



# The Summit & Medina Anti-Violence Advocate

SPECIAL MEDINA COUNTY EDITION

A Publication of the Battered Women's Shelter where  
"Peace Begins at Home"



## Animal, Domestic Abuse Linked Prosecutor says new policy may help prevent violence

### Special points of interest:

- We are pleased to announce that our spring volunteer classes were a success! We have wonderful people in our community! For info on volunteering please call Beth at 330-374-0740 ext.41.
- Please see The Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties on Facebook
- Look for upcoming information about our next Medina County fundraiser! We need your help make it a success!

HAMILTON— Butler County Prosecutor Robin Piper is keeping closer tabs on animal abusers as a way to combat a consistent trend in domestic-violence cases.

In a move that one domestic-violence advocate called "innovative", Piper on Tuesday announced the formation of a new Domestic Crimes unit that will lump together all animal-cruelty cases under the control of one assistant prosecutor.

The approach is meant to nip violence at the earliest stages, Piper said, and maybe reduce the 100-plus felony domestic-violence cases that are reported in the country each year.

"If you stop animal cruelty in its tracks, you very well may be minimizing future domestic violence," Piper said. "They are both crimes involving violence on those who are less able to protect themselves. Anytime you can break a cycle of violence, that's a good thing."

People convicted of animal abuse might soon have to post bail to get out of jail during misdemeanor cases. Those convicted may have to attend anger-management classes, as part of their sentence, Piper said.

"It's the same kind of cruelty, the same type of psychological damage and destruction as domestic violence", he said.

National statistics, many gleaned from surveys of women in domestic-violence shelters, support Piper's theory.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, 13 percent of animal-abuse cases involve domestic violence. Seventy-one percent of pet owners entering domestic-violence shelters report that their batterers threatened, injured, or killed family pets.

Leslie Malkin, program director for the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, said the correlation between the two kinds of abuse is pretty clear.

"It can be an indicator of domestic violence. It can be a precursor to domestic violence and it's one means by which an abuser tries to maintain control," she said.

Malkin said Piper's idea is "cutting edge."

Other states have made similar connections by allowing protective orders to be granted for family pets in domestic-violence cases. Last year, Indiana made it a felony for a person to kill an animal to intimidate.

By Sheila McLaughlin

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Start a discussion on our Summit/Medina County Battered Women's Shelter Facebook page

## United Way's Day of Caring 2008

We had volunteers from UPS spend Friday, June 20th at our Summit County Crisis Center. The seven dedicated workers painted our front porch, cleaned the weeds out of our playground area, and lifted our spirits with their big smiles. Thank you United Way and Akron UPS!!



VOLUNTEERS PLANT THE SEEDS OF KINDNESS!

## Where is the Battered Man's Shelter?

Domestic violence hotlines are a life line for victims in danger.

BWS Medina Hotline:  
330-723-3900

BWS Summit Hotline:  
330-374-1111



**NOBODY SHOULD HAVE TO SPEND THEIR DAYS WALKING ON EGG-SHELLS!!!**

Learn more about BWS

Support Groups

330-374-0740

Research and statistics indicate that domestic violence affects mostly affects women. However male victimization is a reality in both Summit and Medina Counties. Getting men to talk about, report and seek help during their recovery period is very difficult. Men who call the local hotlines often start off their phone call with one of these statements;

Do you even help men?

Is the Battered Women's Shelter run by a bunch of male haters?

I'd like to talk but I do not think you'll believe me.

The calls often take longer because the hotline workers need to build a trusting relationship with the caller, while providing a tremendous amount educational information. The callers themselves often do not understand or accept that they, as a male, can experience domestic violence. The stigma about male victimization is everywhere. When I am out speaking to a group of people and the topic comes up, it is often met by cruel side comments and jokes. People generalize that since men are

bigger than women, they could not be abused unless they are weak or a "sissy". Many of male relatives, friends and co-workers grew up with the male stereotypes that they should be able to fight and defend themselves. Most men are taught to "hit back" when someone punches or fights with them. Therefore it must take an enormous amount of inner strength NOT to strike back on the person attacking them.

