

November 2023

## ODVN Honors Elected Officials who Championed Increased Funding and Legislative Reforms for DV Survivors

ODVN honored Gov. Mike DeWine, Attorney General Dave Yost and two legislators who led efforts to increase funding for Ohio's domestic violence programs at its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event at the state capitol in October. More than 150 attended in person and 90 participated virtually.

Guest speaker and survivor Paula D Walters who survived a nearly fatal strangulation in 2006 and suffered a traumatic brain injury, spoke about her 12-year struggle to have her TBI diagnosed.



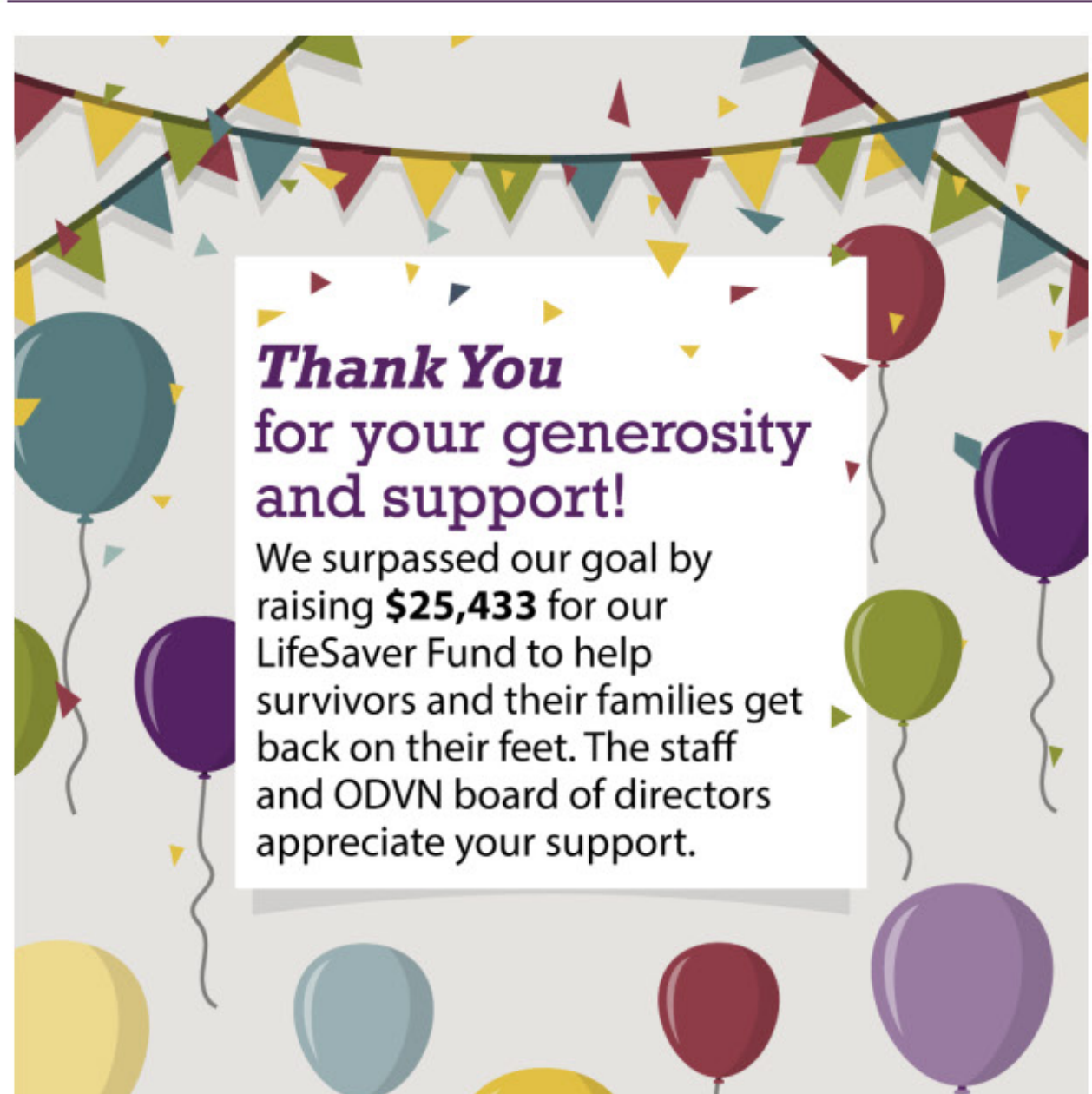
ODVN honored Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost with its annual Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Leadership and Sen. Nathan Manning and House Minority Leader Allison Russo with its Leadership in Policy Award.

