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**Domestic Violence Center**  
PO Box 5466  
Cleveland, Ohio 44101  
216.651.8484  
24-Hour HELPLINE—216.391.HELP  
[www.domesticviolencecenter.org](http://www.domesticviolencecenter.org)



*providing hope  
to the community*

# **Annual Report**

**FY July 2008-June 2009**



# Dear Friends,

This fiscal year was a time like no other in the recent past regarding our economy. All non-profits took a hit - including Domestic Violence Center (DVC). But amazingly so, the agency always prevails - no matter what the circumstances happen to be. I believe there are several reasons for this:

**1) The work we do is too important! DVC provides critical services to the community partnering with police, hospitals, court systems and social service agencies. Unfortunately, it is well-documented that when the economy struggles, domestic violence increases. We have seen a tremendous increase in demand in most of our programs. The fact that our *Helpline calls jumped from 14,000 to 18,000 calls*, is an indication of the desperation of many survivors. The Helpline is a life line – for the many victims who voiced “You saved my life”.**

**2) DVC has an incredible circle of support including staff, board, volunteers, individuals, civic groups, churches, foundations, corporations and others who are committed to our mission and donate generously to sustain our work.**

**3) DVC is recognized as a leader in domestic violence, and takes on projects both regionally and statewide.**

DVC was pleased to launch the first Purple Light Nights Awareness Campaign with 40 partners, a massive distribution of domestic violence materials, and record-breaking number of presentations and activities during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. DVC is already planning to take the campaign statewide next year.

While the economy struggled, DVC received less revenue, yet served and responded to more individuals. How? DVC is smart; creative in both maximizing resources and reducing expenses; and committed to our mission. We appreciate the ongoing support from the community and thank you for your dedication to our mission: to empower individuals, promote justice and mobilize the community so that all people are free from violence and abuse in our relationships and homes.

**Linda Dooley Johaneck**  
**Executive Director**

**Polly Furey**  
**Board President**

# Reaching Out to Those in Need

DVC offers a number of services to assist individuals dealing with crises related to domestic violence situations. Our confidential **24-Hour Hotline** is staffed with trained individuals who can provide crisis intervention, safety planning, information and referrals.

DVC's **confidentially located shelter** provides a safe environment for victims of domestic abuse and their children who need immediate protection. Advocacy, counseling, children services, group support, housing assistance, and court escorts are provided for all residents.

In the **Justice System Advocacy Program**, advocates respond to victims' needs for crisis intervention, information, court escorts, personal advocacy and emotional support as they seek the full protection of domestic violence laws, including assistance with criminal and civil protective orders.

In addition to these services, DVC has also created two programs to reach out to underserved communities in Cuyahoga County. **The Latina Domestic Violence Project** works to facilitate safe options and stability for Latina victims of domestic violence and their children. The program offers services which take into consideration the realities of Latino life, including cultural diversity and values. All of the services are available in Spanish or English and are free of charge.

DVC's second Community Outreach program is the **Ujima Program**, which provides outreach and culturally specific programming for the African American community, including confidential weekly peer-based, professionally-led support groups, plus training and technical assistance to organizations seeking to create groups in their communities.

The Domestic Violence Center continues to strive to provide quality services and programs to all members of the community who are dealing with domestic violence and abuse, in order to fulfill our mission **to empower individuals, promote justice and mobilize the community so that all people are free from violence and abuse in their relationships and homes.**

# Supervised Visitation Center

Domestic Violence Center's **Supervised Visitation Center** provides a safe, nurturing environment where children can spend quality time with a non-residential parent when supervision is required. The Center also provides **safe exchanges** for parents who require a third-party to facilitate the exchange.

DVC is committed to helping non custodial parents build positive and enriching relationships with their children. Weekly **fathering classes** and one on one feedback and guidance help to insure parents participating in the program build the skills needed to develop and maintain healthy and loving relationships with their children.

Since opening it's doors in 2007, the Supervised Visitation Center has been growing. Each year we have been able to provide more visits and exchanges than the last. This year, we provided over 20% more visits than last year.

"I am writing this letter to let you know how pleased I am with this center. The visitation is going extremely well. The staff...have helped my family a lot! My daughter had a hard time at first dealing with her father. I believe that with the help of the parenting class he attended, it made everything much better than before. Now both my children look forward to their visits and seeing their dad."



# Our Promise to the Community

**Mission:** The mission of the Domestic Violence Center is to empower individuals, promote justice and mobilize the community so that all people are free from violence and abuse in their relationships and homes.

**Vision:** We envision a Greater Cleveland that upholds the fundamental right to feel safe in one's relationships, free from domestic violence and its impact on the community. As a dynamic community leader, we will create solutions and partnerships to address abuse and provide services to all who need them.

