

# ACTION OHIO

## Coalition For Battered Women

### Program & Services 2007

*How does ACTION OHIO help people?*

Mar07

#### *Help for Victims*

ACTION OHIO responds to victims' calls for help with support, information and referral. We affirm their feelings, acknowledge their strength and courage as survivors and refer them to agencies and professionals in the community. ACTION OHIO is also there for families and friends of victims. They, too, need support and information. We help them understand the dynamics of violence and suggest ways to reach out and help their loved ones. ACTION OHIO has created resources especially for victims, including a safety card with helpful hints for victims who decide to escape from abuse. ACTION OHIO is proud to play a part in helping victims break free from abuse. Helping victims become survivors is central to the work of the organization.



#### *DV Classes for Victims*

ACTION OHIO offers educational classes for domestic violence victims who are involved with Children Services. Victims may have lost custody of their children or know that losing custody is a real possibility. Children Services may require them to accomplish a series of goals, including completion of a series of DV Classes. Classes focus on the dynamics of family violence, its impact on children and suggestions for making life changes.



#### *Zeroing in on Teens & Violence*

There is growing concern about teenagers and the incidence of dating violence. Many services available to adult battered victims are not available to minors. Furthermore, teenage girls may be flattered by boyfriends whose control tactics are misinterpreted as protective. Their boyfriends may believe that they have the right as a male to control their girlfriends—the friends she associates with and the clothing that she wears for example. Many teenage victims successfully conceal from their families what is happening to them. Even if

Mom and Dad find out, there is often confusion about what action to take. In April 2006 ACTION OHIO invited representatives from youth-serving organizations to talk about the issue and share information about services available to teens. In September 2006 ACTION OHIO sponsored a Women's Health Month Event, titled "Pregnant Teens & New Teen Moms: On the Endangered List." Results of a research study about pregnant teens and violence was presented and participants shared information about their services and programs. In 2007 we will continue to help increase awareness about teen dating violence and identify needed services.



*Find out more about us at [www.actionohio.org](http://www.actionohio.org)!*

## How does ACTION OHIO help people?



### ***“Helping Children Heal”***

Currently a work in progress, “Helping Children Heal” is the name of ACTION OHIO’s Storytime Project, to

provide volunteer storytellers for Greater Columbus programs caring for young children. Following orientation and training sessions, volunteer storytellers are to be matched with local agencies. The goal is to help children talk about their fears, particularly related to family violence, and understand that they are not responsible for abuse at home. This project is supported by grant awards from the Junior League of Columbus and Target.

### ***Community Outreach***

ACTION OHIO provides resource information and presentations on domestic violence for community groups, agencies, churches and businesses in the Greater Columbus community. We welcome participation in health fairs, community events and educational forums. Our goal is to inform people about the dynamics of domestic violence and provide them with ways to help loved ones, acquaintances or co-workers break free from abuse.



### ***Resources for Refugees and Immigrants***

With funding from the International Rescue Committee in New York City, ACTION OHIO developed several resources especially helpful for refugees and immigrants or professionals serving them. The *Service Guide for Refugee Victims of*

*DV* provides a listing of Greater Columbus agencies and organizations that reach out to refugee and immigrant communities. Two brochures (in English and Somali) are titled “Building a Healthy Family” and “Children Witnessing Domestic Violence.” The brochures (available on ACTION OHIO’s web pages) present information about Ohio’s domestic violence and child abuse laws and deal with adapting to a new culture and building resilience in children.

### ***“Help on the Homefront – Strengthening Law Enforcement Families”***

Originally funded with a Justice Assistance Grant Award, “Help on the Homefront” is a project designed to provide support to law enforcement officers and their families. Law enforcement officers are faced with daily crisis situations and the hypervigilance necessary to do their jobs can interfere with maintaining healthy relationships at home. This project seeks to promote domestic violence training among law enforcement officers, a buddy system at the department level for officers reacting to stress, and support for family members.

### ***“Stopping the Campus Stalker”***

Because research has shown that stalking is more prevalent on college campuses



than anywhere else, ACTION OHIO developed “Stopping the Campus Stalker,” a project for campus audiences, especially law enforcement officers. Initially funded with a Violence Against Women Act grant award, this two-part project focuses on increasing stalking awareness among students, faculty and administrators and on training campus police. Project resources, brochures and a student safety card are available on ACTION OHIO’s web site. Contact ACTION OHIO to schedule a campus stalking awareness presentation or a training event for campus law enforcement officers.

### ***Cross-Training Opportunities***

Acts of domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse and animal cruelty are interrelated and often co-exist in the same household. Perpetrators of violence often target multiple members of the family or household, including pets. Consequently, ACTION OHIO supports the cross training of professionals in various fields. In most cases training event participants may obtain Counselor, Social Worker or Marriage & Family Therapist CEUs for course completion. Continuing education units for other professions may

also be available.

