

# violence free messenger

FALL 2023

## From the Director

*Dear Friends,*

In the ongoing battle against domestic and sexual violence, knowledge is power. By examining the *Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) Domestic Violence Fatalities*<sup>1</sup> report reflective of July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023, we gain insights that can help us better understand the intricate dynamics of this pressing issue. This is the eighth annual review and it serves as a call to action, urging us to bolster our social systems in response to domestic violence.

ODVN is the state coalition at the forefront of advocating for domestic violence victims. VFF is an active member of the coalition. ODVN's annual Domestic Violence Fatality report gathers data from law enforcement, crime reports, media reports and data from local domestic violence programs to provide a detailed analysis of domestic violence related fatalities in Ohio. The fatality report of July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023 is a sobering reminder of the work that still lies ahead.

According to the report, domestic violence-related deaths remained the same this year at 112 fatalities. Each statistic represents a life cut short and families, torn apart. It is an urgent reminder that domestic violence remains a grave concern, despite our collective efforts.

**Domestic violence  
is a societal issue,  
and it requires a  
collective response.**

Understanding the key findings in the fatality review offers critical insight into the dynamics surrounding domestic violence and informs action steps.

### 1. LETHALITY ASSESSMENT

The reviews emphasize the importance of lethality assessments by first responders. Enhancing training and tools can help identify high risk situations enabling timely intervention.

### 2. INTERSECTIONALITY

Domestic violence does not discriminate, underline the necessity of addressing intersectionality, considering factors, such as race, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, one offering support and protection.

### 3. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Building stronger community networks can be a lifeline for victims. The report stresses the need for communities to work in unison, offering refuge and resources to those in need.

### 4. LEGAL PROTECTIONS

A renewed focus on strengthening, legal protections, and support for survivors is essential. The report highlights gaps in the systems that need to be addressed to better safeguard victims. "100 people were shot in the 82 cases, only 15 survived their injuries."

The statewide report and the local statistic should serve as a catalyst for change in our response in Greene County. Here are steps, we can take to become more resilient in response to domestic violence:

### 1. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:

Starts with awareness by educating yourself and others about the signs of domestic violence and know that we are a resource.

### 2. SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Local organizations and our shelter plays a crucial role in assisting victims. Consider giving of your time, resources or funds to these vital groups.

### 3. LEGISLATION AND POLICY ADVOCACY

Advocate for stronger domestic and sexual violence legislation and policies in your community. Encourage elected officials to prioritize the issue.

### 4. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Empower your community to stand against domestic and sexual violence. Support initiatives that promote healthy relationships and foster open dialogue.

### 5. OFFER A HELPING HAND

If you suspect someone is in an abusive situation, offer help and support. Be a compassionate, and non-judgmental friend.

Domestic violence is a societal issue, and it requires a collective response. The ODVN fatality report is a wake-up call that reminds us of the urgency of our mission: Hope and healing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence." By understanding the dynamics and strengthening our social system, we can hope to break the cycle of violence and provide a safer, more nurturing environment one survivor at a time.



Respectfully,  
*Debbie Matheson*

<sup>1</sup>ODVN website Fatality-Infographic-2023.pdf (odvn.org)

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Violence Free Futures

## Upcoming Events at VFF



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

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



## Thank You + SHOUT OUTS!

### Be Hope Church

Be Hope Church showed up ready to clean up! Volunteers arrived with big smiles, big hearts, faith-filled energy, love for others and joy. Thank you for giving VFF's grounds a makeover!



### Helping Hands at VFF - Demo Day!

Thank you Jack McChesney, Keith Simpson, Neil Reinsmoen, Chris Hoskins and Tom Clinch! This team helped us with some cost saving measures and demoed the building so it was ready to be turned over to the rehab crew as a clean slate. So thankful on our part!





# Thank You + SHOUT OUTS!

## Great News for VFF

We're proud to share that we have been selected to receive a Kentucky Fried Wishes grant of \$10,000 from the KFC Foundation. This grant will be used to help purchase new beds for each bedrooms in our safe house. Thank you to KFC and the foundation for supporting our cause and benefiting our community.



## Thank you to our grocery shoppers!

Kathy Braun, Katie Mlod, Sherry and Mike Smith, Patty Davis, Tracey Weimer, Debbie Thoma, Maryann Barta, Jennifer Osborne, Angie Osborne.



## Thank you!

**Jim Rigney** has been a faithful volunteer in our kitchen for 7 years, coming twice a week. Thank you Jim!

Thank you **Lynn Llyod, Jana Gruber, Kristin Rice and Geri Tresp** for preparing freezer meals for our safe house!

Thank you **John Garrett!** VFF is so grateful for the many tasks that you help with!



## Sunset Ridge Lavendar Farm

Thank you to JoAnn and Tom Moore, owners of Sunset Ridge Lavender Farm. Thank you for donating the use of Sunset Ridge Lavender Farm for Purses & Pastries!



## The God's Chicks

Thank you God's Chicks for donating wonderful back to school supplies, pampering kits and pet treat bags! One of the children in our safe house found out about the donation and literally could not wait to get their bright bag – all their own and all new supplies! It was magical!