**Core Values:** The following core values guide the way we work and the relationships we build:

**Respect:** We practice compassionate treatment of others without regard to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, income, sexual orientation, marital status, politics or religion. We believe in the inherent worth of all people and in honest, open communication.

**Empowerment:** We stand for an environment where individuals can make decisions and move forward with their lives — free from bias, coercion and fear.

**Accessibility:** We are committed to overcoming cultural, geographic or other barriers to share our expertise and extend our services into every corner of the community.

**Safety:** We uphold the right of all individuals to be free from harm and to enjoy relationships based on fairness and trust.

"I would have never gotten back on my feet without the support and knowledge of this group. It has helped me heal mentally and emotionally and made me the strong woman I am today" (DVC Client)



# How we achieve our mission

## 24 Hour Crisis HELpline

Crisis intervention, support, referrals and information.

## Shelter Services

Safe, confidential emergency shelter and comprehensive programming for women and children who are fleeing domestic violence.

## Justice System Advocacy

Assistance for victims involved with the court process. Services include crisis intervention, information, court escorts, advocacy, and emotional support for victims.

## Community Support Groups

Free weekly facilitated groups for women and children who have experienced abusive relationships.

## Latina Domestic Violence Project

Comprehensive, bi-lingual, culturally sensitive services focused on facilitating safe options and stability for Latina victims of domestic violence and their children.

## Ujima Program

Outreach and culturally specific programs for the African American community offering education, support and training.

## Supervised Visitation Center

Provides a safe, nurturing environment where children can spend quality time with a non-residential parent when supervision is required.

## Teen Education

DVC works to educate teens about healthy relationships by doing workshops and presentations in schools throughout Cuyahoga County.

## Community Education

DVC provides speakers, seminars and trainings on DV to schools, human service, law enforcement, and medical professionals and interested groups in the community.

## Youth Programming

Comprehensive services for children who have been impacted by domestic violence. Includes community based Youth Support Groups and Art therapy available throughout Cuyahoga County.

## Volunteer Program

Training and placement for individuals and groups interested in direct service or administrative volunteer roles with DVC.

# Client Testimony

“I am deeply thankful to DVC for all the assistance, help and patience they had. Without your help I would not have been able to get out of such an unbearable life, a nightmare from which I was freed, and I am happy.

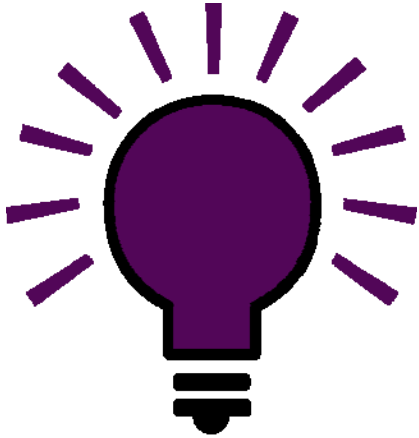
Right now I am living a complete life, entirely different, I am very blessed to be able to sleep peacefully and to go out without any fear. All those fears and anxiety from the past have disappeared slowly. To be honest, it was not easy, but my life has turned completely, a radical yet very pleasant change, for me and for my children. They are doing so well in school. Katie earned an award for being the first in her group and Max received several honors for his efforts and dedication.

Today I want to thank you once again in the name of each and every woman who survived violence. To me you are like angels fallen from the heavens. I care and love you very much.

You listened to me, you never judged me or criticized me, just the opposite, and for all those beautiful things you give I am completely grateful. Life is beautiful; I am close to God and nature, what before looked ugly now is stunning. I can see life through my own eyes in a beautiful way. The sole fact of waking up with life and health one more day gives me such an incredible strength; I am living the best moment in my life. This moment in my life is wonderful, this feeling I have now is wonderful, there is so much peace and serenity in me”.



## Purple Light Nights



During Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) of 2008, the Domestic Violence Center launched its first ever Purple Light Nights Campaign. This campaign is designed to shine a light on a problem that is often associated with silence and shame. However, it is a problem that can be transformed through awareness and education.

By encouraging individuals, businesses and public institutions to shine a purple light bulb or string of lights on their porch or in their window during the month of October, the Domestic Violence Center raised awareness throughout the community.

Purple Light Nights is a way to remember domestic violence homicide victims; to celebrate the courage of those who have survived; and to provide hope, information and services to those who are still living with violence and abuse.

Purple Light Nights was first launched in King County, Washington in October 2007 by the Covington Domestic Violence Task Force. The Domestic Violence Center was the first to bring this campaign to Ohio. The color purple is specifically used because it has long been recognized as the international color symbolic of domestic violence.

In Domestic Violence Center's first year of the campaign, Verizon Wireless served as the "Purple Light Champion" and 40 Community Partners consisted of Non-Profit Organizations, Police Chiefs and City Councilpeople. 10,000 postcards with information about our services and the campaign were distributed throughout the community, and throughout the month the Domestic Violence Center presented at high schools, colleges, hospitals, and other local venues to spread the message that: "There is no place for domestic violence in our community".

