



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **2013 Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Advocacy**

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is pleased to announce that two people will be awarded the newly established Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Advocacy this year. The award will be presented at the Kickoff to Domestic Violence Awareness Month Event, Tuesday, October 1, 2013 10 a.m. in the Ladies Gallery at the Ohio Statehouse.

ODVN chose to create the award to honor Tina Croucher and Tina's parents, Elsa and Jim Croucher, pioneers in the field of domestic violence education. Picking up the pieces of their shattered lives after their daughter, Tina, was murdered by an abusive ex-boyfriend, Elsa and Jim created a dating abuse program presented to thousands of students across Ohio and worked diligently to pass the "Tina Croucher Act." The award this year will be given to Elsa and the late Jim Croucher and Johanna Orozco-Fraser, a young Cleveland woman who survived a gunshot wound at the hands of an abusive ex-boyfriend. After undergoing 12 painful surgeries to rebuild her jaw, she tells her inspiring story across the country to save others from her fate.

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**Elsa and Jim Croucher** of Monroe, Ohio were plunged into the world of domestic violence four days before Christmas in 1992 when their youngest child, 18 year old Tina, was murdered by an abusive ex-boyfriend. Determined to help save others from Tina's fate, the Crouchers founded Citizens Against Domestic Violence in 1996 and created a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program, "Dating Violence: 101" that has been seen by over 100,000 students. Nationally recognized speakers, the Crouchers furthered their efforts to educate the public about domestic violence with their efforts in the passage of the "Tina Croucher Act," in 2009. Named in memory of their daughter the law requires Ohio schools to teach students in grades 7 -12 about abusive relationships. The Crouchers also assisted with *The Tina Project* which was created by a Northeast Ohio coalition of organizations that deal directly with violence. The coalition developed a comprehensive curriculum for teachers, staff, students, and their parents. The Crouchers have been honored locally, statewide, and nationally for their tireless work and dedication. Sadly, Jim Croucher passed away this past June at the age of 69, but his legacy and love will live on.

**Johanna Orozco-Fraser's** life changed in an instant while she was in high school. On March 5, 2007 her former boyfriend, 17 year-old Juan Ruiz, shot her in the face at close range with a sawed-off shotgun. Surgeons saved what they could of her jaw and rebuilt the rest out of a piece of bone from her leg. Now 24, Johanna has endured 12 painful surgeries, and has triumphed over her tragedy, telling her amazing story of survival and inspiring others. Johanna has been a teen educator at the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center in Cleveland, Ohio, has appeared on Oprah, ABC's 20/20, and with Vice President Joe Biden on The View. She endured the court process that ended with her ex-boyfriend receiving a 27 year prison sentence with no chance of parole. She also advocated, successfully, for changes to Ohio's protection order laws that would allow teens to be able to get protection orders, an option she was denied. Johanna is now happily married to Christopher, a sergeant in the Army serving a tour of duty in Kuwait, and is the proud mother of 5 month old Malcolm.