

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



domestic & sexual violence

Prevention Coalition 



YEAR IN REVIEW

**"WITHOUT COMMUNITY THERE IS NO
LIBERATION." - AUDRE LORDE**

In a year marked by division and distance - through physical space, but also divisions based on race, class, religion, and every other difference you can imagine - one truth continued to ring through: connection and community matter.

Despite numerous efforts to divide us, I found myself on the other side of 2021 more committed than ever to the potency and necessity of community.

Our connection to each other and our communities is what makes us powerful - in our convictions and values, in our knowledge and understanding, and in our work to prevent domestic and sexual violence and support survivors. Without community we cannot be successful in this work, survivors cannot find lasting safety and self-determination, people who cause harm cannot be held accountable.

Much of the work in 2021 was oriented toward helping build community around a unified purpose:

- Equipping communities with skills to prevent violence before it occurs through Green Dot Lexington
- Empowering communities to promote survivor safety through the creation of the SUPPORT Survivors guide
- Educating workplaces and broadening partnerships to increase capacity to respond to the needs of survivors.
- Encouraging service providers to continue building LGBTQ-affirmative services and adopt an anti-oppression framework to that supports the diversity of survivors

We have made great strides fulfilling our mission and connecting to community in new ways. Yet, until all are safe from violence, this work continues. There is still much progress to be made, many members of our community to serve, and the ideals of community to uphold.

Stephanie Theakston, MSW
DSVPC Coordinator

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Survivor-Centered:

Practices are centered on and responsive to survivors and those they care about. Practices are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and nonjudgmental. Survivors are the experts in their unique experiences, providing the foundation for the practices and interventions they receive.

Community Accountability:

Survivors are never responsible for abuse. It is the responsibility of the community to change the culture of tolerance to intolerance of abuse and coercive control, to hold offenders accountable and focus on offender behavior rather than the behavior of the survivor.

Inter-Agency Collaboration and Coordination:

No single organization or system offers the solution to intimate partner and sexual violence. Fostering open communication, transparency, and respectful coordination across agencies increases our collective capacity to hold offenders accountable and serve survivors.

Intentional Access:

All survivors deserve access to systems, services, and resources. Identifying and removing barriers that limit or deny access is critical to increasing safety for survivors.

IPV Informed:

Intervention and prevention practices are informed by the understanding that interpersonal violence is a pattern of purposeful behavior that includes coercion, intimidation, emotional harm, and assault that may vary in scope, severity, and duration. Establishing safety and accountability is an ongoing process.

Anti-Oppression:

We oppose all forms of oppression. While our work is rooted in the historical context of violence against women, oppressions such as racism, sexism, homophobia/heterosexism, classism, ableism, ageism, xenophobia, and others contribute to the perpetuation of interpersonal violence.

MISSION

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





OUTREACH & AWARENESS

SPREADING MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Wake Up! Lex

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in April, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition conducted our 2nd annual Wake Up! Lex campaign. By partnering with local coffee shops who agreed to use our special Wake Up drink sleeves, we spread information about Ampersand Sexual Violence Resource Center along with messages of support for survivors across our community. With the help of local businesses, we reached people who might otherwise not be aware of the support and services available to survivors of sexual violence. In 2021, the number of local partnerships DOUBLED! We look forward to continue growing this campaign.

card to help link people to local resources and services for survivors of intimate partner violence. We extend a very special thank you for the generous effort of Transylvania University's women's soccer and field hockey teams for painting the pumpkins and the advocates who distributed the pumpkins. Because of you, the first year was a wonderful success!

Purple Thursday

2021 was DSVPC's 6th annual recognition of Purple Thursday. As a visible display of support for survivors, people all over Lexington put on purple, buildings turned their lights purple, and businesses provided purple products.

Purple Peace Pumpkins

In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, DSVPC partnered with GreenHouse17 on a new campaign - Purple Peace Pumpkins. 100 pumpkins were painted purple and placed throughout the community along with a

Purple Donut Day

We are very grateful for our ongoing partnership with North Lime Coffee and Donuts. This year both locations offered donuts with purple sprinkles to help spread awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



GREEN DOT LEXINGTON

SMALL ACTIONS FOR A SAFER CITY



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



ACTIVE BYSTANDER



GREEN DOT SPOT

Green Dot is an evidence-based, nationally recognized strategy to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and other forms of power based violence. Green Dot helps community members recognize we all have a vital role to play in keeping people in our community safe.

In 2021, Green Dot Lexington strengthened the foundation for turning Lexington into a Green Dot City. Staff trained more than 200 people in multiple languages to be active bystanders who are now equipped with knowledge and skills to interrupt violence before it happens.

Along with developing Bystander Awareness Month, Green Dot Lexington also established the Green Dot Spot designation. Businesses and organizations who train at least 15% of their leadership, staff, or membership will be recognized as a Green Dot Spot signally to others they are caring community members standing against violence.

We invite everyone to help us strengthen Lexington's prevention of domestic and sexual violence by becoming a Green Dot Spot. Join us in making Lexington a safe city!



AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH

REDUCING BARRIERS

Knowing that domestic and sexual violence occurs against people of all identities, the anti-violence movement is reevaluating and expanding our understanding of how and why intimate partner violence occurs.

DSVPC is contributing to this broad effort by applying an intersectional analysis to our own work - our services, resources, and partnerships. By adopting an anti-oppressive framework, we hope to strengthen our prevention efforts and better serve all survivors.