## Teen Education

Over the past several years, the Domestic Violence Center has shifted its focus to not only providing emergency and crisis services to victims, but also to finding ways to prevent violence and abuse from developing in the community. One of the most effective ways to do this is to visit local schools and talk to students about healthy relationships. DVC has developed the Adolescent-Centered Family Violence Prevention Project for this purpose.

The overall goal of the Prevention Project is to educate youth, raise awareness of gender violence, and break the generational cycle of violence in relationships. During school presentations by DVC staff, participants will develop an increased knowledge base and greater awareness of the dynamics and impact of gender violence. Students will also build a skill base which will help them build healthy relationships and facilitate the quick identification of abusive relationships.

Additionally students will develop tools useful in helping peers who may be in an abusive relationship. It is expected that this will lead to positive changes in relationships, with an increase in healthy behaviors and a decrease in relationship violence.

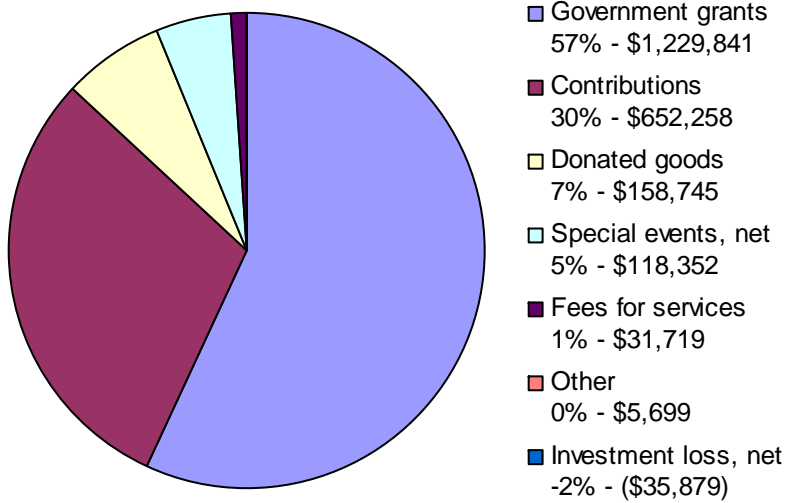
DVC is excited to share the knowledge and expertise of our staff with the community, in order to prevent violence and abuse and foster healthy relationships in our community.



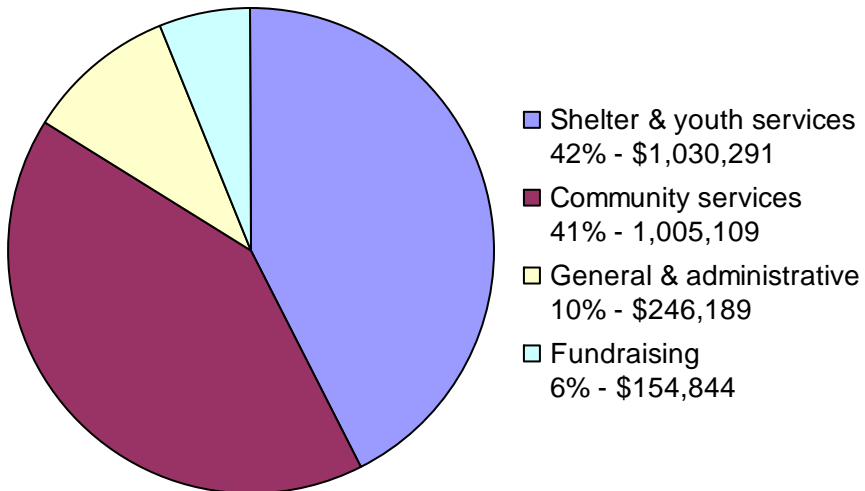
# Fiscal Year

(7/1/2008-6/30/09)

## Revenue—\$2,160,735



## Expenses—\$2,436,433



# Program Statistics

<b>HELPLine calls:</b>	<b>18,246</b>
<b>Women &amp; Children kept safe in Shelter:</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>Justice System Advocacy clients:</b>	<b>1,654</b>
<b>Community Support Groups held:</b>	<b>334</b>
<b>Youth Support Groups held:</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Youth Art Therapy Sessions:</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Latina Project Clients:</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Ujima Program</b>	
<b>Individuals reached via presentations:</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Victims served through support groups:</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>Supervised Visitation Center Visits:</b>	<b>1,098</b>
<b>Teens Reached via Presentations:</b>	<b>6,198</b>
<b>Crisis Intervention/Short Term Counseling Sessions:</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Individuals Reached in Community Education:</b>	<b>11,337</b>
<b>Presentations/Resource Tables:</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Hours Donated by Volunteers:</b>	<b>8,595</b>