

# violence free messenger

SUMMER 2023

## From the Director

*Dear Friends,*

There comes a time in growth of an organization where the name and mission must be evaluated. We have come to that crossroad. We are now serving both domestic and sexual violence victims and survivors. This dual service focus was at the forefront of our 2022 Strategic Planning year. In January of 2023 the Board of Trustees voted to approve the robust Strategic Plan. The Public Relations committee began working on the rebranding with a strong focus on mission, vision and service connection. Tina Marker, Carolyn Destefani, Patti Schwartztrauber, Pete Bales, former Board President Becka Perales and staff Harmony Thoma met carefully reviewing the goals and objectives and shared their work with unanimous support from the Board of Trustees.

**Our vision is HOPE and HEALING for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.**

On June 14, 2023, we officially transitioned from Family Violence Prevention Center to Violence Free Futures. Our vision is hope and healing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Our logo represents the broad causes under our dual service areas of domestic and sexual violence. From left to right, orange = teen dating violence prevention, teal = sexual violence, deep purple = domestic violence, silver purple = elder abuse and royal blue = child abuse. In the trunk of the tree you see a representation of people with all shapes, sizes and skin tones to reflect that we are here to support hope and healing for any individual at their time of need. We want individuals to see the logo or read our vision "hope and healing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence" and know what we seek to do to support those hurting in our community.



**Orange = Teen Dating  
Violence Prevention**

**Teal = Sexual Violence**

**Deep purple = Domestic Violence**

**Silver purple = Elder Abuse**

**Royal blue = Child Abuse**

*—Dr. Shirelle Applin & Debbie Matheson*



### Help VFF While You Shop for Groceries at Kroger

1. Register your Kroger Plus Card online at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)
  2. Follow the directions to select VFF – **Our # is KA150**
  3. Swipe your registered Kroger Plus Card each time you shop
- Each purchase you make with your card supports the work of VFF.**

**94**  
**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**\$361.51**  
**EARNED**  
Feb. 1, 2023-  
Apr. 30, 2023

**THANK YOU!**



### We are now a charity in the Dorothy Lane Market Good Neighbor Program!

Those who shop at Dorothy Lane Market are able to select VFF #976 in the Good Neighbor program. You can sign up in store or online.

# 2023 VFF Board of Trustees

**Dr. Shirelle Applin, President**  
Physician, Premier Health  
Family Medicine

**Tina Marker, Vice-President**  
Winward Design Group  
President/Founder

**Heather Rihm, Treasurer**  
Asst. to Greene County Domestic  
Relations Court Administrator

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Retired Small Business Owner  
Bellbrook City Council

## Board Trustees

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Local Government Consultants, LLC  
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USAF Professional Service Program  
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**Missy Mae Walters**  
JSN Associates ; Senior Associate of  
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of Bellbrook Sugar Creek Area Chamber

## Chief of Staff

**Becka Perales**  
Retired Director, Serco Inc.

## Executive Director

**Debbie Matheson**  
Violence Free Futures of Greene County

## Legal Advisor

**Joseph Stadnicar,**  
Attorney at Law, Pro Bono,  
Hammond, Stier & Stadnicar

## New Board Members to Introduce!



Tim Tuttle is a new member of the Board of Directors. Tim is a native Ohioan. He grew up in Springfield, Ohio and attended Clark Shawnee High School. Following high school, he attended Bowling Green University and Wright State University obtaining a Bachelors of Arts in Finance. He worked as a Deputy Auditor for the Clark County Auditor's Office for over 10 years performing property tax assessments and appraisals. He has been a Greene County resident for 15 years. He volunteers his time as a member of the Planning Board for the City of Bellbrook aiding in reviewing zoning code changes and approving real estate variances. He works with the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Area Chamber of Commerce as the treasurer assisting in planning/implementing events for the local business community sponsored by the Chamber.

Tim is dedicated to serving the Greene County community. He and his wife, Becky, have 3 children in Bellbrook/Sugarcreek schools. He is an avid sports fan, golfer, and pickle ball player.

## Upcoming Events at VFF

### Purses & Pastries

September 30, 2023

11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Sunset Ridge Lavendar Farm

6360 Fowler Road | Enon, Ohio 45324

\$35 per ticket

RSVP by September 15

Register at:

[www.violencefreefutures.org](http://www.violencefreefutures.org)

### JOIN US FOR A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

OCTOBER 2, 2023 | 6PM

THE GREENE TOWN CENTER PAVILION

ALL ARE WELCOME. CANDLES PROVIDED.

