
DCADV

JUNE 2023

Newsletter



10.05.23

PURPLE RIBBON
EVENT



NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS!

Nominate an individual or business for their advocacy and support of victims and survivors of domestic violence.

It is the time of year when DCADV recognizes advocates, community members, and local businesses that have shown extraordinary commitment to assisting and supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence through three awards presented in October as part of DCADV's **Purple Ribbon Celebration.**

» [Learn more and submit a nomination](#)

Nominations are due by **June 30th, 2023** for the Spirit of Advocacy, Vision of Peace, and Corporate Citizenship Awards.

A Note from Sue



Dear Friends and Advocates,

The past few months have been busy days for DCADV!

We successfully held our first **in-person Advocates Conference** since the pandemic hit in 2020 and it was a wonderful success! The theme was: Envision Peace: Expanding Access & Equity. There were over 130 attendees. The presenters were diverse and shared information on a range of topics, including Centering Liberation in our Healing Practices, Providing Affirming Services to the LGBTQIA+ Community, Housing, Dream Studies and How to Deal with Trauma Dreams, Putting Advocacy and Prevention into Action through Economic Justice, and more.

DCADV has been collaborating with member programs and community partners to share information about pending legislation that will impact DV survivors. **DCADV passionately advocates for legislation that will protect victims' rights and will provide economic security and housing protections.**

DCADV continues to work on implementing our **racial equity plan**. In cooperation with Healing Equity United, a project of Centering the Margins, DCADV is gathering input and insights from our two taskforces: *the Women of Color Task Force (WOCTF) and the Women Empowered Against Violence in Every Relationship (WEAVER) Task Force.*

DCADV is also engaged in **a cooperative project with the Division of Public Health (DPH) to support the work of the LGBTQ sub-committee of the Victims' Rights Task Force.** The sub-committee will work with Jess Harman to create an online training module to help advocates and service providers have a better understanding of the LGBTQ community and their unique needs.

June is LGBTQ Pride Month and an opportunity to celebrate our LGBTQ friends, family members and community partners. **Now more than ever, we are called to protect LGBTQ rights.** Over the past several years there has been an increase in anti-LGBTQ laws. Currently, there are over 400 anti-LGBTQ laws pending in states across the country; many of these laws are targeted against transgender persons and would strip LGBTQ people of their legal protections from discrimination in employment, housing and even restrict access to DV shelter services. These state proposed laws are in violation of federal anti-discrimination and equal protection laws. These laws are often supported by a vocal segment of the religious-right and fueled by intolerance, fear and hate. The laws serve only to divide and separate and cause harm to the LGBTQ community.

Delaware has fortunately not experienced this type of political assault; *many thanks to the State's legislators for their protection of LGBTQ rights!* Yet, we must remain vigilant and ready to raise our voices. DCADV joins with our member programs, community, and system partners to protect the rights of LGBTQ persons.

As DCADV's vision statement proclaims: *We envision a First State where safe, healthy, equitable relationships, families and communities thrive.* All of us, no matter our race, orientation, religion, gender, identity, family, no matter how we define ourselves – all of us deserve to be safe, and more, to thrive together in community.

Many thanks to all of you - our members, community partners, donors, and friends - for your continued support!

Peace,

Sue Ryan

Advocacy & Policy Update

As we move into June, DCADV Policy Staff become particularly focused on budgets, both state and federal. Thank you to our members and LEAP partners for your recent efforts to raise awareness of the needs of victims, and on the ways we can prevent of intimate partner and sexual violence.

Many members of **DE's General Assembly** have signed onto bills that will address animals and animal abuse related to DV including an expansion of protection orders to specifically address it in the relief. They also have been strengthening housing protections by ensuring a **tenant's right to counsel** if facing eviction proceedings. In fact, on June 14, 2023, the Delaware General Assembly passed SS 1 for SB 1, historic legislation giving low-income renters a right to representation in eviction actions! Delaware will become just the fourth state in the nation to provide this important right to renters in both public and private housing. Learn more [here](#).



DCADV has continued to focus in on the significant impact of economic abuse by offenders and has advocated for economic justice. One recent effort is to explicitly include this form of abuse in DE's protection from abuse law. **HB 151** was introduced by Rep. Eric Morrison after working with domestic violence legal advocates and is modeled after laws in California, Maine and New York. We realize we are nearing the end of session, but hope to advance this bill before June 30.

