



History of Journey Center for Safety and Healing

1976 – 1985

1976

The “**Women Together**” shelter opens. It is only the third shelter for battered women in the nation, and the first in Cleveland. It initially operates out of the Lakewood home of Dick and Dagmar Celeste while he and his family live in Columbus while serving as Lieutenant Governor. An underground network of women operate a system of safe houses for women fleeing their partners until there is an opening in the home. The DV Hotline is created by Dagmar Braun Celeste and future Cleveland mayor, Jane Campbell.

1977

A second shelter opens on the east side. Patricia Gillette is Executive Director. Capacity is 33 residents. This shelter becomes the **Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence**.

1977

National Council of Jewish Women (Cleveland) and the Junior League of Cleveland recognize the need to educate the parents and caregivers on preventing child abuse and neglect. They approach **PANEO (Parents Anonymous of Northeast Ohio)** - a self-help support group program for parents who had, feared they would, abuse - and begin a collaboration of programs and services.

1978

The First Federal Standards for Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention & Treatment programs are published.

1978

Templum House opens on October 15, 1978, established by Bernadette Boyce, Father Bob Begin and the Thomas Merton Community. The initial capacity is 14 and the first staff - a director, two advocates and a resident manager - donate their services.

1979

Templum House is incorporated under the name of “**Cleveland Women Inc.**” with a volunteer board including Father Robert S. Scullin from St. Patrick’s Church and Carol Stringer, who is instrumental in the institution of Templum.

1979

With the support of the Junior League and National Council of Jewish Women, PANEO leases a house in University Circle - referred to as Bellflower House. The next five years introduces the 24-Hour Family Helpline, programs for teen mothers and their babies, an ongoing community awareness campaign, the Nurturing Program (providing treatment for whole families experiencing abuse problems) and the Grown Up Abused Children program. Debbie Rex becomes the 1st Executive Director.

1980

Templum House begins renovation in March. Rita Claypole and Terry Gidley serve as interim directors. During these years, the shelter functions almost entirely on donated services and goods. Templum House reopens in July, with capacity expanded to 26; staff now included 3 counselors and a house manager. Sisters Loretta Rafter and Madeline Shemo join Templum, create a program specifically for



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battered women, and spend the next three years securing funds to complete the renovation. A psychiatric social worker from Child Guidance offers counseling twice a week to residents, and nightly peer group meetings begin.

1982

Women Together opens the Second Step Transitional Housing Program in an apartment building on the east side of Cleveland through a partnership with Famicos Foundation. The program supports six families for up to two years after they leave the shelter.

1983

Nancy Neylon and Anita Smith (Branan) are appointed co-directors. Neylon develops a children's program including art and music therapy, individual and group counseling, and parenting groups for women. A volunteer program is developed to supplement and complement the staff.

1983

President Reagan declares April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The National Center on Child Abuse & Neglect coordinate activities at the Federal level including the creation and dissemination of information and child abuse prevention materials.

1984

PANEO fully implements the Resolve Abuse Instill Self-Esteem Program (RAISE) at Bellflower House. RAISE provides a specialized treatment resource to men with a tendency of violence toward women. Bellflower House (PANEO) receives the Anisfield-Wolf Award for "Outstanding Service to the Community."

1984

Congress passes the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. Many states establish a Children's Trust Fund requiring revenues from surcharges placed on marriage licenses to be used to support child abuse prevention programs.

1985

PANEO's name is changed to **Bellflower Center for Prevention of Child Abuse** in recognition of the agency's diverse programs.

1986 -1995

1986

Bellflower Center receives the Isaiah Award for Community Service and is singled out by State Senator Lee Fisher as the "premier child abuse and domestic violence prevention and treatment agency in the state of Ohio."

1986

Templum's Legal Advocacy Program is started with help from Diana Cyganovich. The program is a unique model for shelters across the nation. In its initial year, 149 women are served



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1986

Women Together opens a second shelter on the east side. Capacity is 26 women and children, bringing the total to 46 in the two shelters. Smith leaves Templum to become Women Together's Executive Director.

1987

Bellflower Center receives a contract with Cuyahoga County Department of Human Service to offer the SAFE program (Support and Family Education) to provide parenting classes for those who lost or were about to lose custody of their children. Bellflower Center becomes a United Way member agency. Over 3,100 clients are served in its first decade. Many parent support groups are available throughout the Cleveland Area and childcare is provided.

1988

Bellflower Center continues to expand its programs and services. A child abuse prevention training program is developed for caregivers with children having physical or mental health issues.

1988

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) is established. It is a voluntary data collection system that gathers information from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico about reports of child abuse and neglect. NCANDS is established in response to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1988.

1989

Bellflower Center moves to the Buckeye neighborhood. The PAST (People Abused Surviving Together) program is developed for adults who had been abused as children.

1990

Bellflower Center takes over the Tot-Line from the Center for Human Services, offering child development information and telephone counseling to parents or caretakers of children from birth to age five. Bellflower joins with Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court to provide the SAFE program for caretakers of emotionally and behaviorally troubled children.

1990

Women Together changes its name to **The Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence (CPDV)**. A counseling program for survivors of domestic violence is opened in Beachwood with the strong support of the Cleveland and George Gund Foundations. Toni Burke (Louise) and Linda Ghali are the first two counselors. The administrative offices move to the Beachwood office. The Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County funds treatment and prevention programs in the shelters for women and children.

