

# The CHOICES Safe Haven Shelter

## For Victims of Domestic Violence

**CHOICES will serve nearly 2,000 different individuals this year, including more than 750 who seek refuge at the shelter.**

For nearly four decades, CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence (CHOICES) has been providing a safe, secure shelter for victims of domestic violence in central Ohio. Services are provided for victims and families, both on-site and with community partners, including a 24-hour crisis and information hotline, individual counseling, advocacy work and community-based support groups.

The demand for sheltering of victims of intimate partner domestic violence in Columbus and the surrounding areas has increased, and CHOICES' resources have been stretched thin. As the only domestic violence-focused shelter in Franklin County, service increases are projected to reach 33 percent or greater in Fiscal Year 2016.

Meeting this increasing need, while ensuring the safety of victims in a respectful, secure manner, requires an innovative approach to domestic violence sheltering. Under the leadership and stability afforded by its 2014 merger with Lutheran Social Services, CHOICES in June 2016 announced a campaign, in partnership with the corporate, public and philanthropic communities, to raise funds to build and operate an all-new domestic violence shelter.

## Creating a Safe Haven for Victims and Families

The need for comprehensive domestic violence services is overwhelming, and the opportunity for CHOICES to make a difference is now. The first step in that process is an important one – mounting a community-wide comprehensive campaign to fund the construction and operations of a new, larger facility to meet the rapidly growing need for this type of safe shelter.

The new shelter in Franklin County will greatly enhance the services and support provided by CHOICES, as well as offer space to other aligned agencies and partners to expand services to clients. The new building will:

- Ensure the safety and security of those visiting or staying at the shelter;
- Support a Trauma-Informed Care model for care of victims;
- Create an environment focused on dignity and respect;
- Accommodate the specialized needs of domestic violence victims and their families;
- Provide easy access to transportation; and
- Offer outdoor play and relaxation areas for clients and families.



Current CHOICES Shelter



Proposed CHOICES Shelter

## About the New Shelter

The shelter will be a 55,000 square foot safe haven located in north Columbus. It will provide both private and group living spaces suited to the diverse population on-hand at any given time – which may include men and women, children, those of varying sexual orientations and people of different ages. A “neighborhood” design concept will offer privacy, increase the sense of normalcy and keep parents and children connected. Most importantly, bed capacity in the new shelter will more than double – from 51 beds to 120.

Among the unique staffing plans for the shelter are an on-site crisis counselor, who will immediately address emotional and psychological needs of victims coming from crisis situations, as well as a kitchen advocate to work one-on-one with survivors to redevelop healthy relationships with food. A family activities coordinator will support parents on parenting techniques and a child's transition to the shelter.

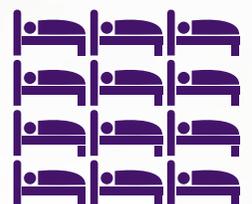


### Current Shelter



**135%**  
INCREASE

### Proposed Shelter



 = 10 beds

# The Campaign

With the valued input of our staff, partners, community leaders and volunteers, CHOICES established a fundraising goal of \$15.3 million. When secured, this budget will allow CHOICES to acquire the land, build the shelter and grounds, cover three years of incremental operating and programming expenses, fund new programming, and seed a building maintenance fund. The CHOICES endowment will support the shelter's greatest immediate and emerging needs.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- Chief **Kim Jacobs** of the Columbus Division of Police
- **Karen Days** from The Center for Family Safety & Healing
- Franklin County Sheriff **Zach Scott**
- **Anne Murray** from the Columbus City Attorney's Office
- **Nancy Neylon** from the Ohio Domestic Violence Network



# Why It Matters

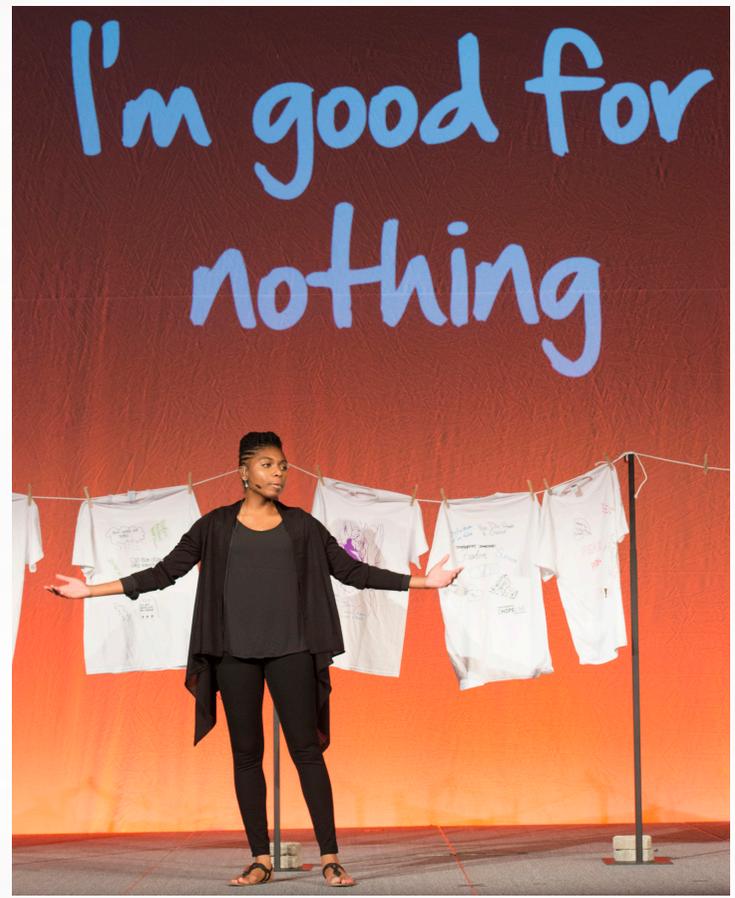
Domestic violence transcends all socio-economic, cultural, ethnic and religious lines and can take many different forms, including physical and sexual assault, emotional abuse and financial control. It is an issue that has a far-reaching societal impact. Both the affected victim and our community realize significant benefits when a victim becomes a successful survivor.

<p><b>Every nine seconds a woman is abused in the U.S.</b> (PADV)</p>	<p><b>Three women in the U.S. are killed each day by their husband or boyfriend.</b> (APA)</p>
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Domestic violence is a community-wide issue, and, in the broader society, a number of societal and economic benefits are seen when victims can escape an abusive situation. Both workplace productivity and worker absenteeism are positively impacted by organizations such as CHOICES.

Costs related to critical community supports – such as law enforcement and health care – are reduced when victims are supported. CHOICES' advocacy and education activities spread the word about domestic violence's negative effect on society and engages people so they can recognize it and participate in stopping it.

**1 in 3 women & 1 in 4 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.**  
(CDC Violence Prevention)



[choicescolumbus.org](http://choicescolumbus.org)

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CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence ~ a member of the Lutheran Social Services family