While recognizing this is a life-long endeavor, here are few efforts made so far:

- In partnership with The Nest, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, The Lexington Pride Center, and GreenHouse17, DSVPC provided a two day workshop on LGBTQ identities and intimate partner violence. People

attending the training were provided with a workbook to help them take the concepts back to their own agencies and develop more LGBTQ-affirming practices.

- Understanding language is also a barrier to survivor safety, DSVPC now offers our most used resource in six languages. The Survivor Handbook is now available in: English, Spanish, Swahili, French, Arabic, and Nepali.
- DSVPC created an online form for gathering information about survivors' access to protections, services, and information in our community as it specifically relates to language. Our hope is that if we can identify patterns of language use and challenges encountered by agencies, we can develop creative solutions for making services more widely available. The form is available here: bit.ly/DSVPCLanguageAccess

HOUSING & SAFETY

In an effort to help survivors remain in their communities and their homes safely, DSVPC offers two programs.

The **Housing Stability Program** allows DSVPC to make a once-a-year payment toward rent, mortgage, or security deposit for survivors at risk of losing their housing or needing a safe place to live because of the crimes committed against them. By identifying survivors most at risk of becoming homeless, advocates across the community assisted 59 adult and child survivors with maintaining safe housing.

The **Safe Measures Program** provides survivors with critical safety enhancements, such as lock changes, security cameras, window alarms, and more. In 2021, DSVPC helped increase the safety of 70 adult and child survivors through this program.

In 2021, DSVOC assisted 129 adult and child survivors with safe housing and security measures.

SUPPORT SURVIVORS

We know friends, families, and communities play an essential role in supporting survivors as they seek safety and healing. Yet, because intimate partner violence is complex and often misunderstood, knowing what to do or say when someone we care about is being harmed can be difficult.

In partnership with survivors of domestic and sexual violence, DSVPC created our SUPPORT Survivors resource to provide a better understanding of intimate partner violence and resources to help ensure their response to survivors is as helpful as possible



SUPPORT Survivors

A guide for friends, family, and communities to support survivors of intimate partner violence



MEMBERS

Executive Committee

Chair: Diane Fleet, GreenHouse17, Assistant Director

Vice Chair: Jennifer Johnson, Ampersand, Director of Advocacy

Secretary: Sgt. Jeremiah Harville, Lexington Police Dept., Sergeant

Treasurer: Kacy Allen Bryant, Department of Social Services, Commissioner

Committee Chairs:

Advocacy Committee: April Ballentine, Appointed Member & Katie Mooney, The Nest, Director of Intimate Partner Violence and Parenting

Best Practices Committee: Brittany Scordo, Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Director of Victim Services

Outreach & Awareness Committee: Ashley Hill, Appointed Member

Ex-Officio

Hon. Bruce Bell, District Court, Chief Judge

Rashmi Adi-Brown, CHES Solutions, Director of Div. of Family and Youth Services

Ken Armstrong, Dept. of Public Safety, Commissioner

Hon. Traci Brislin, Family Court, Chair

April Davis, KY Cabinet for Health & Family Services, Service Region Admin.

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

Taryn Henning, UK Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, Director

Demetrus Liggins, Fayette County Public Schools, Superintendent

Shayla Lynch, Ampersand Sexual Violence Resource Center, Director

Kama McKinney, Chrysalis House, Director

Chief Joe Monroe, UK Police Dept., Chief

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

Kathy Plomin, City Council, Councilmember

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

Vince Riggs, Circuit Court, Clerk

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

Joanna Rodes, Family Care Center, Director

Alice Salyers, Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency of the Bluegrass, Ombudsman

Danielle Sanders, Community and Resident Services, Director

Winn Stephens, Children's Advocacy Center, Director

Isabel Gereda Taylor, Global Lex, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator

Darlene Thomas, GreenHouse17, Director

Angela Wallace, SANE, Director

Chief Lawrence Weathers, Lexington Police
Dept., Chief

Jeffery White, The Nest, Director

Sheriff Kathy Witt, Office of Fayette County
Sheriff, Sheriff

Appointed Members

April Ballentine

Rania Belmadani

Alyce Graves

Ashley Hill

Stephenie Hoelscher

Margaret McGladrey

Emily McKenzie

Ashleigh McGuire

Rana Rahman

Hilary Sykes

Committees

Jose Alvarez

Vanna Armstrong

Hannah Bernard

Michelle Blakeman

Carmen Brown

Georgi Carter

Jessica Castleberry

Laura Chowning

Alyesse Coonrod

Lenzi Dodgen

Andy Eilerston

Chris Ford

Ryder From

Layton Garlington

Debbie Goonan

Leticia Hagerman

Kim Harrison

Mercedes Helton

Hunter Hickman

Leigh Koetsch

Carolynn Lee

Loni Long

Aubrey McGuire

Saxon Martin-Jensen

Robert Mason

Christy Messick

Jennifer Miller

Lt. Nathaniel Muller

Katie Mooney

Grace Nelson

Ranym Nenneh

Jessica Osborne

Kathy Phillips

Sara Pickering

Liz Rudisell

Madison Snelling

Hannah Teague

Hon. Lindsay Hughes Thurston

Jessica Tope

Kristen Truty

Natasha Villasenor

Katie Webster

Tiffany Yahr

Catherine Zamarron

