

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION BOARD**

# **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

# WELCOME

## Dear friends,

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Prevention Board (DVPB), I am honored to present the 2017 Annual Report highlighting activities and initiatives during 2017.

The conversations and events dotting the timeline of our national landscape in 2017 reaffirmed the importance of the DVPB's work. The values which DVPB has always stood for — safety, accountability, community collaboration — were values reflected in the core essence of many social movements locally, nationally and globally. 2017 reaffirmed the notion that each individual has critical responsibilities and roles to play in creating and sustaining safe communities which are safe for everyone. The diversity of our voices, ideas and skills to create a community in which we all feel safe and respected will continue to be vital towards positive progress.

In 2017, DVPB took steps toward creating a safer community, including:

- Forging new partnerships to engage more members of the community, as exhibited by outreach to businesses and agencies and the expansion of DVPB's membership
- Holding DVPB's first ever retreat to hear from collaborative partners regarding DVPB's mission and values
- Creating new multi-lingual resources for outreach to underserved communities and collaborating with new partners to establish new ways of distributing those resources

These accomplishments are the result of effective collaborative partnerships and a community working together to achieve goals. As always, we continue to be grateful to those who continue to show up, and work toward a community where safety, dignity and accountability, are centered. We have made great progress in recent years, but there is still much work to be done in 2018. It is my hope you continue to support our mission with as much energy, commitment and passion as you have in the past.

Stephane Theakston, MSW

Domestic Violence Prevention Board

## OUR MISSION

**To create a culture of safety  
and empowered stakeholders through  
advocacy, education, collaboration, and  
service coordination for communities  
impacted by interpersonal violence.**

# EDUCATE

## A New Perspective on Strangulation

In February, over 70 law enforcement officers, attorneys, and service providers enhanced their knowledge and skills to prevent, detect, and prosecute strangulation in the context of intimate partner violence.

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**“I learned much more than I expected I would. I will use this training in the day-to-day in my job.”**

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Dr. Bill Smock, Police Surgeon for the Louisville Metro Police Department, and Hon. Kathy Phillips, Prosecutor for the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, presented on the dangers of strangulation, ways to address challenges of documenting and prosecuting strangulation crimes, and improving assistance to strangulation victims.

The training represented the start of a collective and coordinated effort to prevent strangulation and hold perpetrators of this lethal crime accountable. As one police officer commented after the training, “I learned much more than I expected I would. I will use this training in the day-to-day in my job.”

## Legislative Updates

Throughout the 2017 legislative session, DVPB distributed weekly bulletins to more than 100 people on resolutions and bills introduced in Kentucky’s General Assembly. DVPB tracked proposed legislation involving interpersonal and family violence, child welfare, vulnerable adults, human trafficking, and animal abuse. This service

provided timely information to those working in the field of violence prevention, delivering insight on how state systems protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

## Community Awareness

Educating the community on the impact of interpersonal violence and the availability of resources is a core component of our work. In 2017, DVPB created and distributed several resources and presented new learning opportunities. New resource postcards provide information to survivors in places they may access away from an abusive partner. Postcards in English and Spanish were placed at churches, clothing stores, restaurants, community centers, and health clinics. In February, DVPB conducted In Her Shoes, an interactive, educational experience giving participants a better understanding and deeper empathy for the day-to-day reality of survivors. DVPB’s public service announcements, produced in English and Spanish continue to run on local radio stations.



(Above) Front cover of Spanish-language resource postcards. Over 1,000 postcards were strategically distributed throughout Lexington.

# SUPPORT

## Safe Measures

Safe Measures, a new program through the Partner Abuse Committee, was launched in October 2016. It's fundamental aim is to increase safety and autonomy of survivors wishing to remain in their current homes but are unable to do so safely, due to ongoing threats from an abusive partner. Through this program, DVPB provides survivors with critical safety enhancements such as lock changes, security cameras, window alarms, panic buttons, and more.

In 2017, DVPB assisted more to 20 adult survivors, increasing the safety of their home. As a result, DVPB also increased safety for 19 children and 7 other adults living with survivors, a total of 46 people served.

## Diverse and Inclusive Services

DVPB continues to build on previous efforts to serve diverse communities. In 2017, the DVPB revisited conversations about language used when describing its work and frameworks applied when serving survivors. The DVPB is currently focusing on ways it more holistically incorporate services for all survivors of domestic, dating, and sexual violence.

DVPB strives to be intentional in its outreach, services, and response to survivors in LGBTQ communities. DVPB will continue to develop resources specifically for LGBTQ communities. DVPB also participated in Pride Fest for the first time through an informational booth. More program initiatives are underway and the DVPB looks forward to developing these efforts in 2018 and beyond.

## Paint Lex Purple

A record number of businesses and organizations engaged in Domestic Violence Awareness Month to show support for survivors in October 2017. During the Paint Lex Purple event, several businesses incorporated the color purple into products and window displays, hung ribbons, flyers, banners, and displayed resources to emphasize the vital role community involvement plays in preventing interpersonal violence.