Abuse is abuse no matter what sex you are. Men can experience physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and financial abuse. Most often, the offender slowly takes away the persons ability to make their own decisions. The self esteem of the victim plummets as the manipulation of the offender increases. Just like women, male victims believe that they can change or help the offender. They often minimize the abuse or make excuses for the offenders violence. Furthermore, men experience the same post-abuse reactions; often feeling guilty, confused, isolated and unworthy of a better life.

Jason, 24, was married to his wife for two years, having been together for six years in total: "She used to scream at me all the time and lash out during arguments. I had to tell colleagues that the cat

was always scratching me. Really it was my wife, but I couldn't tell them that. How could I tell my male friends? It's not something you just slip into the conversation?" Often men will comment that the physical abuse, including hits and slaps, did not hurt at all compared to their humiliation and embarrassment of being emotionally abused.

Male victims need and deserve the same services as female victims. Although, the name of the organization does not reflect the fact; our services are duplicated for any man calling to ask for help. We will provide safe shelter, crisis counseling, financial support and other wrap around services. The staff and volunteers have been trained to work with men in the same empathetic manner as they do female victims. We encourage men to call our hotline if they need any type of support or assistance dealing with domestic violence.

-Terri Heckman

BWS Exec. Director

## HELP IS NEEDED TO KEEP THE MEDINA BWS OPEN

Unfortunately, it is a daily conversation topic-how much more can we possibly pay for gas, food, clothing, and other daily needs?! Everyone is feeling the pinch. It's almost unavoidable.

The Medina County Battered Women's Shelter is not immune to the results of the local economy. Just in this past year, funds that have historically helped provide a 24 hour safe haven for victims of domestic violence in Medina have drastically decreased. For example, Medina BWS has seen over a \$25,000 decrease from local funders alone. If we continue to experience a reduction in financial support of our pro-

We are calling on ALL of our supporters, but specifically residents in Medina County, to financially contribute to Medina BWS. We know that times are tight, but keeping our shelter doors open and programs in operation is **CRITICAL TO THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MEDINA COUNTY.**

**The Medina County Battered Women's Shelter is the only agency in Medina County providing emergency shelter and supportive services specifically for victims of Domestic Violence in Medina County.**

- 50 Medina County families had a safe night's sleep because they found protection within the walls of our shelter.
- More than 600 hotline calls from victims were answered in Medina by trained intervention staff
- Almost 1100 victims received support, options, and education as they accessed their legal rights against their abusers.

CLEARLY FAMILY ABUSE PERMEATES IN MEDINA COMMUNITIES.

MEDINA BWS NEEDS YOU!

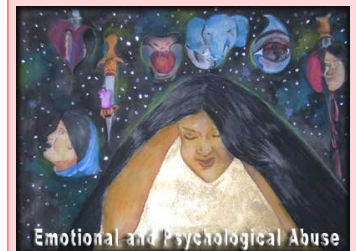


**PLEASE CONSIDER FINANCIALLY RESPONDING VIA THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE WITHIN THIS NEWSLETTER. 100% of your contribution is tax deductible and directly impacts the lives of victims of domestic violence.**

Thank YOU for joining in our goal to  
"PROMOTE PEACE in EVERY FAMILY"

### BREAK the SILENCE

You had promised me, time and time again, That you wouldn't strike me with your own two hands. You said you liked me, and you loved me so. But why did you deliver those hard, heavy blows? I took the beating and ignored your words. The words of liars, that I've already heard; Sometimes I wish that I could just pack my bags and leave. Instead, I stayed, living a life of this make-believe; But, now, today, I face the facts, that I need to leave and never come back. My endurance is low, and just ran out. I'm not a punching bag, that's not what I'm about. I am unique. A person, an individual. And I want someone different, whose feelings are mutual. I need a partner that will love me the right way. Without hitting or cursing, and hear what I have to say. I have made the choice to break my silence, and tell the world, I'm no longer a victim of domestic violence. —T. Taing





Medina General Hospital

## Mark Your Calendars! Medina YWCA Women's Health Fair!

The YWCA of Medina County will hold its 14th Annual Women's Health Fair on Saturday, September 20th, 2008, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Medina General Hospital. Over 450 people attended the Fair last year.