1991

CPDV's counseling program adds programming for batterers under Executive Director, Ann Kent. Tim Boehnlein is hired to develop the program, with Dr. Jim Schuerger as supervising psychologist. CPDV achieves third party reimbursement from survivors and batterers with medical insurance.



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1993

CPDV launches the first *Break the Silence* fundraising luncheon. The event nets \$24,000.

1993

Bellflower Center joins the Junior League and the Coalition to Prevent Domestic Violence in a public awareness campaign on the issues of violence in the home and how to prevent it. Bellflower Center, in collaboration with the Red Cross, establishes the Community Education Program to present educational programs on child development in the community.

1994

Neylon leaves Templum to become the Director of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, a statewide coalition working to improve laws and conditions for victims of domestic violence. Diana Cyganovich becomes Executive Director. The program obtains new grants and funding, including the fees from marriage licenses from Cuyahoga County., a batterer's intervention program (1995), an adolescent intervention program (1997), and the Supervised Visitation Center (1998).

1994

Congress passed the Violence against Women Act in recognition of the severity of crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault & stalking.

1996 - 2005

1996

Preferred Arrest law passes in Ohio, which states that the primary aggressor in a mutual domestic violence incident should generally be the one arrested.

1996

Gayle Doucette is hired as Executor Director of CPDV. Pauline Ramig serves as Board President.

1997

October designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

1999

Paula Koos becomes Templum's new Executive Director. The organization is reorganized into five departments: Finance, Shelter and Supportive Services, Counseling and Intervention Services, Community Based Services, and Development.

1999

Bellflower Center plays an integral role in the formation and development of the Children Who Witness Violence Program instituted in several areas throughout Cuyahoga County. Through a grant from the Children's Trust Fund, Bellflower Center hires a social worker to make home visits to children and families who have witnessed domestic violence.

2000

The Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Templum merge, becoming the **Domestic Violence Center (DVC)**. Cathy Alexander is appointed Executive Director.



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2000

Bellflower Center launches the “Personal Safety Skills Program” for young children, to raise awareness of abuse issues and increase the skills of parents, teachers and children to prevent and reduce a child’s risk of abuse.

2001

Bellflower Center hosts the first “Power of Prevention Conference” during April for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

2003

Bellflower begins a new 16 week child therapy group for children ages 7-11 who were sexually abused that is designed and implemented to fill a void in community services by providing counseling to children in a small-group setting.

2004

DVC begins working with the Latinx community to design and create the Latina Domestic Violence Project. An emphasis is placed on underserved and multicultural programs that continues today as a significant strategic planning goal of the agency.

2006 - 2015

2006

DVC merges the two shelters through a \$1.2 million renovation that was initiated by a generous donor as a match challenge. Additions are added, expanding capacity from 26 to 45 persons.

2006

Bellflower Center receives CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation.

2007

Bellflower Center celebrates their 30th Anniversary as the premier child abuse & neglect prevention and treatment center in Northeast Ohio.

2007

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline launches.

2008

Linda Johaneck becomes the Director of The Domestic Violence Center.

2009

Ujima, a culturally specific domestic violence program for the African American community, is created. It includes domestic violence trainings for African American churches, domestic violence education classes, and victim advocacy.



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2010

Ohio Legislature passes the “Teen Protection Order Bill” in March 2010. The bill allows juveniles who have been stalked, assaulted or sexually abused by another juvenile to obtain a protection order. Joanna Orozco, a teen dating violence victim, provides testimony and lobbies for the passage of the bill while employed as a Teen Dating Violence Educator at Domestic Violence Center.

2011

With the generous donation from an anonymous supporter, DVC establishes Casa Vida - a residential program providing intensive domestic violence services focusing on Latina victims and other underserved cultural groups. It provides a confidential temporary home to women and families when cultural and linguistic barriers require more time than the emergency domestic violence shelter can provide.

2011

The Domestic Violence Center and the Bellflower Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse merge, becoming the **Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC)**. The merger integrates similar missions, becomes more efficient with resources, and is now a stronger voice for victims of child abuse, child witnesses to violence, teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking. As domestic violence and child abuse are often part of a generational cycle, the merger provides the opportunity to pursue a proactive, positive approach to supporting all the victims in the cycle of abuse.

2012

Keys 4 Deaf Access Program is established to develop and implement policies and protocols, trainings, direct services, and outreach activities designed to increase safety and autonomy for D/deaf victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

2013

The Domestic Violence High Risk Team Initiative is created to implement a national model and creating a high-risk response team with the goal to ensure victim safety and offender accountability for victims at highest risk of homicide.

2014

DVCAC renovates two buildings on the east side, moves administration and community services, and expands the Safe and Sound Supervised Visitation Center.

2016 - Present

2016

Erin’s law passed in the State of Ohio House of Representatives requiring schools to teach prevention education.

2016

Safe at Home Program (HB 359), legislation passes, allowing survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and other violent crimes to shield their personal information from public records when registering to vote.



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2020

Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center changes its name to Journey Center for Safety and Healing. Journey will continue working toward the same mission and vision.