



PAY IT FORWARD FUND IN MEMORY OF RONN FLETCHER

I. PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Date: May 9, 2024

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Domestic Violence Center
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Contact Title: CEO
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Year Incorporated: 1976

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes No

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture and Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Health
 Human Services Education Religion

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served: Chester County

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:

Annually serve 1700 survivors of abuse and educate more than 5,000 individuals on the impact of domestic violence.

Mission Statement: ***The mission of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County is to reduce, remedy, and prevent domestic violence in Chester County***

Organization Description: DVCCC provides programs and services to victims who present their primary victimization as domestic violence – which includes family and/or relationship violence such as intimate partner violence, dating violence, human trafficking, elder and/or child abuse.

Annual Budget \$ \$2,529,989

<u>27</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff	<u>17</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>76</u>	% of budget for program expenses	<u>50</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>18</u>	% of budget for administrative expenses	<u>2500/year</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<u>6</u>	% of budget for fundraising expenses		
<u>100</u>	% total		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Top 3-5 funding sources: Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence ; PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency; PA Housing Affordability & Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested:

Year 1 \$ 25,000 + Yr 2 \$ 25,000 = Total \$ 50,000 (Maximum \$50,000 Total)

Summary Description of **Paradigm-Shifting** Grant Purpose: DV recognized as more than a “violence issue” but more of an issue and its relationship to trauma and the importance of understanding the intersection of these issues. **See narrative for more information.**

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1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

History/Goal: *The mission of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) is to reduce, remedy, and prevent domestic violence in Chester County. The vision of the Domestic Violence Center is to eliminate Domestic Violence in Chester County, PA. Since 1976 we are the only organization in Chester County that has a contract with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) to provide services to victims who present their primary victimization as domestic violence – which includes family and/or relationship violence such as intimate partner violence, dating violence, human trafficking, elder and/or child abuse.*

Key Achievements and Distinctiveness: Major achievements include building “Phase IV,” an independent housing program that consists of thirteen three-bedroom townhomes and four one-bedroom apartments for unhoused victims/survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children who fled to escape the abuse.

DVCCC has been accredited with the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organization (PANO) Seal of Excellence since 2009 for its successful compliance with the Standards for Excellence program.

Another achievement is the 10-year implementation of the evidenced-based Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The program helps identify victims of domestic violence who are at the most significant risk of being killed to get them out of harm's way, if necessary. It encourages them to contact DVCCC while the police are on the scene. The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County has trained and partnered with 42 county police departments, two university security departments, and the Chester County Sheriff's staff to implement the LAP program.

The Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) evidenced -based program uses the power of sports to promote an environment of respect, integrity, and non-violence for high school athletes. DVCCC trains local high school coaches on implementing the Coaching Boys Into Men. The 12-week program fits into the sports season, provides each coach with a guide for addressing several important social issues through weekly conversations with their athletes; with such topics as disrespectful behavior toward women and girls, technology, and respect, understanding consent, relationship abuse, modeling respect, and equality, among many more. We also have implemented “Girls Beyond the Game “for female athletes.

Fiscal Year **2022-2023** DVCCC *actual* services include:

- Total number of recipients: 1825 (1600 adults; 200 children; 25 significant others)
- 1,726 adults and children received counseling and legal services.
- 2,871 hotline calls; 11,390 hours of counseling/advocacy.
- 5,859 emergency shelter nights provided.
- 73 families received safe affordable housing through one of DVCCC's programs.

- 450 clients were provided with Protection from Abuse (PFA) representation, and over 800 clients received legal consultations regarding divorce, custody, support, and immigration issues.
- 170 Community Education programs were presented to 4,894 adults, students, and children.
- 552 events in the community and through media, (social and print)

B. Paradigm-shifting impact

Domestic violence (DV) impacts many regardless of age, race, cultural, economic status, gender, religious beliefs, or political affiliation. DV does not occur in a vacuum -co-occurring with many factors but not in all cases such as poverty, food and housing insecurity, education, health, and job opportunities to name a few.