They will have free screenings which include: blood pressure, bone density, cholesterol, glucose, hearing, vision and body fat composition. Over 50 booths will provide information for things such as osteoporosis, breast and cervical cancer

prevention, heart disease, fitness, legal and financial concerns, beauty tips and products, curvature of the spine and many other health oriented services. In addition, free nutritional refreshments are provided.

The Battered Women's

The Battered Women's Shelter and Rape Crisis Center will be there to support the women of Medina County!

"He who has health, has hope, and he who has hope has everything"

-- Arabian Proverb

## OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MURDERS INCREASE WHILE PRESIDENT BUSH SLASHES BUDGET



Over the past year and especially in recent months, an unfortunate national spotlight has been cast upon Ohio due to devastating and horrific acts of domestic violence. In just the past six months, a Fairfield County woman was murdered and a Portsmouth teacher was critically shot and stabbed in front of her students, each woman attacked by their estranged intimate partners. In a Newark case, a woman stabbed and killed her abusive boyfriend.

These tragedies sadly illustrate the very real dangers women face when attempting to end abusive relationships. In two cases, the victims had obtained protection orders against their abusive partner, and in the third, the deceased batterer had a long history of violence and faced pending felony domestic violence charges.

Names like Jessie Davis and her unborn daughter Chloe, the Veillette family of Mason, and Vandalia's Cpl. Marie Lauterbach and her unborn son Gabriel, are still fresh in the minds of Ohians. Statistics from the Ohio Attorney General's Office report at least 427 men, women, and children were killed by domestic violence in Ohio in 2006, a rate greater than one per day.

The number of recent domestic violence homicides and attempted homicides is just one indicator of the prevalence of domestic violence. It is imperative that people know that leaving can be very dangerous, but help is available and needs to remain available. In addition to providing emergency safe housing, Ohio's domestic violence programs also provide legal advocacy, safety planning, individual and group counseling, and other victim services.

Local domestic violence programs save lives and protect victims and their children from further violence. Despite the obvious and critical need, their continued operation is by no means assured. Ohio's programs provide an unbelievable amount of service given the current funding levels. The unfortunate reality is that Ohio programs do report a critical shortage in staff and resources to assist all victims seeking services. President Bush's 2009 budget proposes to cut by one-third the essential funding which was authorized by Congress last year through the Violence Against Women Act. The president, legislators, and all elected officials in the United States and Ohio must continue to provide adequate levels of funding so that the needs of all domestic violence victims may be met. Although we have made great progress over the last several decades, these recent horrible and heart-breaking tragedies reveal the continuing need for expanded service.

Courtesy of ODVN

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Meade

The mission of the Medina County Domestic & Sexual Violence Taskforce is to provide a coordinated community response to eradicate domestic and sexual violence by sharing information and promoting public awareness.

**On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008** during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Taskforce will be hosting a day of education and awareness on the square in Medina. Each member will have a table with information and brochures about their agency/organization at the event. Members of the taskforce include: Battered Women's

Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties, Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties, Community Legal Aid, Medina Municipal Court, City of Wadsworth Prosecutor's Office, Medina City Prosecutor, Medina Visitation/Exchange Center, Medina County Domestic Relations Court, Brunswick Hills Police Department, Medina Municipal Court Probation Department, Medina County Job and Family Services, Catholic Charities, Community Action of Wayne & Medina, YMCA of Medina County, Alternative Paths and Cornerstone Wellness Center.

This event will place emphasis on community awareness in the areas of domestic violence, children who witness violence and the connection between animal and human abuse. The SPCA will participate and provide education on the latter. This event will include a "cutest dog" contest. Families are invited to bring their dogs and mix awareness and education with some fun!! There will be arts and crafts activities for children as well! For more information, please call Crystal Baker at 330-723-9610.



Medina is family-oriented community!