Policy staff have also been working with criminal justice reform partners to review relevant legislation, and to ensure that victim safety and privacy remain central.



[Policy Page](#)



[Join our LEAP List](#)

You are not alone.

If you or someone you know is in a dangerous or unhealthy relationship, local domestic violence advocates are available to help **24/7** by phone.

We're here to help.

Domestic Violence Hotlines

New Castle Co. 302-762-6110

Kent/Sussex Co. 302-422-8058



**We're
Hiring**

APPLY NOW



Training Update

2023

DCADV's 22nd Advocates' Retreat & Conference
ENVISIONING PEACE
Expanding Access and Equity

We were thrilled to return to Rehoboth Beach for this year's Advocates' Retreat and Conference!

Over 125 advocates, service providers, preventionists, and survivors gathered to connect, share information, and engage in critical conversations to improve conditions for survivors of domestic/sexual violence.

Eighteen sessions were held over two days. Workshops explored the intersection of domestic violence with issues like housing, gun violence, economic justice, and reproductive health care. Keynote and plenary sessions addressed critical issues of centering liberation in our healing practices, redefining individual and collective care, and providing affirming services to the LGBTQIA+ community. For a full list of workshops and more information about the conference, visit www.dcadv.org/retreat.

Special thanks to the Women of Color Task Force for hosting the Fun at Five Networking Event! We had a blast dancing and socializing!

Also, special thanks to Mint and Needle for providing mini-facials to participants. Learn more about them by visiting their [website](#).

Save the date for the 2024 Advocates' Retreat and Conference! We'll be returning to Rehoboth Beach May 6-7, 2024!



Make an Impact

Join us as a member and make an impact! We are a little less than \$1,300 from our \$10,000 goal so we are asking you to help us close the gap. DCADV, in collaboration with our member programs, has engaged in comprehensive training, advocacy and prevention programming with the help of supporters like **YOU**.

During this past fiscal year, we have:

Advocated for increases in state funding for DV services;

Offered DV101 and advocates training virtually through a series of webinars and online modules;

Raised awareness of and advocated for economic justice policies, including paid family leave;

Collaborated with member programs and community partners in prevention efforts that address risk factors for intimate partner violence;

Engaged with healthcare and DV providers to offer mobile advocacy through community health workers;

Partnered with AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware on an innovative funding model to sustain DV Community Health Workers;

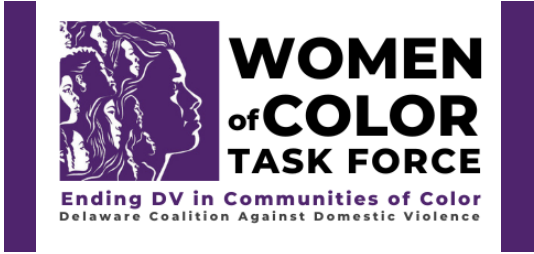
Partnered with the Nanticoke Tribal Association to provide training and to support the development of Nanticoke Resource Guides;

Continued efforts to prioritize racial equity in all of the Coalition's work. DCADV understands that working towards racial equity is essential in our work to end and prevent domestic violence.

The work does not end here. We all know someone who has been affected by domestic violence. The statistics are alarming: one in four women and one in seven men. Whether it be a friend, co-worker, or even a family member, **everyone knows someone**.



Task Forces



» Learn more about the task forces and sign up!



2023 Black Student Summit



2023 Advocates' Retreat/Conference



2023 CHILD, Inc. 5K



2023 Denim Day



2023 Dover Unity Day



How do YOU see Delaware?

Representation and inclusion are key to our work. We want our photo library to be reflective of our community! What better way to find representations of Delaware than to ask YOU?!

Show us your view of Delaware! What's important to you? What's your community? We're looking for photos that represent the many communities of the First State. Photos can include:

- **Community events**
- **Landmarks**
- **People**
- **Activities**
- **Traditions**
- **Landscapes**
- **and more!**



Why are we looking for photos? Why not just use stock photos? Photos are a great way to communicate! We use photos in our social media, newsletter, training and outreach materials, and more. We'd love to keep our messaging authentic to Delaware, and that includes taking any opportunity we can to showcase the amazing people and places around the state!

[» Learn more and submit your pics!](#)



Meet DCADV's staff members!