*In unity, we remember and light the way for futures without violence.*

YOU ARE INVITED

### Violence Free Futures

Donor and Volunteer  
Appreciation Night

2023 Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2023

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

held at

The Greene County Career Center  
532 Innovation Drive  
Xenia, Ohio 45385

Please join us for fine food and fellowship so that we may extend our heartfelt appreciation to you.

## RSVP

by October 20, 2023

Call or email Amy Erisman at  
937.376.8526 ext 107  
[amy.erisman@violencefreefutures.org](mailto:amy.erisman@violencefreefutures.org)

*We hope you will  
be able to join us!*





# Thank You + SHOUT OUTS!

## Jamie's Tire & Service

Cameron and Dylan from Jaime's Tire & Service came to the rescue to fix two tires of two guests in our safe house.



## Tap Truck Cincinnati

Owners Joel and Crissie served adult beverages at Spring Fling 2023. They made it so simple for us and the attendees loved it! As if that wasn't enough, they donated a portion of their profit to Violence Free Futures! Thank you Tap Truck Cincinnati!



## Xenia High School Student Council

Shout out to the Students and Student Council Executive Board who oversee the "Change for Charities" event. This year, Violence Free Futures was their charity of choice and they raised \$220!



## Pawz 4 Peeps Dog Training

Thank you Pawz 4 Peeps Dog Training, for building and installing agility items! Cleaning stations and rope toys for the dogs and pretty new benches for the humans to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

## The God's Chicks

The God's Chicks brought goodies for the women, crafts, plants, treats and best of all beautiful energy for Mother's Day!



*"Mother's Day is for celebrating the nurturers, the givers, the huggers and helpers, the day-makers and life-changers...and that's just what you are!"*

-KEELY CHACE

Thank you for the inspirational and heartfelt journals from Delsia and gift-stuffed goodie bags from Candy!



## Xenia Chrome Divas

Xenia Chrome Diva's organized a wonderful Cause for the Paws, Sip and Shop fundraiser at Brandeberry Winery benefiting Violence Free Futures. Thank you Chrome Divas and all the guests that donated pet supplies!



## In-Kind and Service Project Shout-Outs (through June 29)



- Beaver Creek Women's League
- FRABAAA
- Pamela Johnson
- Jan Leonard
- Paws 4 Peeps Dog Training
- 10th Life Car Rescue
- Jana Gruber
- Second Act
- John and Erika Carlson
- David Cusack

## Emmanuel Community Garden

Each week, Paul Jero, coordinator of the Emmanuel Community Garden brings in homegrown produce to supplement our menu in the safe house. This is such a great gift to our residents as it adds color to their plates and introduces some adults and children to new foods. They even bring flowers to brighten up our workspace! Thank you for caring about us and the community!



# Donors to Violence Free Futures

## *Dove Club*

3.1.2023 through 6.30.2023

### **Platinum Dove \$5,000+**

Diane Dubose  
John Garrett  
Sheryl Martindale  
Al Cummings & Julia Hall  
Jerry Sutton & Sandy McHugh  
Loyal Order of Moose #73  
DP&L Foundation  
The Four Points Group at Morgan Stanley

### **Gold Dove \$2,500+**

Brenda Hood  
Ed & Diane Phillips  
Boyle Mechanical Solutions, LLC  
Becka & Rick Perales  
Bellbrook United Methodist Church  
PNC Financial Services Group  
John Hilbrink

### **Silver Dove \$1,000+**

Missy Mae Walters  
Xenia Chrome Divas  
Erika & John Carlson  
Ronald Russell  
Maxine Tieber  
Light of Christ Lutheran Church  
I.O.O.F. Lodge  
Tom & Evelyn LaMers  
Carroll Day & Rebecca Morgann  
Corner Cupboard Charities  
Phillips Companies  
Ms. Molly Foundation  
Richard Lapedes & Maureen Lynch  
Rena Leatherman  
James & Paulette Hensley  
Dr. Thomas & Cherie Dixon  
Greg Rhodes  
Fraternal Order of the Eagles 1689  
Greene County Public Library  
Horenstein, Nicholson & Blumenthal  
Miller, Westwood & Brush LLP  
Woolpert, Inc.  
Greene County Auditor  
Jana & Mark Gruber  
Carol Graff  
Xenia Rotary Club  
Yuanthony & Lillian McCree  
Elizabeth & James Hammond  
Joseph & Amanda Jenkins  
Joan Dautel  
Judge Adolfo Tornichio & Heather Rihm  
Jim & Linda Rigney  
Cusack Law Office  
Dr. Shirelle & Myron Applin  
Scott & Cheryl Henderson  
Jennifer LaRue  
Ron & Betty Herre