## Summer Fun For The Kids!

Kids love scavenger hunts and summer is the perfect time to host one. Scavenger hunts are so much fun that your kids will ask to play them over and over again. So, add a little variety to your summer treasure hunt planning and try one of these ideas.

### Archaeological Dig

Use a sandbox or find a great spot at the beach to bury plastic dinosaurs and/or bones in the sand. If you do this at the beach, mark out the location with some tent stakes and string. Also, remember how many items you hid. Assign points to different types if you want to give the game an extra twist, but it's not necessary. Kids will enjoy the thrill of digging for the buried fossils regardless. If possible, give each child a pail and a shovel. Then, let the hunt begin. The child who finds the most dinosaurs/bones in the allotted time wins. If the children are very young, let them keep the dinosaurs they find as a prize.

### Panning for Gold

Spray paint some tiny stones gold and use a hard plastic swimming pool or sandbox to mix more unpainted stones and lots of sand and water. For this hunt either get a steel sieve for each of the kids (they are available at most discount stores) or cut pieces of plastic screening for them to use to pan for gold. The child who finds the most gold in the allotted time wins. Please note: It is important that the stones you use are very tiny or it will be too easy for the children to spot them without sifting through the sand and other stones.



The basic popsicle recipe is super easy:  
 3 ounces of your favorite Jell-O flavor  
 1 packet of unsweetened Kool-Aid (a flavor that complements the Jell-O)  
 1 cup of sugar  
 1 cup of boiling water

Directions: Combine all ingredients in a large pitcher that can hold at least 2 quarts, and stir until dissolved. Next, add enough cold water to make 2 quarts. Then, pour the mixture into your molds and freeze until it starts to thicken. Finally, insert a popsicle stick (if needed, you can find the sticks at your local grocery store) and let it freeze completely.



## Medina Steps to Independence by MaryAnn Deluca

The Medina Steps to Independence (STI) transitional housing program is designed to prevent homelessness and assist victims of domestic violence in gaining their independence after leaving a violent relationship. Battered Women's Shelter (BWS) received this grant in January of 2007. Since the start, this program has assisted 18 women and 30 children. Currently, 12 women and 23 children are participating. Ages of participants range from 27 to 65, with the children ranging in age from 2 to 18. Along with housing assistance, the women participate in case management, along with various support programs. This is to help them continue to succeed in life, free of domestic violence for themselves and their children. The program goes beyond financial assistance by preparing the client for the time after their 6 months of participation. This case management includes, but is not limited to; budgeting skills, availability of community resources, direction in education opportunities, resources for children, referrals for counseling and legal referrals, legal advocacy, crisis intervention and the support of sharing time with other participants. Along with case management, clients maintain weekly contact for support or to share positive news. All participants are requested to attend a monthly get together to share their successes and struggles according to their level of comfort. These meetings may include a guest speaker on a subject relevant to all of the ladies. Our most recent meeting was held at Hinkley Park, Whipps Ledges area. The meeting was attended by 6 ladies and 10 children. We cooked on the grill and a family of raccoons kept a close watch over us. This was quite a thrill for the little ones, and a challenge for the mothers to keep the kids from picking up and petting them. This group is very supportive of each other and willing to share their experiences in an effort to guide them through the various road blocks they will face. The children enjoy being together and the older ones are quick to interact with the little ones.

Many of these families would not have left their abusive partners, if not for the STI program, specifically, and other BWS programs collectively.

One may ask, "Why would someone who is physically abused not leave the relationship?"

[The following are just a few reasons "Why she stays";

He may threaten to take the children if she tries to leave. He may threaten to kill her if she tries to leave. (Lethality increases 75% after leaving)

Often in an abusive relationship, the victim is isolated from her friends and family and so has no where to go and no one to turn to for support.

Victims are often not permitted to work, leaving them without the financial means to leave. Being absent from the work force, during the relationship, their marketing skills are out dated.

Religious beliefs can be a major stumbling block to leaving. We are told to "love, honor and obey," and that the man is the head of the household. Divorce is frowned upon and anything short of complete submission is unacceptable.

