

JUSTICE IN ACTION

VOLUME II, NO. 4

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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Reader

Last week was National Crime Victim's Rights Week. We saw a historic verdict of murder against a police officer in the brutal, senseless killing of George Floyd. With #justiceforgeorgefloyd and #NCVRW2021 trending, I cannot help but be reminded that any "justice" that can be provided for George Floyd and any "rights" that can be given to crime victims is incomparable to the loss suffered. I am reminded that no matter how much good work we do in Mary Byron's name, we would prefer nothing more than that Mary was here to do her own good in her own way in her own life. Unfortunately, we cannot undue tragedy. But we can use tragedy to spur positive change.

That is precisely what your support makes it possible for us to do at the Mary Byron Project. When you share our social media posts, you help dispel stereotypes about intimate partner violence (IPV) that prevent victims from attaining safety. When you sign up here for our training updates and register and encourage others to register for upcoming training seminars, you improve the community response to IPV. When you donate, our Appellate Advocacy Program provides critical legal and victim advocacy that protects individual survivors and their families and holds the justice system accountable to protect survivors and their families in future cases.

This month, I invite you to learn more about the connection between IPV and child abuse, see what we've been up to with our ongoing 20 for 20 campaign, find out if you can participate in a statewide needs assessment survey, check out a recent guest blog post and honor and celebrate two social work students who have interned with us over the last year.

Happy reading,



20 *for* 20



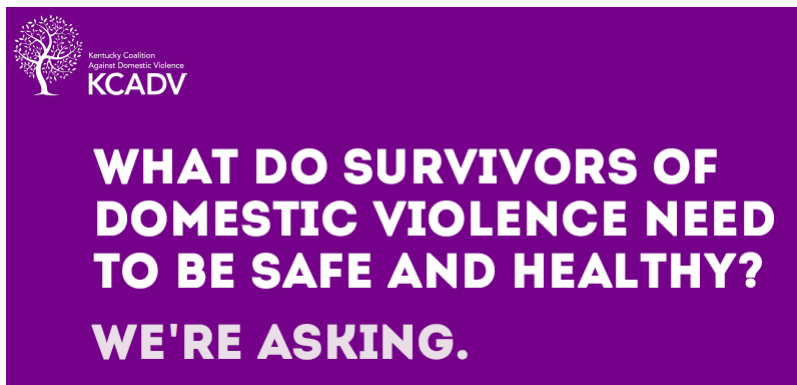
ANNIE BUNCH
KATIE BROWN
TIANA ANGELIQUE NOTICE
CHRISTINE ANN CLARK
JENNIFER ANN CRECENTE
DEMI BRAE CUCCIA
YEARDLEY LOVE
SIOBHAN LOUISE RUSSELL
KAITLYN MARIE SADBERRY
JANA MACKAY
ALYSSIAH WILEY
CHAQUINEQUEA BRODIE
MY'JAEAHA RICHARDSON
LIZA ELLEN WARNER
ROBIN D. SCHAFFER
JENNIFER JOHNSON
TINA MARIE BOYER
ALYSSA WILES
RACHEL SUSAN MILLER
MARY BYRON



In honor of our 20 for 20 campaign, we encourage you to learn these 20 names of victims lost to the tragedy of intimate partner violence. Learn their stories and share them [#MBP20for20](#)



April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month. We want to take some time this month to talk about the co-occurring relationship between child abuse and intimate partner violence. Research shows us that child maltreatment occurs in up to 60% of homes where intimate partner violence takes place. While physical trauma from abuse can cause long-term psychological damage, it is also important to recognize how children who witness intimate partner violence may have similar damage. The Office of Justice has conducted national surveys of children's exposure to IPV and other family violence and has found that this experience can be linked to PTSD, depression and anxiety. In 2010, the Attorney General launched the Defending Childhood Initiative in an attempt for the Department of Justice to address the exposure to violence and the negative impacts. Since then, multiple agencies and programs across the country have been showing initiative to lower these numbers and provide additional resources



KCADV is conducting a year-long needs assessment aimed at better understanding the needs and concerns of domestic violence survivors throughout the state of Kentucky. We are interested in how survivors' access to a wide variety of resources affects their ability to live safe and healthy lives. We are currently recruiting survivors to participate in a short survey exploring their needs, access to resources, and experiences with the Kentucky court system. We are also interested in feedback on how COVID-19 has impacted their health and wellbeing.

Please share this with your clients, networks, and other social service agencies in your area. Additionally, if you identify as a survivor of domestic violence and currently live in Kentucky, or have used resources in the state of Kentucky, we would love to hear from you.

Link to survey in English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYDVsurvey>

Link to survey in Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/encuesta-kcadv>



[Check out a recent blog post](#) by one of our staff members, Cassie Drochelman, on the “shadow pandemic” of intimate partner violence.

Meet Our Interns

ALYSSA OXENDINE AND SHANNON DONLEY

This month, we'd like to recognize our two student interns who have worked with us this year. They both came to the Mary Byron Project through the University of Kentucky Masters in Social Work Program. It's been such a pleasure working with them and we'd like to say thank you and wish them the best.

Alyssa Oxendine is finishing up her last semester at UK's Master of Social Work program. She currently lives in Savannah, Georgia with her husband and their 14th month old son. During her time at the Mary Byron Project she has learned about the different dynamics of IPV, the legal system's protocols for handling IPV and the process of appeals, and the detrimental effects of how IPV affects all involved. Most of all, her time at the Mary Byron Project has taught her that there are resources and people who care that are willing to devote their time and energy into serving survivors and furthering victim's rights. After graduation, she will be working in Statesboro, Georgia as a clinical substance abuse counselor.



Shannon Donley is 2 semesters away from being done with her Masters degree at University of Kentucky online Masters of Social Work. She currently lives in Blacklick, Ohio; right outside Columbus, Ohio. During her time at the Mary Byron Project she has learned multiple perspectives on interpersonal and domestic violence and the procedures regarding that in the legal system. She has also learned that there are many resources all over the United States that work with victims of Domestic Violence and that is extremely encouraging for the direction of the legal systems and advocacy of victims. She has learned that there are many people in all levels of the legal system in Kentucky that are willing to work towards justice, prevention, and safety of victims. She has learned a lot about how the judicial system is not always in the favor of the victims of IPV, but there are those working hard to correct and educate in the direction of justice. After graduation, she will be continuing schooling with a 2nd masters in Criminology and a PhD in Forensic Psychology.

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