

# ACTION OHIO

## Coalition For Battered Women

### Programs & Services 2009

*How does ACTION OHIO help people?*

May09

#### *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 list 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. Teenage girls often misunderstand boyfriends who are controlling and constantly checking on them. They are flattered by the constant attention and his need to advise her about what she wears, how she styles her hair, where she is going and how she spends her time.

Teen victims are confused by the dynamics of abuse with abusive behaviors alternating with a softer, more caring side. If physical abuse occurs, teen victims often hide the evidence from parents; but their friends may know what is really going on.

ACTION OHIO has supported state legislation to enable teen victims to obtain protection orders through juvenile court, to incorporate dating violence into the high school health class curriculum, and to require schools to develop policies and train school personnel on the subject.

If victims get the help they need as teenagers, they have a better chance of breaking free from abuse before it leads to unwanted pregnancy, dropping out of school and an adult relationship that traps them in the cycle of abuse.



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

## How does ACTION OHIO help people?

### **Community Outreach**

ACTION OHIO provides resource information and presentations on domestic violence for community groups, social and professional organizations, churches and businesses in the Greater Columbus community. We welcome participation in health fairs, special



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 site) 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**

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. This two-part project focuses on increasing stalking awareness among students, faculty and administrators and on training campus police about victims and stalkers. 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 credit for other professions may also be available.

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## *How does ACTION OHIO help people?*

### ***Pregnant & Safe***

Research has shown that pregnant women and teens are most at risk for becoming victims of violence, including homicide. As a 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. Training events focus on the dynamics of domestic violence, screening, danger assessment, mandated reporting, safety planning and community resources. The project aims to help all professionals serving pregnant women and teens to work together to keep victims safe, healthy and free from violence.

### ***Safe Havens for Victims' Pets***

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, Divorce, Custody and Visitation.

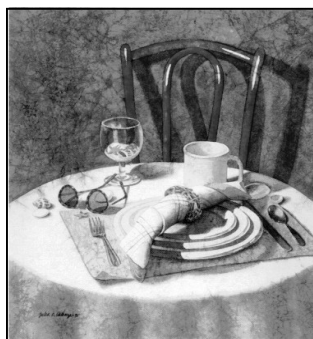


### ***Technical Assistance***

Upon request ACTION OHIO will provide technical assistance regarding domestic violence and related issues for organizations, government agencies, 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. A formal program acknowledging the individuals being honored is held during the exhibit. An Empty Place at the Table was created and is copyrighted 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.

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## How does ACTION OHIO help people?

### 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 Domestic Violence Awareness Month and National Stalking Awareness Month. 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.

### Web site— [www.actionohio.org](http://www.actionohio.org)

Our web site 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 and links to related web sites.



### Printed Resources

We have a 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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### ACTION OHIO's Mission

To promote quality programs,  
services & resources to survivors  
of domestic violence.

### Goal

To ensure equal rights &  
empowerment for all individuals  
as we work toward the eradica-  
tion of family violence  
in our society.

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