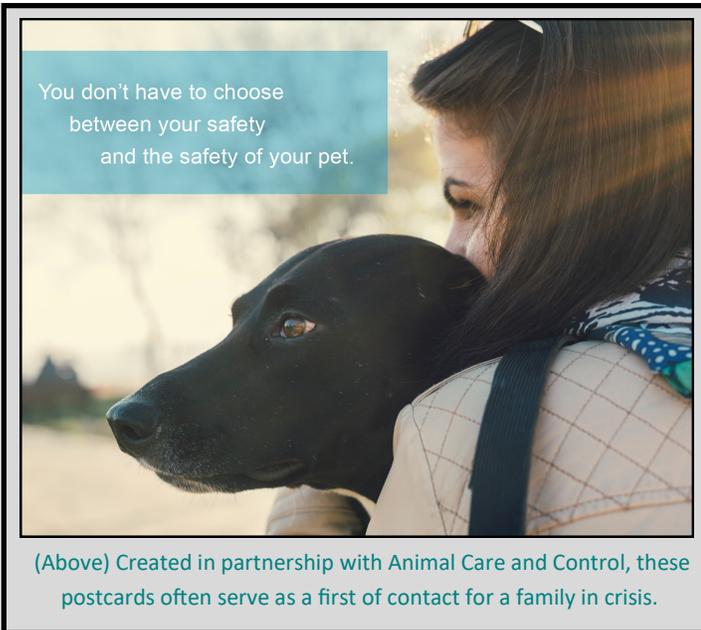
Members and collaborative partners of DVPB also displayed support for survivors by distributing informational resources in English, Spanish, and French, engaging family, friends and coworkers in events supporting survivors, and participating in Wear Purple Day.



(Above) Advocates participating in Wear Purple Day.

(Below) Purple goods created by local businesses showing support for Paint Lex Purple.

# PREVENT



## Animal Abuse & Intimate Partner Violence

Animal abuse is a significant indicator of family violence. Survivors often delay leaving an abusive partner out of concern for the safety of their pets. DVPB has begun a partnership with Animal Care and Control (ACC) in an effort to develop greater awareness of interpersonal violence.

In June, GreenHouse17 provided training to ACC staff on links between animal abuse and family abuse. In August, DVPB created new resources for ACC's use. When ACC staff enter a home where an animal is being abused or neglected and suspect family members may also be suffering from abuse, potential victims may be provided resources letting them know of community options for themselves and their pets. Animal Care and Control could be a first point of social service contact for a family in crisis. It is the hope of DVPB that this partnership will allow us to reach those in need of assistance.

## Underserved Victim Advocacy Project

In late 2017, the Department of Social Services was awarded a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant through the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to ensure survivors of interpersonal violence in underserved communities have access to services and legal protections. The DVPB plans to implement this new project in 2018. The nationally recognized GreenDot model will be used to improve knowledge and access to services for immigrant, refugee, and limited English proficient communities and African American communities. Over the years the DVPB intends to expand its focus to include other underserved communities.

Through this grant, DVPB will also provide emergency shelter and non-medical care to survivors with disabilities and financial assistance to survivors for housing stability.

## Reflecting on Our Work

In October 2017, DVPB hosted its first retreat, granting time and space to examine its own work. Over 40 people came together to engage with one another and gain clarity on the work of the collective board. The DVPB reviewed its mission statement to ensure it accurately reflects who the board is, what it does, and who it serves. Out of the process came a revised mission statement and strengthened commitment to its purpose and values. The DVPB will continue this process in 2018, continuously analyzing through partnerships and data the needs of a rapidly evolving and expanding community.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Chair: Kelly Wells**, County Attorney's Office, Victim Advocate