DVCCC will address the impact of three paradigm shifts:

- DV recognized as more than a “violence issue” but more of an issue and its relationship to trauma and the importance of understanding the intersection of these issues. In addition to offering non evidenced based Empowering Counseling - DVCCC shifted services to also offer adult individual and group counseling programs utilizing the evidence-based “Healing Trauma Curriculum”. The program focuses on understanding the impacts of trauma, exploring the dynamics of power and abuse, building self-care skills, and cultivating healthy relationships with self and others. DVCCC has a trained therapist in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)Therapy which is an evidence-based approach to treating trauma and PTSD that alleviates the distress associated with traumatic memories. DVCCC also began offering a biweekly group to continue to educate survivors on post-separation abuse which are the harmful behaviors that occur after a relationship has ended. Our children’s counseling program is now using Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) which is a short-term evidence-based counseling curriculum provided to children and their caregivers to recover from their trauma. Psychoeducation, coping skills, and positive parenting skills are the goals of TF-CBT.
- DV has traditionally been recognized as a social issue but is now recognized as more of a healthcare issue. In October 2023, DVCCC began implementation of our first Medical Advocacy Program (MAP), which addresses the need for enhanced support at the intersection of domestic violence and healthcare in Chester County. Recognizing the impact of domestic violence on victims’ health, MAP trains medical providers to identify, assess, and refer survivors to DVCCC services, ensuring they receive timely support. By employing a bilingual Medical Systems Advocate, DVCCC can expand its reach to marginalized communities, breaking down barriers to access and empowering survivors to seek help. Through targeted trainings, direct service follow-ups, and advocacy for policy changes within healthcare organizations, MAP revolutionizes the current response to domestic violence in Chester County’s healthcare settings and aims to improve health outcomes across the community.
- Inclusion of men and boys as a part of the solution instead of seeing them only as perpetrators to be punished. DVCCC has demonstrated a shift in this thinking through the implementation of the Coaching Boys Into Men Program (CBIM) described above.

C. Overall strategies to implement the initiative

- Train staff on Healing Trauma Curriculum, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). Provide trauma informed services for DV survivors and their children,
- Train medical providers to identify, assess, and refer survivors to DVCCC services, ensuring they receive timely support, expand their reach to marginalized communities, breaking down barriers to access and empowering survivors to seek help. Advocate for policy change within the healthcare systems to improve their response to DV and improve health outcomes.
- Engage boys as a part of the solution by continuing implementing and expanding the offering of the CBIM program to additional high schools.

D. Why it is important to fund this now

DVCCC is operating with less funding - cuts or reductions continue from multiple resources; we have been notified that for FY 2025 we will receive a \$40,000 reduction in one of our public grants. We continue to be available 24/7 for victims, however, operating with less funding and fewer resources and staff impacts service capacity challenges. While funding is decreasing, we are experiencing an increase in demand for services.

When victim survivors take the difficult step to reach out for help, many in life threatening situations need immediate safety and support. DVCCC needs stable funding to ensure that we can answer the crisis calls, have emergency shelter available and essential services for victims fleeing DV.

In April 2024, Chester County was impacted by a DV homicide in East Marlborough Township. Judith Hanks and daughter Emily were murdered by husband/dad. This senseless killing must stop!

This funding is critical to keep services available. Victims suffer the consequences of service cuts and are often left with no alternatives and remain living in fear in their homes. Please help!

3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission

- Annually collect metrics on number of staff trained in implementing the Healing Trauma Curriculum and number of survivors served.
- Annually collect metrics on number of medical providers trained and the number of policies and or protocols developed aimed at improving the healthcare response to DV.
- Annually collect metrics on the number of boys engaged in the CBIM program and report on pre and post surveys for CBIM.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

- Survivors will report better-coping skills, and confidence in dealing with their traumas.
- Medical providers will be able to identify victim survivors and refer them to DVCCC.; and will partner with DVCCC to develop and implement policies and protocols to improve their response to survivors of DV.
- CBIM participants will learn about healthy relationships and will be engaged.