Member Programs Advocate for Increased Funding for DV Services during Advocacy Day

Representatives from ODVN member programs met with 54 legislators to advocate for increased state support for DV programs during ODVN’s first annual Advocacy Day on Oct. 19. More than 500 participants from member programs across the state and ODVN staff participated.

They asked that Ohio’s $3 million domestic violence line item be increased to $3.25 million annually. In 2019 the General Assembly included — for the first time — $500,000 in support for DV survivor. Advocates gave elected officials a report showing that the funds were used for general operating expenses.

About 60% of their visits were with Republican legislators and about 40% were with Democratic legislators. About 99% of the legislators were already aware of the issue. About 94% were unaware of the increase in the line item, while 4% of them said they were likely to support the increase if more aware.

109 people died from domestic violence in Ohio, a 35% spike over last year.

Ohio suffered 109 domestic violence fatalities in the year ending June 30, 2020 — a 35% increase in fatalities over the same time period last year, according to ODVN’s http://www.odvn.org/about/county-of-dv-fatality.

From April through June (the first full months of the pandemic during the year) there was also a substantial increase in the number of fatalities — from 23 to 35 fatalities in 35 days — over the same three-month period in 2019.

ODVN released the fatality count at its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event. More than 150 people attended the virtual event on May 4.

VOCA cuts mean LifeSaver Fund donations more important than ever

In celebration of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, please consider donating to ODVN’s LifeSaver Fund.

Every penny raised will be used to provide immediate and legal assistance to survivors and their children.

We feel an extra sense of urgency this year.

Last month ODVN learned we are our most important funding source — our colleagues in Crime Victims’ Rights VOCA grants — will cut substantially. As you may have seen from recent reports, cities and counties across Ohio are nearly evenly split. That means the number of families who receive assistance through our Relocation and Legal Assistance programs will be cut by far more than a third. Last year these programs served 1,225 survivors and 728 children.

If you can’t make a donation, please help spread the word. It is as easy as sharing the ODVN website and social media or following @ODVN on Twitter.

Thank You to these Corporate Foundations for Supporting our Relocation Services

These corporate foundations made grants to ODVN’s Relocation and Safety Assistance Program to help survivors and their children with expenses like rent, utilities, and transportation so they can move to safer housing.

• Ohio had a $120,000 grant through the AST Foundation to provide emergency relocation assistance for survivors and their children served by Safe Haven, a brand-new shelter opening this month in Galion that will serve survivors and their children.

• The Galbreath/Aultman Foundation awarded a $5,000 grant to ODVN for relocation services.

• The Livingston Foundation awarded $25,000 to ODVN for relocation services.

• The Central Ohio Community Foundation awarded $25,000 to ODVN for relocation services provided by the Columbus Housing Authority.

• The South Central Poverty Project Board of Directors awarded a $4,000 grant for relocation assistance for domestic violence survivors and their children in the Columbus area.

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These grants are made possible through our strong partnerships and support from these generous foundations.

Thank you for your ongoing support of ODVN’s mission.

Please consider donating to help provide assistance for survivors and their children.

Visit http://www.odvn.org/donate to make a donation.

Donate

ODVN Domestic Violence Network

Ohio Domestic Violence Network