### **White Dove \$500+**

Laura Romesburg  
Greene County Fish & Game Association  
Mary Ann Miley  
Memorial United Presbyterian Church  
Janice & Todd Muskopf  
Brad & Tami Montgomery  
Buckeye Research and Manufacturing  
Daniel Matulka  
Ted & Ann Heckendorn  
Montgomery Insurance & Investments  
Richard & Jacqueline Siefring  
Rudy Pittl  
Geraldine Devoe  
Bill & Michele Vickery

Mark Laurens  
Jim Vernon  
Shawn & William Ryan  
Brian & Sandra Woodruff  
UAL Accounting & Tax Service  
Thomas and Amy Koogler  
Landmark Title Agency  
Tina Marker  
Kim & Stephanie Kelly  
Tap Truck Cincinnati  
Susan & Alan Stiles  
Carolyn Ray  
Faircreek Church

## *Members Under \$100*

Bob & Nita Kline  
Ronald Evans  
Union United Methodist Church  
Dawn Day  
David & Lynne Hamilton  
Rebecca Kuder  
David & Cynthia Martin  
George & Betty Mornhinweg  
Nimfa Simpson  
Rita Doyle  
Cassandra Garner  
Mary Graves  
Mark Muterspaw  
Rachel Scott  
Francis Kennels  
Peter Sjoblom  
Joan Ackerman  
Sheriff Scott & Lori Anger  
Dewitt & Noraetta Brehm  
Carol Collett  
Carl Hillgruber  
Robert & Tiyuk Huston  
Gary & Jacqueline Siembab  
Nancy Doran  
Stephen Haller & Doretta Donovan  
George & Virginia Huff  
Brian Potts & Beth Rubin  
Fredrick & Kathryn Stockwell  
Arthur & Joy Martinelli  
Alan & Sue Eakle  
Pamela Johnson  
Eileen Pape  
Victoria Strickland  
Betty Brooks  
Tony Chitwood  
Jack & Shirley McChesney  
Steven Ballerene  
Michael Kremer  
Susan Miller  
Dick Todd  
Phil & Teri Houston  
Ruth Lapp  
Theresa & Richard Richman  
Cindy Sprenkel  
Tom Finke  
Sandra Forsythe  
Robert & Marsha Adams  
Lauren & Jeffrey Agnew  
Cecilia Andzik-Grewe  
Mary Carter  
William & Mary Gladski  
Margret Graves  
Richard & Gail Lewis  
James & Sandra Mouse  
Really Ravenous Readers  
Women of the Moose-Chapter 9  
Rena Large  
Jerry & Nancy Nowak  
Patricia Riley  
Joy Brailey  
Marie & Max Davis  
James Bennet  
Franklin & Mary Pleasants  
Shannon & Phillip Martin

Greg & Lee Anne Austria  
Bambi & Jonathan Saxe  
Helen Reno  
Freda & Joseph Bracht  
Doug Tipton  
Mark & Marie Finke  
Nancy Weisner  
Carl & Joyce Brown  
Bryan Dobb  
Deborah Schwieterman  
Mark & Elise Zielinski  
Maria Hall  
Patti Schwarztrauber  
Gerald & Helen Haun  
Kent Clark Farms, Inc.  
Daniel & Laurie Mayak  
David & Tina Wallace  
Xenia United Presbyterian Church  
Aileen Erbacher  
Brian & Jane Newton  
James Shedden  
Benjamin & Barbara Thompson  
Denise Moore  
Katherine Weir  
Gary & Carol Whitted  
Christiana Linera  
Edward & Deborah Mosher  
Thomas Hall  
Anneka Herre  
Andrew Pelhan  
Michael & Deborah Knisley  
William & Frances Woody  
Phyllis Buchwalder  
Chris Hopkins  
Thomas Finke  
John & Luanne Blair  
Eleazer United Methodist Church  
Jan Leonard  
Network for Good  
Diane Dixon  
Chad & Angela Whilding  
Terry Alexander  
Carolyn & Charles Destefani  
Beth Hartong  
Fairborn First Baptist Church  
Shonda Steward  
Mary Houston  
James Beller  
Pete Bales  
Susan Fraker  
Fadia Iannacchione  
The Reynolds & Reynolds Associate  
Foundation  
Catherine & Richard Le Sourd  
Tony and Amy Boland  
Jacob Alan Barker Foundation  
Augustina Wingate  
TCN Behavioral Health  
Kelly Jones  
Roger & Macy Reynolds  
Lynn & Kevin Roper  
Spencer Warden  
Greene County Children Services  
Jeffrey & Diana Byrd  
Joyce & Robert Buerger  
Gregory & Lynda Brendel  
Mark & Amy Ferguson  
Shellie Brown  
Darlene Clinger  
Michael & Jo Ann DiCuirci  
Kristen & Ernie Kindle  
Jenny King  
Leslie Ling  
Paulette Marks  
Rob & Wendy Reigelsperger  
Stacey Swanson  
Matt & Pame Bowlsby  
Chris & Mike Boyle  
Sandra Brubaker  
Brian & Jessica Darnell  
Eric & Olivia Doran  
Karey Dufour & Teresa Millwater

