



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

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2015 Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Leadership

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Leadership. The awards were presented at the Kickoff to Domestic Violence Awareness Month Event, Wednesday, October 7, 2015 10 a.m. in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium.

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 awards this year were given to The Honorable Ronald B. Adrine, Administrative and Presiding Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court and the Verizon Foundation/Verizon Wireless.

“We are delighted to be honoring Judge Adrine and Verizon this year,” said Nancy Neylon, Executive Director. “Both honorees have been a part of ODVN’s work to end domestic violence: Judge Adrine through his expertise on domestic violence issues, and Verizon for their steadfast financial support of our programs.”

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The Ohio Domestic Violence Network is Ohio’s leading voice for domestic violence survivors and their allies. ODVN was founded in 1989 to ensure the elimination of domestic violence and serves as a critical source for professional training, resources, public education, and policy advocacy to survivors, domestic violence agencies, the justice system, the health care system, governmental agencies, and other organizations.

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(See the other side for bios of honorees)

The Hon. Ronald B. Adrine has become one of the most respected judges in Cleveland, as well as a national authority on issues concerning domestic violence.

A life-long resident of Greater Cleveland, Judge Adrine graduated from Fisk University and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He passed the bar in 1973, and in 1974 he joined the staff of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor as an assistant in the criminal trial division. In 1976, he entered the private practice of law with his father, the late Russell T. Adrine and two years later was appointed to serve as a Senior Staff Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations. He first ran for his current seat on the Cleveland Municipal Court bench in 1981.

Judge Adrine was reelected five times, without opposition, to full six-year terms, the most recent election being in November of 2011. His peers elected him Administrative and Presiding Judge in 2008 and have reelected him to those positions ever since.

Over the years, Judge Adrine has belonged to more than 60 organizations, serving on the boards of more than 30 of those organizations, and holding a leadership position on more than 20 of those boards. He is a past chair of the National Board of Directors of Futures Without Violence. He also chaired both Cleveland's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Advisory Board of the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, which is a joint initiative of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Futures Without Violence and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Judge Adrine lectures extensively on domestic violence issues here, and around the country, including in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Judge Adrine is co-author of the reference volume, Ohio Domestic Violence Law and chaired the effort to bring a Family Justice Center to Cleveland to assist those who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse and stalking. In 2000, he was awarded the Ohio Bar Medal by the Ohio State Bar Association, its highest honor, in recognition of his contributions to the profession and the community.

The Verizon Foundation and Verizon Wireless have made a nationwide, long term commitment to support the efforts of domestic violence organizations to prevent domestic violence, educate communities on cultivating healthy relationships and empower survivors with resources to rebuild their lives.

Verizon Wireless launched HopeLine in October 2001. HopeLine collects no longer used wireless phones, batteries, chargers and accessories in any condition to benefit survivors of domestic violence. Wireless phones given to HopeLine are turned into valuable financial support for domestic violence awareness and prevention initiatives. Since its launch, HopeLine has donated over 190,000 phones to victims of domestic violence nationwide. These wireless phones with both voice and text capabilities are donated to local domestic violence programs for use by survivors. They provide a vital link and a safe line of communication to family, friends and employers.

In addition to phones, Verizon makes significant financial contributions to statewide and local domestic violence agencies. In the past 20 months Verizon, through its HopeLine program, donated more than \$300,000 to domestic violence organizations in Ohio alone. In addition, last December, Verizon Wireless retail stores collected toys for children in domestic violence shelters across Ohio and in May collected diapers. Verizon wireless has supported the Ohio Domestic Violence Network in two important programs. The Verizon Foundation provided financial assistance to the civil legal assistance program, assisting survivors with securing an attorney to represent them in civil cases including protection orders, immigration, custody and others civil matters. Verizon Wireless has provided support to the Ohio Men's Action Network in their important work of engaging men in the effort to speak out, take action and work to ending relationship violence.