Often the victim does not identify the abuse as wrong, or they believe that they should stay and 'fix' the relationship, when in reality, they can not fix something they did not break.



We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness.

Author: Thomas Jefferson

## Domestic Violence in the Workplace By Keith Dailey

Domestic violence is a public health issue, an economic issue and a workplace safety issue.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, intimate partner violence (also called domestic violence, battering or spousal abuse) is associated with long-term serious health consequences and significant social and public health costs. The annual cost of domestic violence has been estimated to be more than \$5.8 billion per year. Victims of such violence lose about 8 million days of paid work each year - the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs. Women are the primary victims of domestic violence, but

increasing numbers of men also report being victimized. With this in mind, the Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach (GOWIO) considers domestic violence and its impact on the workplace a key policy initiative.

On Wednesday, April 16, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed an Executive Order creating a policy and training for roughly 60,000 state employees of Cabinet agencies, boards and commissions on workplace domestic violence. The creation of the Executive Order, policy and training has been the result of collaboration, led by GOWIO, between a number of

state agencies such as the Ohio Departments of Health, Administrative Services and Public Safety, as well as the Employee Assistance Program. A diverse representation of non-governmental entities throughout Ohio has also taken an active role in this project.

Executive Order can be found at

[Keith.Dailey@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:Keith.Dailey@governor.ohio.gov)



## Help Us Promote Peace and Healthy Relationships!

Did you know that the Battered Women's Shelter is the ONLY agency in Summit and Medina Counties offering emergency shelter and crisis intervention services to victims of domestic violence and their children? 100% of our programs are provided at no cost to THOUSANDS of victims each year.

We offer a wide range of services from Shelter, to Youth Advocacy, to Transitional Housing Services, to Court Advocacy, to Sup-

port Groups. We need your financial support in order to keep these critical programs in operation for victims for family violence.

Consider donations of the following. Your contributions help us promote peace in every family.

- \$20 per month (\$240 per year) provides an entire shelter building with fresh vegetables and dairy products for one year
- \$30 per month (\$360 per year) pays for Time Warner cable service in one of the shelters—allowing child victims of

domestic violence to relax and "feel like normal kids" while watching the Disney Channel, PBS, and Nickelodeon

- \$50 per month (\$600 per year) provides bus tickets to an entire building of shelter residents for one year
- \$100 per month (\$1200 per year) will help offset the cost of providing a 24 hour domestic violence hotline in Summit and Medina Counties

"Help us promote peace in EVERY family."



Please consider making a tax deductible cash donation to the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties.

Battered Women's Shelter  
759 West Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44303

Summit: 330-374-0740  
Medina: 330-723-9610

"PEACE BEGINS AT HOME"



## Summer Time Needs List!

The Summit and Medina County Battered Women's Shelters help thousands of people every year to stand, find courage, grow, change and gain independence. With your help we can continue to keep a safe and healthy residence for those families who have chosen a violent free life. Please contact Polly at 330-374-0740 to drop off any of these items!

### Cleaning Supplies :

- Laundry Soap/Bleach
- Pin Sol/Mops
- Brooms/Laundry Basket

### Paper Products

- Paper Towels/Plates
- Napkins/Tissue/TPaper
- Plastic Ware

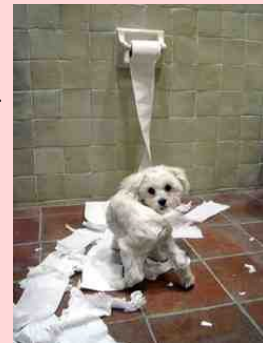
### Other

- Diapers
- Food
- Sanitary Protection
- Sunscreen/Bug repellent
- Bathing Suits

The Shelters are not air conditioned. These items would help with the summer heat.

- Juice Boxes
- Popsicles
- Ice Cream
- Floor Fans
- Window Fans
- Bottled Water

Thank you for helping. Have a safe and happy summer.



HELP!!!!

OUR SHELTERS  
NEED TOILETPAPER!!!