Elizabeth Foor  
Tina Fox  
Chuck & Colletta Doran  
Ken & Maria Greene  
Senator Robert & Sue Hackett  
David & Amanda Hayes  
Moria Hennessy  
Tom & Kim Kretz  
State Representative Brian Lampton  
Florence Krikke  
Melissa Litteral  
Mary Long  
Jacquata Long  
David Marcum  
Jennifer Marrietta  
John & Mary Jo Martin  
Morgan McConnell  
Deborah McDonnell  
Jamie Oliver  
Dennis & Susan Phillips  
Brad & Patti Phillips  
Bette Ross  
Carol Sexton  
Sybil Shimovetz  
Kelly Sierra  
Priscilla Smith  
Carrie Solberg  
Julie Sostrom  
Joseph Stadnicar  
Robin & Kevin Stewart  
Delsia Taylor  
Xenia Community Schools  
GRC Wireless  
Donna Williams  
Laura Wolfe  
Elisabeth & Jon Zimmerman  
Walter & Denise Chin  
Ally & Marcus Lajeunesse  
Diana & Timothy Tullio  
Betsy Adkins  
Nicole & Joe Bissailon  
Bob & Becky Lachey  
Michael Brush  
Larry Loesch  
Jeff Miller  
Corrie & John Miller  
Wendy Rodgers  
Aaron Buckley  
Michael Miller  
Pat Plews  
Cathy & Larry Prochaska  
Tina Templeton  
Aldora Chapter No. 262  
Xanni Burton  
Judy Keeton  
Rebecca Marker  
Phyllis Schoenleben  
Kimberly Stacy  
Jennifer Taylor  
Jim Baker & Judy Sullivan  
Joan Staloch  
Teddy Pitts & Laura Dempsey

## *Thank you!*

Our Dove Club donors and our Members are at the core of our individual giving program. We want to thank them for their faithful support. We are so grateful for their generosity.

If you would like more information about how your individual gift can help Violence Free Futures, please contact our Development Coordinator, Amy Erisman at (937) 376-8526 ext. 107 or at



# Sheltering Pets Update

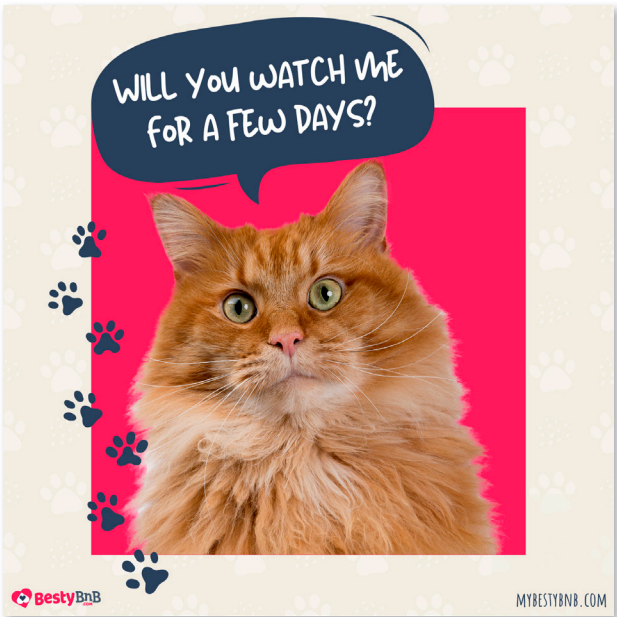
We are expanding our abilities to serve pet parents with their companion animals that need safety from abusive living situations. As many of you know, we received funding from Red Rover in 2021 to repurpose and create pet-friendly spaces in and around the safe house as well as equip our pet parents with the supplies they need to assist with pet caregiving. In May 2022, we were up and running with a couple of dogs right away. It was clear that this service was going to be highly needed.

