



**APRIL
2021**
Newsletter

**Invest in your employees: How
Delaware's corporations and businesses
can be a part of the solution**

Domestic and sexual violence are pervasive problems throughout our communities. Victims may experience physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and/or financial abuse. While victims and survivors' trauma and violence may typically occur in the home, they carry it with them wherever they go - including to the workplace.

DCADV will work directly with your management team and employees to establish or enhance company-wide policies and increase trauma-informed practices. Our trainings can be tailored to meet the needs of each audience and may cover a wide variety of topics related to domestic and sexual violence prevention and intervention.



[Learn more here.](#)

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A Note from Sue



Dear Friends:

We recently passed the one-year anniversary of COVID-19. Throughout the year and going forward we remain resilient, grateful, humbled. Resilient in our efforts to end and prevent domestic violence. Grateful for the many advocates, first responders, shelter workers, front-line staff who courageously persevere. Humbled by the strength of DV victims/survivors.

During this time, DCADV has remained engaged in a number of efforts. DCADV has been working collaboratively on economic justice efforts. Our work is anchored in the understanding that creating financial security is essential for victims/survivors of domestic violence. The work DCADV is doing in partnership with our member programs focuses on addressing financial inequities, advocating for policies that support economic equity, and engaging in both immediate intervention as well as long-term prevention strategies.

As part of the Rape Prevention and Education grant, DCADV is engaging in INVEST Delaware, a project that focuses on the corporate community to provide training on ways to enhance financial equity. With Allstate Foundation funding, DCADV supports the work of member programs offering financial empowerment training to DV victims/survivors, with access to micro-loan funds to build credit.

In collaboration with community partners, DCADV's advocacy efforts are focused on economic justice and promoting safe healthcare policies to protect victims/survivors of domestic violence and encourage access to services.

DCADV's training and outreach work has planned and is implementing a robust and diverse series of webinars over the next several months. These virtual trainings offer advocates, therapists, first responders, and service providers an opportunity to learn best practices from national and local experts.

DCADV continues to partner with the Nanticoke Tribal Association on the Nanticoke Resource Guide project, supporting the work of tribal members to become DV advocates for their tribal community. DCADV is collaborating with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) to provide culturally specific training and guidance.

In partnership with Healing Equity United, a program within Centering the Margins, DCADV is engaging in an organizational assessment to determine how the Coalition can increase diversity, equity and inclusion within our agency's operations and center racial equity within all of our efforts.

Every day, we remain deeply grateful to our member programs for all the work they do to keep victims and survivors of domestic violence safe. We so appreciate you, our members and supporters, for your generosity of spirit and your shared commitment to end and prevent domestic violence.

Peace,



Sue Ryan

Training & Outreach Update



We're all disappointed that we won't be heading to the beach for this year's Advocates' Retreat and Conference. However, we're so glad we can bring you the same quality content you've come to expect from this event. We'll be hosting webinar sessions through the spring and summer- there's something for everyone!



[Learn more about the webinar sessions here!](#)



[Learn more and see the schedule here.](#)

In lieu of our traditional spring session of DV101, DCADV will be hosting a series of five new webinars for folks who are new to domestic violence advocacy and services. These introductory webinars are designed to teach the foundational concepts about domestic violence dynamics and response that are essential for those working in our core response system. These sessions will be covering some of the very basic core concepts (DV dynamics; trauma-informed communication; safety planning; resources/response; addressing secondary traumatic stress), so they are intended for folks newer to the field.

Welcome to DAASV!



The Delaware Alliance Against Sexual Violence (DAASV) was formally recognized as Delaware's designated sexual assault coalition effective September 1, 2020. Their mission is to address sexual violence in Delaware by creating an inclusive community that supports survivors through advocacy, intervention and awareness.

DAASV has a number of events planned to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in Delaware. Be sure to check out the podcast series, "So You Want to be an Ally" that will cover a range of topics. On April 30th, DAASV is pleased to host "Live Respect Delaware – Coaching Healthy, Respectful Manhood" featuring Tony Porter, the CEO of A Call to Men. DAASV is so excited to be able to bring Tony and the A Call To Men team to Delaware!



[Learn more about
DAASV here!](#)



Did you know that we have updated
the DCADV website?



Take a look at www.dcadv.org
when you have a chance!

Meet DCADV's Board Chair!



Ann C. Altemus, LCSW

DCADV Board Chair

You can ask me what you want to know about me and I will tell you. It feels like I have worked with families for many years in one way or another. Family means mother, father, sister, brother, in-laws, aunt, uncle, cousin, niece, nephew – all are important to me. I value family and friends. I respect the life cycle, which means I, like many others, have felt loss and have learned how to grieve.

I have worked at Child, Inc. for 28 years. I started at Child, Inc. as the secretary (when we were called that) to the Executive Director, Joseph M. Dell'Olio. I became determined to work in the domestic violence field when I was trained and worked in the shelter (Battered Women's Shelter) office and the (Battered Women's) hotline while at Child, Inc. After finding the courage and support of my family and the Child, Inc. family, I earned my Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Delaware in Human Services. Parent Education became my calling as I was raising my two children with my husband. With my BS degree in hand, I started work in Child, Inc.'s Family Support and Parent Education Program. I always was willing to collaborate with the Domestic Violence Treatment Program (DVTP) for teaching specialty parenting groups and hosting speaking engagements about the effects of domestic violence on children. After 10 years and a Master's degree from Delaware State University, I was able to work in the Domestic Violence Treatment Program. I moved into another office at Child, Inc. with my MSW in hand and having achieved another life goal (MSW) – I now had my dream job – being a therapist in the Domestic Violence Treatment Program. I worked with the clients whom I believe I was meant to serve. I worked in Helping Children Heal, Women Offenders, Male Offenders, and Victim Services in the Domestic Violence Treatment Program. I worked with children, adolescents, adults, and families. During that time, I also became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. In July of 2019, Dan Armstrong, LPCMH and Program Director of the DVTP decided to retire after many, many years with Child, Inc. I applied for his job, again with the support of my family and my Child, Inc. family, and was appointed the Program Director of the DVTP. I continue to work with the female offender population as well as carrying out the director's responsibilities.

It is important for me to serve on the DCADV Board to see the bigger picture of prevention of intimate partner abuse and family violence. I see my work with the DCADV Board as another piece of the puzzle to family life. If we could prevent these things from ever happening in families and I would be out of a job – that would be fine with me. I would then be able to foster or adopt lots of dogs and live in my dog sanctuary!

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STAY IN CONTACT

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