-262-1176, or email us at comshare@core.com. We're on the web at www.communityshares.net.

MEMBER PROGRAMS EVALUATE ODVN'S PUBLIC AWARENESS MATERIALS

By Jennifer Sharp, VAWA Project Coordinator

Thank you to all member programs who responded to the public awareness materials survey distributed in late spring. We appreciate your feedback and thought you might like to know what you told us, so here are the results.

- 71% of respondents indicated that the technology abuse brochures were either very helpful or helpful.
- 86% of respondents indicated that the family and friends brochures were either very helpful or helpful.

Forty-five percent of member programs completed and returned a five page public awareness materials survey. The survey specifically asked for feedback about the brochures distributed during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) 2003 as well as ideas for developing resource materials for future DVAMs.

Other Feedback

71% of respondents indicated that they desire to have brochures or resource materials translated into one or more languages.

96% of respondents indicated that they would like brochures and resource materials translated into Spanish.

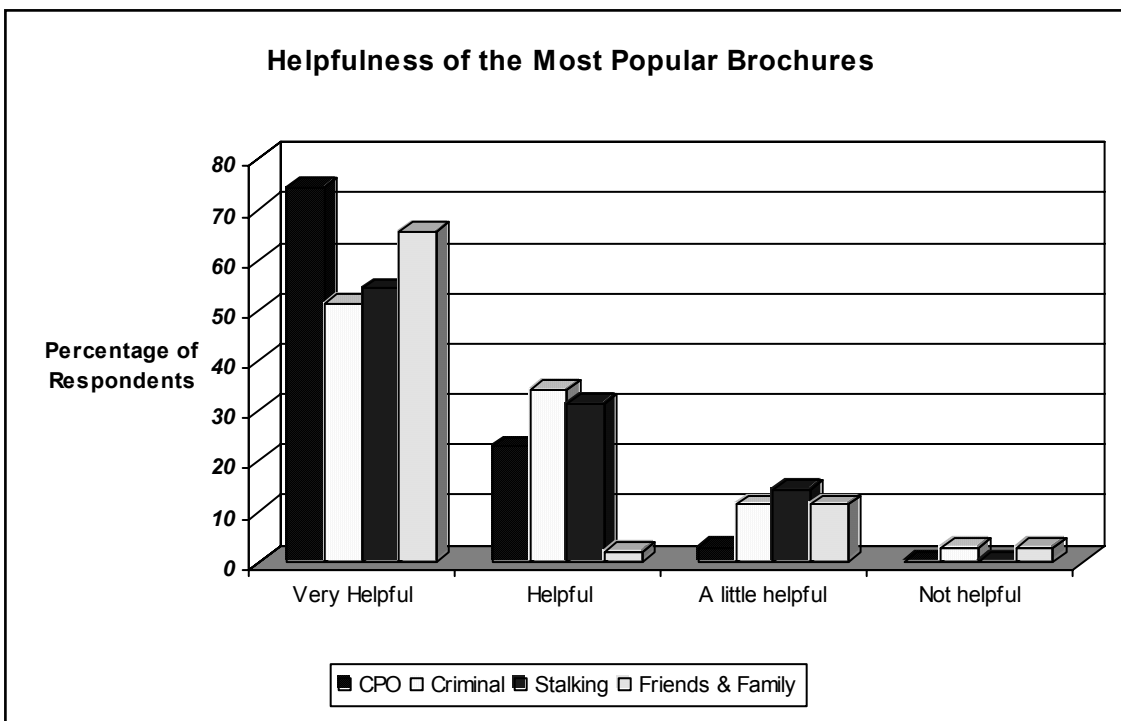
Other languages in which respondents indicated they needed brochures include French (12%), Chinese (8%), Russian (16%), Japanese (8%), Somali (12%), and Vietnamese (8%).

Brochures

- 97% of respondents indicated that the civil protection order brochures were either very helpful or helpful.
- 85% of respondents indicated that the criminal law and domestic violence brochures were either very helpful or helpful.
- 85% of respondents indicated that the stalking brochures were either very helpful or helpful.
- 77% of respondents indicated that the public assistance brochures were either very helpful or helpful.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2004

The ODVN Communication Team has reviewed your feedback regarding which resource materials would be helpful and is currently working to develop resource materials for DVAM 2004.



SAVE THE DATE
November 18, 2004



The Conference Center at
North Pointe
Lewis Center, Ohio

Registration information will follow
soon. For more
information contact ODVN at
800-934-9840

The American Prosecutors
Research Institute
presents

Working Against Elder Abuse in your Community

Sponsored by the
Ohio Domestic
Violence Network

Co-sponsored by the Ohio
Municipal Attorneys Association
and the Ohio Prosecuting
Attorneys Association

ODVN WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In January 2003, the ODVN Steering Committee decided to create a new board structure. The goal for having a more typical board of directors was to bring ODVN increased ability to affect public policy as well as assistance with fundraising and development. In addition, the board of directors will make governance of ODVN less cumbersome and will enable Steering Committee meetings to focus more on networking and information sharing. Feedback from other state coalitions who have moved to this type of structure indicates that having a board of directors will bring diversity to ODVN in many areas, including ethnicity, age, gender, skills, and expertise.

The Steering Committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis. Member programs will still have input on the direction of ODVN and will comprise at least 51% of the new board of directors' membership.

New by-laws were created and adopted in March 2004 and the Steering Committee elected the new ODVN Board of Directors in July 2004.

We would like to welcome the following members to the new Board:

Karen Scott, Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville; **Leslie Ashworth**, DV/Stalking Unit for Columbus City Attorney; **Cathy Alexander**, DV Center, Cleveland; **Barb Blevins**, DV Project, Canton; **Debbie Brooks**, YWCA of Greater Cincinnati; **Malinda Gavins**, Sojourner House, Youngstown; **Patti Schwarztrauber**, Artemis Center, Dayton; **Rhonda Miller**, YWCA of Dayton; **Cheryl Prusinski**, Deaf Women Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE); **Pat Porter**, Someplace Safe, Warren; **Paula Roller**, Turning Point, Marion; **Starlene Lewis**, Harbor House, New Philadelphia.

We also welcome the six new at-large members to the new Board:

Ed Sargus, Federal Court Judge, Southeast Region; **Jim Slagle**, Marion County Prosecutor; **Melinda Swan**, Chief of Staff, Columbus City Council; **Nawal Ammar**, Professor, Kent State University; **Walter DeKeseredy**, Professor, formerly of Ohio University; and **Joey O'Donnell**, City of Shelter Creator.

We look forward to working with our new Board in the coming year!



Financial Tip from our Financial Manager

Rita Doyle Smith

New Overtime Rules

New overtime reforms by the U.S. Department of Labor took effect on Monday, August 23, 2004. This new initiative, dubbed the Fair Pay Overtime Initiative, contains several provisions that have changed. Violations of these rules can be very costly to employers.

Under the new Fair Pay rules, workers earning less than \$23,660 per year — or \$455 per week — are guaranteed overtime protection. This means that they are entitled to overtime pay at the rate of time and a half. Several other categories of employees, such as police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, public safety employees, and other related occupations, are also guaranteed overtime pay.

There are a number of exemptions to these overtime pay provisions. These include:

- Executive Exemption
- Professional Exemption
- Outside Sales Exemption
- Administration Exemption
- Computer Employee Exemption

For more information, go to the U.S. Department of Labor website at www.dol.gov/esa. At that site, you will find the regulatory text, Fair Pay Fact Sheets, and other related documents that can further explain these complicated exemptions.

OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

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