### ***“Pregnant & Safe”***

Research has shown that pregnant women and teens are most at risk for becoming victims of violence, including homicide. As result, ACTION OHIO developed “Pregnant & Safe,” a project designed to educate health care and social services professionals about the dangers many of their patients or clients face during pregnancy. At training events tailored to fit the group or workplace, participants learn about the research and the screening and assessment tools and techniques developed to help identify victims and assess the dangers they face. An important part of the project is to help all professionals serving pregnant women and teens work together to keep victims safe, healthy and free from violence.



### ***“Safe Havens for Victims’ Pets” Making the Connection Between Animal Cruelty & Human Violence***

Since 1999 ACTION OHIO has been involved in making the connection between human violence and animal cruelty. We have sponsored training events, collaborated with child abuse and animal welfare organizations and promoted the cross training of professionals serving battered victims, children and abused animals. The Safe Havens Project, funded by the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust and the Mary



Katherine Sullivan Trust, includes community education and organizing and the development of local safe havens for battered victims’ pets. The goal is

to provide victims with a safe place for their pets if and when they choose to leave an abusive situation with their animals.

### ***Educating the Legal System***

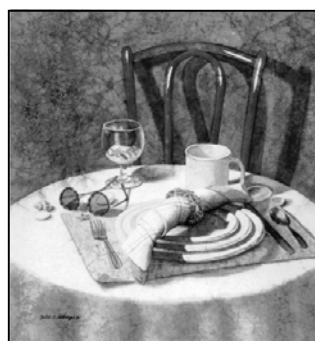
Educating the legal system is part of ACTION OHIO’s work. Attorneys, legal advocates and court personnel need to know about and understand the dynamics of domestic violence and its impact on children in particular. With support from the Ohio State Bar Association, ACTION OHIO has produced two legal seminars – one about Ohio’s Stalking Law and the other focused on Domestic Violence & Child Custody Issues. Both seminars were approved for CLEs for attorneys and CEUs for Counselors and Social Workers.



### ***Technical Assistance***

Upon request ACTION OHIO will provide technical assistance regarding domestic violence and related issues for agencies, governmental entities, educational institutions or businesses. Services may include telephone consultation, resources, referral and in-person meetings regarding employee policies, safety planning and problem solving.

### ***An Empty Place at the Table™***



Each year ACTION OHIO sponsors An Empty Place at the Table, a public awareness event, in October at the Statehouse. The memorial exhibit features place settings and memorabilia of battered victims who were killed by their abusers. Families of victims are invited to participate by

providing exhibit items and by being present for all or part of the exhibit. A formal program acknowledging the individuals being honored is held during the exhibit. An Empty Place at the Table was created and is copywritten by the Women’s Resource Center, Inc. of Scranton, PA. ACTION OHIO has received permission to replicate the event in Ohio. Contact ACTION OHIO to learn more about participating as a family or as an agency.

***Find out more about us at [www.actionohio.org](http://www.actionohio.org)!***

## How does ACTION OHIO help people? -Continued

### Media Relations

As an organization focused on domestic violence and related issues, ACTION OHIO responds to media inquiries and requests for interviews. ACTION OHIO issues news releases about special events and convenes news conferences at various times of the year, such as National Stalking Awareness Month (January) or National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October). ACTION OHIO also provides media professionals with referrals to legal experts and researchers specializing in the study of domestic violence.

### From the Statehouse to the Capitol



Legislative and public policy activities are an important part of ACTION OHIO's work. We monitor violence-related legislation at the state and federal levels and network with other advocates focused on the health and well being of families. We present research-based information at legislative committee hearings and meet with elected and appointed officials to advocate for DV survivors and the professionals who serve them. ACTION

OHIO provides legislative information to members and advocates through newsletters, action alerts and its web site. ACTION OHIO also sponsors advocacy workshops featuring Statehouse leaders and sponsors of key bills.

### Website— "www.actionohio.org"

Our website provides basic information about domestic violence (available in English and Spanish), legislative and public policy updates, a list of upcoming events and activities, resource materials in pdf format (also available by contacting ACTION OHIO), and links to related web sites.



### Printed Resources

We have variety of printed resources, including the Domestic Violence Shelter brochure, "Do you feel safe at home?" Safety Card and Children Witnessing Domestic Violence brochure. Visit our web site for a complete listing and information on how to obtain copies or download them online.

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### Publications

- DV Shelter Brochure
- Safety Card for Victims
- DV Protocol Brochure
- *Family Violence Prevention Funding Guide* (Ohio)
- *Service Guide for Refugee Victims of Domestic Violence*
- "Building a Healthy Family in Ohio" Brochure (English & Somali)
- "Children Witnessing Domestic Violence" Brochure (English & Somali)
- *Justice for Ohio's Domestic Violence Victims Guide*
- *Volunteer Guide for DV Shelters*
- *Volunteer Coordinator's Guide*
- Campus Stalking Student Brochure & Safety Card
- Campus Stalking Law Enforcement Brochure

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