

CADV

Stop the Hurting

Start the Healing

...connections

Citizens Against Domestic Violence

Winter 2010

2105 Central Avenue • Middletown, Ohio 45044

CITIZENS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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If you want to make a
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Citizens Against
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2105 Central Avenue
Middletown, OH 45044

“Tina Croucher Act” Now State Law!

On December 28, 2009 Governor Ted Strickland signed the “Tina Croucher Act” into state law. The legislation will require schools to have healthy relationship/dating abuse education in grades 7-12 and have a policy on dating violence.

Senate Education Committee Chairman Sen. Gary Cates (R-West Chester) and sponsor of the bill Rep. Sandra Stabile Harwood (D-Niles) were commended by the Ohio Department of Education and State Board of Education, supporters of the bill, for “their willingness to modify the bill to address any state and local cost concerns.”

- the education will take place in health classes
- includes dating violence within the already existing anti-harassment, anti-intimidation and anti-bullying policies at both the state and local levels
- eliminates the need for new faculty and staff training by including dating violence prevention as part of training currently provided to faculty and staff around school safety and violence prevention
- eliminates the requirement to develop standards and instead allows districts to utilize existing low cost or no cost curriculums
- and links to the low cost/no cost curriculums will be on the Dept. of Education web site for schools to access

CADV's Jim and Elsa Croucher, Bridget Mahoney, and Julie Boak provided moving testimony during the course of legislative hearings throughout the past year. The measure received support from numerous organizations including the Ohio Department of Education, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, and the Ohio PTA.

A ceremonial signing was held February 16, 2010 in the Governor's Office.

From left to right back row - Katie Edwards, Bobbie Celeste, Katherine Kuck, Tom Harwood, Tim & Linda Croucher, Bob Moskowitz, Julie Boak, Bob Evick, Bridget Mahoney, Terri Evick, Rob Evick, and Ryan Jones. Front row - Rep. Sandra Stabile-Harwood, Gov. Strickland, Elsa Croucher, Jim Croucher



Tina's Story

When our daughter, Tina, was in high school, she met a young man whom she thought was the love of her life. He played football, was tall, blonde, and had a beautiful smile. What we did not know was the fact that his normal was abuse that he had witnessed in his own home all of his life. The yelling, screaming, cursing, hitting, threatening, and all of the rest that goes along with family abuse. Consequently, he did not know how to have a normal relationship, so he started telling Tina where to go, what to wear, who to talk to, and what time to be home. Tina was very straight forward and strong willed. She was one of the young ladies who would have said, "There is no man going to tell me what to do!" However, when she did allow this to happen, her boyfriend then started slapping her and punching her. When she came home one day with a big bruise on the side of her face, I asked her where it came from. She very nonchalantly replied that several of her friends had been playing football and the football hit her face. Due to the fact that she was very straight forward, I believed her, when, in fact, this young man had punched her.

During their on-off relationship of several months, this boy displayed some behavior that gave us reason to wonder about him – bursts of anger, getting upset over some of Tina's friends

being around, wanting to be with Tina constantly, and even transferring from his high school to the school where Tina attended. On one occasion, he found Tina in the school hallway talking to another guy. He totally lost it! He grabbed Tina and threw her against a locker and called her some inappropriate names. That day he was suspended from school. When Tina got home from school that

day, we told her that the behavior of this young man was very inappropriate and that she must break up with him, which she did. When he heard this news, he became hostile and belligerent. He spent most of his time calling or searching for Tina. If there was no one at home, upon returning, we would find obscene messages on our phone. He was on our street constantly trying to see Tina. He appeared at the school many times, looking in the windows to see what Tina was doing. The whole school was on alert, with the football players walking Tina into the building in the a.m., and out of the building in the p.m. He showed up at our church on a Sunday morning after the service to harass us and call us names. The youth pastor escorted him to Middletown Hospital and tried to get him admitted to the psychiatric ward, but due to the fact that he was 18 and had no insurance, he was not admitted. He finally spent a night in jail after showing up at



my job and creating a scene causing an assistant principal to call police.