In this past year, we have been blessed by an outpouring of added support and interest as we worked hard to house 16 dogs and 3 cats for a total of 784 nights and counting. The benefit of considering the pets in safety planning is that we remove a barrier for a victim who may not leave their home without their pets, have been told “no” they could not go to a family member’s house or a shelter with pets and living in their car would be the only option.

Earlier this year, our team realized that many times we were not able to house people that needed us right away because we have it structured that family rooms with pets are kept exclusive and as a result, had unused beds in them. This is not ok on many levels so we restructured the plans and unfortunately had to reduce the capacity to house pets with people. We still do, but it will be less than originally planned.

Luckily, around this same time, our Community Relations Specialist, Harmony Thoma attended a training hosted by BestyBnB on the topic of domestic violence shelters and the growing awareness of how important it is to provide resources for the family pets. Included in this training (which we were already doing the co-sheltering part), the trainer shared that BestyBnB had developed a platform to keep pets safe, connected with their families and together after shelter if a shelter could not house them.

BestyBnB, a highly secure, technical platform designed specifically for Domestic Violence Shelters enables DV Shelters to search and secure long and short-term pet boarding options for abuse victims’ pets during their time of crisis. With a goal of ending the co-occurrence of domestic violence and pet abuse. VFF has committed to work with the BestyBnB platform to increase our assistance to even more families and their pets. We will be marketing (like now) the need for people/households to sign up to be pet caregivers.



**If you have ever wondered how you can help VFF, but didn’t know how and would like to help us from your own home... please consider signing up to be a Pet Caregiver. Safe and loving temporary foster homes for pets are needed. You can learn more by going to [mybestybnb.com](https://mybestybnb.com) to learn more and begin the process of becoming a safe option for families in need.**

*You are also invited to contact Harmony Thoma at VFF to ask questions or discuss supporting our efforts to keep families and pets protected.*

## Can you join in brightening the lives of Survivors?

Would you like to help VFF continue their mission to reduce domestic violence? Please consider a one-time gift, or becoming a regular giver! **Tell us how you want to join the VFF mission to end violence in our community. How can you help today?**

Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes I want to make a single gift to VFF today.
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to give \$_____ monthly.
City/State/ZIP _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to become a VFF Member by giving \$100 or more per year.
Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to become a Dove Giving Club Member by giving \$500 or more per year.
Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to volunteer with VFF.



380 Bellbrook Avenue  
Xenia, OH 45385

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 966  
DAYTON OH

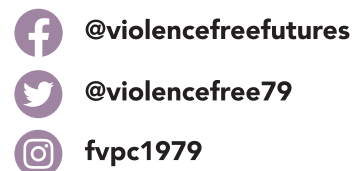
## Wish List

Find the link to our Wish Lists at [violencefreefutures.org](https://violencefreefutures.org).  
**THANK YOU** for your continued support.

- Used Smart Phones, ipods, ipads
- Ethnic Hair Care Products
- Hangers
- Bras (Cup Size B and C)
- Women's Underwear (Sizes 5 and 6)
- Pots and Pans (New or Gently Used)
- Umbrellas
- Dog Collars (All Sizes)
- Dog Leashes (6 ft, not retractable)
- Muzzles (All Sizes)
- Kongs, Other Tough Chew Toys
- CapStar Flea and Tick Prevention (dogs & cats)
- Cat Litter
- Litter Boxes
- Broom/dust pan
- Vacuum
- Hand-held vacuum
- Toilet bowl cleaning supplies
- Label Maker
- New Bed Pillows (New & Neutral colors)
- Twin Sized Sheets
- Twin Sized Mattress Pads
- Diapers Sizes: Newborn
- Bath towels
- Baby wipes
- Deodorant
- Full Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body wash
- Kids toothpaste
- Hand soap
- HE Laundry Detergent
- Family Board Games
- Adult Coloring Books

For developing information about donations please call Harmony at 937-376-8526.

Check us out on social media to see our latest news, events, and opportunities.



## PHONE NUMBERS

### 24-Hour Support Hotline

937-372-4552 or 937-426-2334  
Text : 93 937-347-5917

### Administrative Concerns

937-376-8526 or 937-426-6535

[www.violencefreefutures.org](https://www.violencefreefutures.org)

**The Violence Free Futures Is A Member Of:**