[Read Full Article and View More Pictures from the Event](#)

## New Funding Will Expand Services for Human Trafficking Survivors at DV Programs

ODVN is preparing to administer \$1.8 million in funding from the Ohio Department of Public Safety to improve services for human trafficking survivors. The grants will be made to selected ODVN member programs to fund operations through June 2025.

[Read Full Press Release](#)



## Rebecca Cline Retires after 20 Years

Rebecca Cline, founder of the Prevention Program at ODVN has retired after 20 years. Rebecca's outstanding legacy of leadership and innovation in prevention was celebrated by staff and colleagues at a retirement party on September 28. Her career as a social worker advocating for survivors and working to prevent domestic, sexual and dating violence from happening in the first place spans 30 years.

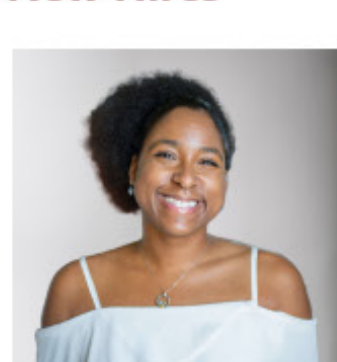


Rebecca Cline (seated in the middle), celebrates her career at ODVN with party-goers who came to honor her time and leadership at ODVN.

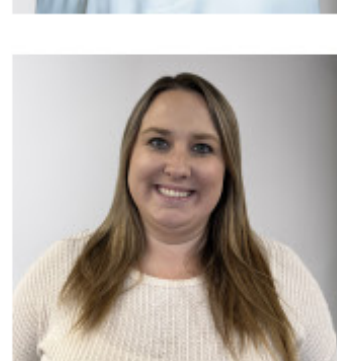
[Read Full Article](#)

## ODVN Announces New Hires & Staff Position Changes

### New Hires

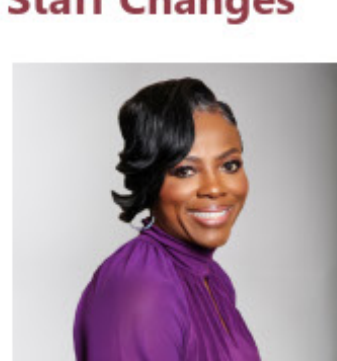


**Cheniece Wilson** is the new Health Access Project Coordinator. She's responsible for coordinating the ODVN CARE Mobile Advocacy which focuses on the health needs of survivors.

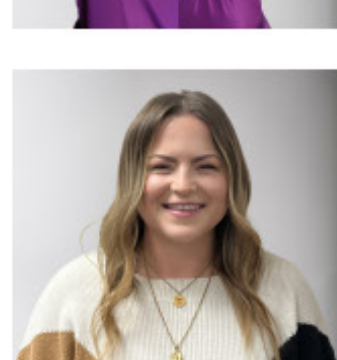


**Shelley Stephens** is the new Housing Compliance Coordinator. She's responsible for data quality, performance measures and outcomes, chart reviews, and audits on the REACH program. She also processes move-in packets, rental payments, and intakes while assisting the Housing Finance Manager.

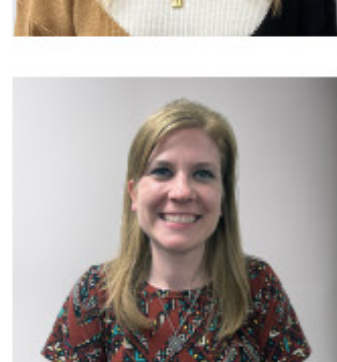
### Staff Changes



**Alicia Williamson** has been promoted to Assistant Deputy Director for ODVN. She oversees the legal program, training team, and hotel program.



**Taylor Smithey** is the new Legal Assistant for ODVN's Legal Assistance Program. She is responsible for all legal billing and assists with case reviews and legal clinics. Taylor is also responsible for attorney recruitment in the southeast region of Ohio.



**Sarah MacLennan** is the new Relocation Program Coordinator. Sarah assists advocates who are completing the applications on behalf of survivors, and she processes the applications as quickly as possible to ensure timely compensation for vendors and agencies.

## Thank You to our Funders!



Thank you to the **Akron Community Foundation** for a \$10,000 grant to improve services to domestic violence survivors with substance use issues and mental health needs in Summit County.



Thank you to **IKEA** for providing \$4,000 worth of beautiful furnishings for our new office.



Thanks to these organizations for supporting our Relocation and Safety Program.



- The **Reinberger Foundation** gave \$13,000 for relocation assistance for survivors in Franklin, Cuyahoga, and Lucas counties.
- **FirstEnergy Foundation** for \$5,000 for relocation assistance in the FirstEnergy Services Area including Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Columbiana, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Holmes, Huron, Knox, Licking, Lorain, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Morrow, Ottawa, Portage, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Union, Wayne, and Wyandot counties.