My husband, Jim, and I both believed that this would all pass, and that this young man would move on to another girlfriend. He did have other girlfriends but his obsession never waned for Tina. Wherever Tina went, this young man would "just happen" to be there – at the mall, movies, a dance, school functions or whatever. On one occasion he followed Tina to a gas station where he proceeded to talk to her while she pumped gas. With the beautiful smile that he had, he persuaded her that he had been to counseling and had changed and that she should start dating him again. When Jim and I realized that Tina was seeing the young man

again, we told her that he was not allowed at our house or to call on the phone. After all, we did have a restraining order against him. We informed her that if she chose to see him since she was now considered an adult, that she must meet him away from the house and she did.

It took only a few weeks for her to figure out that the young man had not changed and she broke up with him again. Tina was now working part time and going to Miami part time, and again the young man started stalking and harassing her.

On December 21st Jim and I left for work on a Monday morning, leaving Tina sleeping in – no school or work that day. Since Tina and I had plans later that day, I started trying to call her around 9:30. No answer. I called again – no answer. This went on for a couple of hours when I finally called a neighbor and asked her to check on Tina. In the meantime, I felt compelled to go home. As I drove home I realized that something dreadful had happened and when I turned off the main road to my subdivision, I saw all of the police cars, the vans from the TV channels, and the coroner's car. When I drove up in front of my house, a body was being rolled out. The young man had gone into our house and into Tina's bedroom where he shot her in the head as she slept. He then killed himself in her bedroom **FOUR DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS.**

Hundreds of people filed through the line at Tina's visitations. We were practically numb and of course in the state of shock. Her funeral was Christmas Eve day.

After a lengthy period of grieving, as we looked back over the course of events, two things stood out in our mind.

Many of Tina's friends had come through the receiving line at visitations sobbing and telling us that they knew full well that Tina was being abused, but **THEY DID NOT TELL ANYONE!!!** Their comments were, "If we had only told you, maybe things would be different today".

Many parents and grandparents came to us and said, "That could be my daughter or granddaughter", or "my daughter just got out of a mess like this".

Our situation is not an isolated case. We get feedback from teenagers almost daily with stories of their own about how they are trying to deal with abusive situations from their boyfriend or girlfriend.



Fundraisers

On November 12, the Sans Sauci Sorority of Middletown High School had a Spaghetti Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church with the proceeds going to CADV. The response was tremendous with CADV receiving a check in the amount of \$1174.00. Our sincere thanks go out to this group for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank Breiel Church for the \$1,000 donation from their Christmas Dinner Theatre and choir concert in December.



Jim Croucher, Amy Worrell, Celeste Larson, Abbie Birchwell, and Elsa Croucher.

Scholarship Reminder

Applications for CADV's 2010 Scholarships are online. If you know of a high school senior or college student who is deserving of a CADV scholarship please direct them to our web site.

Awards-

Steel Magnolia

Congratulations go out to CADV's Etta Caver who was recently given a Steel Magnolia Award and \$1,000 was given to CADV from the Middletown Community Foundation in honor of Etta's award. The money will be used for a scholarship to a local non-traditional student.

Ruby Award

Congratulations to Elsa Croucher for being awarded the Middletown Soroptomist International's 2009 Ruby Award winner! The award is given annually to an area woman marking their achievements that have made a difference in the lives of other women. Former recipient and CADV board member Mary Lu Flynn nominated Elsa and noted that she took a tragedy and turned it into a movement for change.



Elsa receives the Ruby Award from Soroptomist President Stephanie Adams

Newsletter online and in your email

In an effort to cut costs and make the CADV newsletter more accessible, we will be posting it on our web site and emailing a copy to those who have signed up for our email list. If you haven't signed up yet please send an email to Elsa at elsa@cadv-ohio.com to let us know that you would like to receive your newsletter via email. To those of you who do not have email or access to a computer we will still be sending out your copy in the regular mail.

**CADV
CITIZENS
AGAINST
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

***“There are
two primary
choices
in life: to
accept
conditions
as they
exist or to
accept the
responsibility
for
changing
them.”***

CADV CITIZENS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

MISSION STATEMENT

Citizens Against Domestic Violence is an organization which acts to promote an awareness of Domestic Violence and the damage it does to individuals, and to family, church and business relationships. Citizens Against Domestic Violence seeks to educate through information and to implement service to those who desire freedom from Violence/Abuse.