**Vice Chair: Diane Fleet**, GreenHouse17, Assistant Director

**Secretary: Sgt. Jerimiah Harville**, Lexington Police Department, Sergeant

**Treasurer: Chris Ford**, Lexington Department of Social Services, Commissioner

## EX-OFFICIO

**Rashmi Adi-Brown**, CHES Solutions Group, Director of Division of Family and Youth Services

**Chief Mark Barnard**, Lexington Police Department, Chief

**Ronnie Bastin**, Lexington Department of Public Safety, Commissioner

**Anita Capillo**, SANE, Director

**Emmanuel Caulk**, Fayette County Public Schools, Superintendent

**Emily Charles**, Sunflower Kids, Director

**April Davis**, KY Cabinet for Health & Family Services, Service Region Administration

**Hon. Catherine DeFlorio**, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, VAWA Attorney

**Connie Godfrey**, Lexington Adult & Tenant Services, Director

**Denise Kennedy**, Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency of the Bluegrass, Ombudsman

**M.E. Kobes**, Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, Director

**Hon. Lucinda Masterton**, Fayette County Family Court, Chair

**Lisa Minton**, Chrysalis House, Director

**Chief Joe Monroe**, UK Police Department, Chief

**Jennifer Oberlin**, Office on Homelessness Prevention and Intervention, Interim Director

**Duane Osborne**, Friend of the Court's Office, Friend of the Court

**Kathy Plomin**, Lexington City Council, Councilmember

**Hon. Lou Anna Red Corn**, Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Commonwealth Attorney

**Vince Riggs**, Fayette County Circuit Court, Clerk

**Hon. Larry Roberts**, County Attorney's Office, County Attorney

**Joanna Rodes**, Lexington Family Care Center, Director

**Winn Stephens**, Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass, Director

**Isabel Gereda Taylor**, Global Lex, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator

**Darlene Thomas**, GreenHouse17, Director

**Jeffrey White**, The Nest, Director

**Sheriff Kathy Witt**, Office of Fayette County Sheriff, Sheriff

## APPOINTED MEMBERS

**Aalaa Albaroudi**, Lexington Community Member

**Chad Aull**, Fusion Corp Design, Sr. Sales Account Manager

**Rev. Kelly Flood**, KY House of Representatives, Representative

**Dr. TK Logan**, UK Center on Drug & Alcohol Research, Professor

**Cynthia Robichaux**, Lexington VA Medical Center, Primary Care-Mental Health Integration Program Manager

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Patricia Acosta**, The Nest  
**Rashmi Adi-Brown**, CHES Solutions Group  
**Aalaa Albaroudi**, Lexington Community  
**April Ballentine**, Office of Fayette County Sheriff  
**Hon. Traci Brislin**, Fayette Family Court  
**Cliff Bryant**, Department for Community Based Services  
**Emily Charles**, Sunflower Kids  
**Debbie Collins**, Fayette Family Court  
**Tiffany Compton**, Lexington Family Care Center  
**Pati Coulter**, County Attorney's Office  
**Catherine DeFlorio**, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass  
**Diane Fleet**, GreenHouse17  
**Rev. Kelly Flood**, Kentucky House of Representatives  
**Chris Ford**, Lexington Department of Social Services  
**David Graves**, Family Law  
**Mike Finucane**, Action Counseling  
**Leticia Hagerman**, Lexington Police Department  
**Cornetta Harris**, Lexington Police Department  
**Sgt. Jeremiah Harville**, Lexington Police Department  
**Taryn Henning**, Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center  
**Hunter Hickman**, The Nest  
**Mary Houlihan**, Commonwealth Attorney's Office  
**Angela Hunter**, Action Counseling  
**Jennifer Johnson**, Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center  
**M.E. Kobes**, Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center  
**Carolynn Lee**, Office of Fayette County Sheriff  
**Nicky LeGood**, Wellcare Health Plans  
**Zach Losey**, Lexington City Council  
**Angie Maldonado**, Friend of the Court Office  
**Melissa Martin**, Lexington Police Department  
**Robert Mason**, Counseling Associates  
**Hon. Lucinda Masterton**, Fayette Family Court  
**Katie Mooney**, The Nest  
**Jen Oberlin**, Office on Homelessness Prevention and Intervention  
**Duane Osborne**, Friend of the Court

**Angie Pacheco**, Circuit Court Clerk's Office  
**Kathy Phillips**, Commonwealth Attorney's Office  
**Tim Philpot**, Fayette Family Court  
**Kathy Plomin**, Lexington City Council  
**Ginny Redman**, Chrysalis House  
**Vince Riggs**, Circuit Court Clerk's Office  
**Jordyn Ritchie**, Office of Fayette County Sheriff  
**Nylar Roberts**, CASA  
**Cindy Robichaux**, Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
**Joanna Rodes**, Lexington Family Care Center  
**Molly Ruhl**, CASA  
**Brittany Scordo**, Commonwealth Attorney's Office  
**Jill Smith**, Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
**Kristy Stambaugh**, Lexington Aging and Disability Services  
**Hon. Kathy Stein**, Fayette Family Court  
**Melissa Stiff**, Lexington Senior Center  
**Isabel Taylor**, Global Lex  
**Darlene Thomas**, GreenHouse17  
**Jessica Tope**, GreenHouse17  
**Lee Turpin**, Fayette County Attorney's Office  
**Charlotte Vice**, Pride Community Services Organization  
**Jaclyn Vickery**, Sunflower Kids  
**Theta Vinegar**, Fayette County Sheriff  
**Amy Ward**, UK Targeted Assessment Program  
**Melinda Weathers**, Lexington Police Department  
**Katie Webster**, Commonwealth Attorney's Office  
**Kelly Wells**, Fayette County Attorney's Office  
**Kristen Wilson**, Fayette County Attorney's Office  
**Sheriff Kathy Witt**, Office of Fayette County Sheriff  
**Rewa Zakharia**, Commonwealth Attorney's Office

## DVPB STAFF

**Stephanie Theakston**, Lexington Department of Social Services