## Xenia United Presbyterian Church

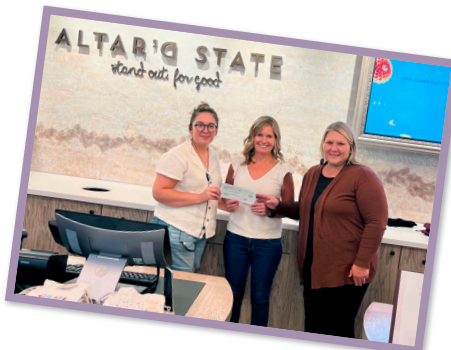
HUGE thanks to Xenia United Presbyterian Church for providing brand new beds in a box. They have gifted us ten beds to six families!

## In-Kind and Service Project Shout-Outs (through September 30)

- Domino's Pizza
- Emmanuel Community Garden
- Dorcas Sunday School Class at First Baptist Church
- Xenia Feeders Pet Supply
- UAI Accounting and Tax Service
- Jeff and Diane Hook
- Pawz 4 Peeps
- Xenia Presbyterian Church
- Anna Zeller
- God's Chicks
- Candy Marks
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.
- Lydia Gibson

## Altar'd State

Altar'd State at Kenwood Mall picked VFF as the recipient of their revenue on Mission Monday. In one quarter, they raised \$7,664.12 for us! Thank you for choosing to support VFF!



## Sponsor-A-Family & Holiday Giving 2023

### *Feeling the Holiday Spirit?*

Interested in sponsoring a family or a single survivor this holiday season? It's amazing to witness the joy in the eyes of children and adults when they open their gifts. Our current service recipients will complete a wish list for you to use for your shopping convenience.

### *Like to shop the big sales?*

We will also need people to donate new, general household start-up items for all of our families moving into their violence free homes in the new year. For instance, Pots and Pans, Silverware, Twin Bed-in-a-Bag Sets, Cleaning Supplies, Small Kitchen Appliances, Towel Sets, Pillows, Cooking Utensils and Bathroom Décor Sets.



**We always  
are in need  
of hats and  
gloves to get us  
through the  
Winter season.**



**You can  
also visit our  
website for links  
to our Amazon  
& Chewy  
wish lists.**



### 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.**

**95  
HOUSEHOLDS  
\$366.68  
EARNED  
May 1, 2023-  
Jul 31, 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.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes I want to make a single gift to VFF today.

\_\_\_\_ I want to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly.

\_\_\_\_ I want to become a VFF Member by giving \$100 or more per year.

\_\_\_\_ I want to become a Dove Giving Club Member by giving \$500 or more per year.

\_\_\_\_ I want to volunteer with VFF.

**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 [amy.erisman@violencefreefutures.org](mailto:amy.erisman@violencefreefutures.org)**



# Donors to Violence Free Futures

Donations given from January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

## Dove Club

### 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  
Altar'd State  
Kentucky Fried Chicken Foundation

### 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  
Xenia Chrome Divas  
The Dayton Foundation

### Silver Dove \$1,000+

Missy Mae Walters  
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  
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Meijer  
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Kroger Community Rewards  
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### White Dove \$500+

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Memorial United Presbyterian Church  
Brad & Tami Montgomery  
Buckeye Research & Manufacturing  
Daniel Matulka  
Ted & Ann Heckendorn  
Montgomery Insurance & Investments  
Richard & Jacqueline Siefring

Rudy Pittl  
Geraldine Devoe  
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Mark Laurens  
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Landmark Title Agency  
Tina Marker  
Kim & Stephanie Kelly  
Tap Truck Cincinnati  
Susan & Alan Stiles  
Carolyn Ray  
Faircreek Church  
Bellbrook Lions Auxiliary  
Edward and Frances O'Shaughnessy  
Bernice Stephen

## Members Under \$500

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David & Cynthia Martin  
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Joy Brailey  
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Franklin & Mary Pleasants  
Shannon & Phillip Martin  
Greg & Lee Anne Austria  
Bambi & Jonathan Saxe  
Helen Reno  
Freda & Joseph Bracht  
Doug Tipton  
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Eleazer United Methodist Church  
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Network for Good  
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Chad & Angela Whilding  
Terry Alexander  
Carolyn & Charles Destefani  
Beth Hartong  
Fairborn First Baptist Church  
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Mary Houston  
James Beller  
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Susan Fraker  
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The Reynolds & Reynolds Associate Foundation  
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Jacob Alan Barker Foundation  
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TCN Behavioral Health  
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Greene County Children Services  
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Priscilla Smith  
Carrie Solberg  
Julie Sostrom  
Joseph Stadnicar  
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Xanni Burton  
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Rebecca Marker  
Phyllis Schoenleben  
Kimberly Stacy  
Jennifer Taylor  
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Joan Staloch  
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Marsha & Ryan Knauff  
Karolena Turner  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs  
Bill and Bobbi Jones  
Anna Porter  
Vincent and Frances Russo  
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Don & Ann Adams  
Amanda DuVall  
Samantha Klosterman  
Jaqueline Hollmeyer  
Margaret Ugolini  
New Beginnings Christian Church  
John Meehling

## 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.



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Xenia, OH 45385

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DAYTON OH

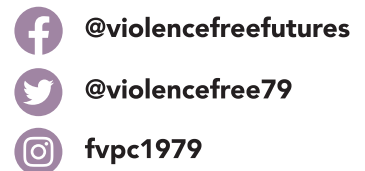
## Wish List

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 Harness
- Broom/dust pan
- Hand-held vacuum
- Toilet bowl cleaning supplies
- Label Maker
- 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**

937-426-2334

Text : 937-347-5917

**Administrative Concerns**

937-426-6535

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

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

