

March 2022

Survey Shows Marginalized Survivors Report Barriers When They Seek Help



Click on the image to view the report.

About two-thirds of domestic violence survivors were satisfied with their experiences with law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and social services, according to a [survey](#) conducted by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. However, when survivors reported problems with how systems responded, significant indicators of bias emerged.

Black/African American women, other women of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+ and Deaf or Hard of Hearing survivors were over-represented among the participants who said they had difficulty getting help from the police, courts, and social services. And victims who felt their concerns were not taken seriously by the police were much more likely to come from marginalized communities.

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Ohio's Newest DV Shelter Opens in Gallia County

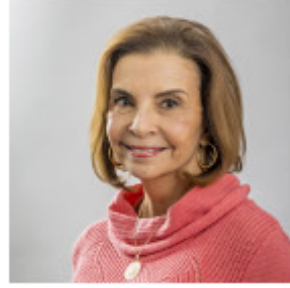
More than 100 people attended the opening of Square One in Gallipolis on Feb. 18, Ohio's newest shelter for domestic violence survivors.

Square One is a resource referral center and 16-bed residential program serving Gallia, Jackson and Meigs counties. Square One will provide a safe, confidential space for victims where staff will provide local resources, emergency shelter and teach skills to empower survivors toward self-sufficiency.



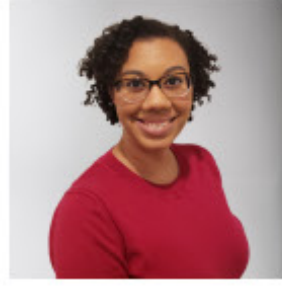
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ODVN Staff Updates



Denise Kontras, R.A., is ODVN's new Membership and Program Coordinator. She supports the Director of

Administration. Denise is responsible for maintaining program databases with membership information and service data as well as coordinating and distributing resources.



Felicia Robinson is ODVN's new Outreach to Marginalized Survivors Project Coordinator. She organizes legal

clinics across the state, connecting survivors of color, low-income survivors, and incarcerated and formerly incarcerated survivors with ODVN's legal program. They assist with divorce, custody, civil protection order, and immigration cases.



Kelly VanDriest, R.A.S.S., is ODVN's new Legal Assistance Program Coordinator. She is responsible for

reviewing applications and linking advocates with attorneys who can provide legal representation to survivors.



Emily Joyce is an AmeriCorps member who works with ODVN's training team as an Education Empowerment

Specialist. She helps to create financial education training content and supports the training coordinator.



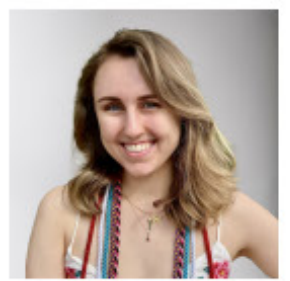
Karen Montgomery is an AmeriCorps member who works with ODVN's Housing and Meaningful Access

Program. Last year, Karen served as an AmeriCorps member with The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc. in Mansfield and provided empowerment activities for children in shelter.



Tuana Bennett-Vinson is an intern working with ODVN's training coordinator. Her duties are to assist with training

evaluations, eLearning modules, and special projects.



Maggie McCann is an intern with ODVN's prevention team. She assists with the Ohio Men's Action Network campaign,

Know Better. Do Better. Be Better. She is working toward her master's degree in social work at The Ohio State University.



Nicholas Milburn is interning for the Center for Partner Inflicted Brain Injury. He looks forward to learning about research and

grants as he completes his master's in social work degree from Arizona State University.

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Thank you to our Funders!

The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio awarded ODVN \$180,000 over three years to support a statewide pilot project to provide an effective response to domestic violence survivors who need help with substance use issues and improve the collaboration between domestic violence shelters and substance use treatment providers.



"We estimate that at least 43,000 (42%) survivors served last year had substance use issues and we know our local programs are challenged with addressing their complex needs," said Executive Director Mary O'Doherty. "The HealthPath grant helps us open access to the care and resources survivors need to be healthy individuals."

Ohio Domestic Violence Network is grateful for its partnership with the Columbia Gas/NiSource Charitable Foundation. The foundation provided \$10,000 for relocation assistance to domestic violence survivors and their children who need to move to safe housing. This grant provides immediate assistance to domestic violence survivors by covering security deposits, rent, transportation, moving expenses, or utilities in the Ohio counties where Columbia Gas operates. This support allows domestic violence survivors to begin the process of rebuilding their lives.



Thank you to the Big Lots Foundation for a \$1,000 grant made on behalf of the Big Lots' Women's Initiative Network. The funds will be used for relocation assistance for domestic violence survivors and their children.



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