Brooke Ophardt (she/her) is the Economic Justice Policy & Prevention Coordinator, which is a new and exciting role for her and DCADV! Her previous role at the Coalition was the Training & Prevention Specialist, where she assisted with training, technical assistance, and support to member programs and community partners on domestic/intimate partner violence, trauma-informed care, prevention, and other related topics. Brooke facilitated the evidenced-based violence prevention program Coaching Boys Into Men throughout the state of Delaware. She is instrumental in its continued implementation through partnerships with Children & Families First Behavioral Health and Network Connect's Community Health Ambassador Programs. She also serves on numerous committees and task forces, including FUTURES Without Violence's CBIM National Advisory Council.

Brooke has a Bachelor's degree in Women and Gender Studies from The College at Brockport, State University of New York, and a Master's of Public Administration with a concentration in Gender-Based Violence from the University of Colorado Denver. Her passion for reproductive rights has led her to be published in the peer-reviewed feminist journal, *Dissenting Voices* with an article titled 'Body Autonomy During Pregnancy: Where Did It Go?' She also volunteered with Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, where she is originally from.

Outside of work, Brooke loves spending time with her partner of 20 years, Henry and her two kiddos, 14-year old Cassandra and 11-year old Kai. Their favorite activities include catching a show at The Kimmel Center, cooking Rochester delicacies called garbage plates, and going to Carousel Park with their one-eyed pit-bull named Penny.

Jen Uro is DCADV's Communications & Fundraising Manager. Prior to her role with the Coalition, she worked for the Epilepsy Foundation, Junior Achievement, March of Dimes and The Grand Opera House.

Growing up in Oklahoma, Jen decided in 1997 to take a 6-month job working on Discovery Channel's *Home Matters* based in Philadelphia and never looked back! She met her husband, Anthony, at a Halloween party that year and the rest is history.

Jen holds a Bachelor's degree in Dance Management from Oklahoma City University and her Masters of Science in Arts Management from Drexel University. As a child, she started out as a dancer and assumed dance would play a major role in her life. Once she had a taste of working backstage for a production in college, she fell in love with the administrative and production side of theater and from there her passion for nonprofit work began to grow.

Jen does still like to dance - in her car, in the kitchen, in the office and in the grocery store (they play the best music!)

When not working with the BEST team at DCADV, Jen enjoys being with her husband, Anthony and their two kids, 19-year old Josh and 16-year old Linda. They have 5 cats who share their home - Flo, Ritchie, Olivia, Jerry, and Charlie.



Member Agency News



Looking for an opportunity to provide direct services? DCADV's member organizations work directly with people impacted by domestic violence through hotlines, shelters, legal services, community-based advocacy, and more.

These links are posted for informational purposes. If you have questions about positions at one of these member agencies, please contact them directly.



the Combined Campaign for Justice Cup is coming up on August 7, 2023 at the DuPont Country Club! This golf outing raises funds to support Delaware's three civil legal aid agencies: Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., Legal Services Corp. of Delaware, and Delaware Volunteer Legal Services. Check out <https://delawareccj.org/our-events/> for more information!



What's going on in June?

June is Month

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

In 1994, a coalition of education-based organizations in the United States designated October as LGBT History Month. In 1995, a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the National Education Association included LGBT History Month within a list of commemorative months. National Coming Out Day (October 11), as well as the first "March on Washington" in 1979, are commemorated in the LGBTQ community during LGBT History Month. From Library of Congress.

LGBTQ Resource Guide - Delaware

The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

June 2023

DCADV Staff & Interns

Ama Amponsah, Community Health Coordinator
Nick Beard, Policy Coordinator
Nina Jones, Administrative & Financial Assistant
Mariann Kenville-Moore, Director of Advocacy & Policy
Joe Myers - Director of Prevention
Jacqueline Greenidge Nix, Director of Finance & Operations
Brooke Ophardt, Training & Prevention Specialist
Erin Ridout, DV & Community Health Program Manager
Sue Ryan, Executive Director
Shelby Statham, Prevention Policy Specialist
Jen Uro, Communications & Fundraising Manager
Courtney Winkler, Training & Outreach Coordinator

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Deianna Tyree-McDuffy

[Job opportunities at our member agencies](#)



Member Agencies



STAY IN CONTACT

Want to know what the Coalition is up to? Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter for the latest and greatest!



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