Safe New Start

Helping victims stop the hurting and start the healing

One of the programs that CADV provides is "A Safe New Start." The backbone of the program is Elsa who is on call 24-7. When a victim calls, Elsa and Jim respond to their individual needs, providing whatever support and aid she (or he) may need to leave an abusive relationship. In coordination with area shelters, CADV assists victims with transportation, child care, rent, apartment deposits, and utilities payments. Each year CADV assists dozens of victims and their children. The numbers sometimes run well over one hundred. Elsa has been known to drop whatever she is doing to provide the very basics, food, clothing and such so a victim can get back on her feet. The stories are sometimes devastatingly painful to hear. The thank you notes like the ones below are appreciated and inspiring to know that through CADV's efforts, we are making a difference. It is why your donations of money or goods are so vital and we are grateful to all who continue to contribute to this vital cause.

Dear Citizens Against Domestic Violence,

I'm writing a few lines to let you know how very much I appreciate you and all the many wonderful good things you have done for me and helped me through after 33 years of mental and physical abuse. I almost lost my life at the hands of my soon to be ex. I was beaten severely leaving in the squad when my neighbor gave me your card. When I got out of the hospital, I was still clinging to your card (a miracle). I was traumatized for many months to come. I believe God gave me the courage to call you and, Elsa, you always took the time to counsel me on the phone. You gave me words of encouragement and started leading me in the right direction. You kept telling me not to go back and after a short while I understood why. You feared for my life the same as I did. It took me 2 1/2 years from living with my sister to begin to feel half safe to move out. You told me to give you a call when I moved and you would help me get some things together since I was left with nothing. You helped me to finally see through the fog and find my faith in God again, then knowing everything would be alright. When I finally got an apartment, completely broke, no furniture, pots or pans, dishes, I just needed everything. You and others giving have helped me turn my life around. I am not well. My health is poor but my life is good. I have peace once again when I thought it was gone for good. You know, hopelessness, but now I have hope again. I am learning who I am and kinda like me. :) I don't know what I would have done without you. Your people are all so nice. Thanks to you and CADV, I am now walking taller. You are truly my angel of mercy. Thank you for hearing God's voice and feeling and knowing in your heart that there are people like me out there. They just need help getting out.

Thanks so much, A victim

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February has been nationally declared as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Teen dating violence is a reality for many teenagers, and an issue that many parents are unaware of even though 1 in 3 teenagers is affected by dating violence. Dating violence can be physical, sexual, or verbal and nearly 1 in 5 teenagers in a serious relationship has reported being slapped, pushed, hit, threatened or coerced by a partner. Elimination of teen dating violence must be achieved through cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities. If you or someone you know is in an abusive situation please visit our web site for information on the warning signs and how to receive help. www.cadv-ohio.com

Grants 2009-2010

We couldn't do it without you!

As you are well aware in these hard economic times contributions are down for all organizations. However the incidents of domestic violence rise in direct correlation to the bad economy. Your contributions are needed more than ever. Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation today. All donations are tax deductible.

Middletown Community Foundation	\$8,000
Verizon Wireless	3,000
Miriam Knoll	1,000
Jewish Federation of Cincinnati & Richard Consulting Corp.	\$1,000
LCNB	\$250
AK Steel	\$1,000
Molyneaux Foundation	\$2,000
Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty Twp.....	\$2,500
Amy's Fund-Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty Twp.....	\$9,399
TJX	\$5,000
Spaulding Foundation	\$5,000
Jergens Foundation	\$5,000

Thank you to our donors & sponsors

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Raffle Gift Basket Requests

CADV would appreciate donations for our raffle of gift baskets. No item is too small and may be combined with other items to create a basket such as movie tickets, spa products, or gardening supplies.

DID YOU KNOW....

CADV accepts donations in memory or in honor of a loved one. Your donation is tax deductible and the family will be notified of your donation

CADV Citizens Against Domestic Violence

Citizens Against Domestic Violence
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**CADV
CITIZENS
AGAINST
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

*Measure
a person's
character
by how
he treats
those
who can
do him no
good and
how he
treats
those
who can't
fight back.*

CADV

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Middletown, OH 45044

Save the Date!!

“A Pathway to Peace”

10th Annual Tina Croucher Scholarship Luncheon

Sunday, April 18, 12:30 p.m.

Brown’s Run Country Club

All proceeds from the luncheon and raffle of gift baskets will be given to local students who are deserving of a scholarship. Scholarship applications are available online at our web site www.cadv-ohio.com

The theme of this year’s luncheon is “A Pathway to Peace.” For reservations please call Elsa at 513- 423-0044 or email at elsa@cadv-ohio.com .