

TOWNHALLER

Your Monthly Townhall II Newsletter



Domestic Violence Awareness Month



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each year millions of Americans experience domestic violence including over 51,000 in Ohio and 603 in Portage County.

Domestic violence affects persons of all races, genders, and income levels. It's important to remember this fact if and when people disclose that they are being abused. Survivors of domestic violence can experience gaslighting which makes it difficult for them to believe they are experiencing abuse. Gaslighting happens when a person says or does something, then claims that it never happened, therefore making the other person think they made it up, are overreacting, or are "going crazy." Abusers can be very good at manipulating the people around them and don't always seem abusive to family and friends.



A good support network can make a world of difference to someone who has experienced a crime. Victim services advocates are trained to help and support anyone who needs it. Advocates can provide support via phone, accompany survivors to the hospital, court dates, or other safe locations, help survivors find shelter, and more. If survivors need a service our advocates cannot provide, we are happy to refer them to the appropriate organization. Advocates are available 24/7 and can be reached by calling the Townhall II helpline at **330.678.HELP (4357).**

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Collaboration with Bell Tower Brewing

Bell Tower Brewing Company, located at 310 Park Avenue in Kent Ohio, donated \$3,500.00 to Townhall II's Rape Crisis Program. Jennifer Hermann and her amazing team presented our team with the donation on Friday, September 2nd at the brewery. Jennifer presented the check with an inspirational and heartfelt speech.

The donation comes from the sales of the Brave Noise draft. Brave Noise started as a question about sexism in the beer industry and turned into a movement. Brave Noise advocates for safe spaces and inclusive environments by requesting breweries be transparent with their policies and procedures and commit to long term work.

Townhall II's Rape Crisis program provides survivors of Portage County with 24-hour advocacy including phone advocacy, hospital advocacy, legal advocacy, and law enforcement accompaniment. The program also provides trauma counseling, support groups and community outreach. Other services for survivors include transportation assistance, door lock replacements, clothing items and personal hygiene items and assistance with Safe at Home and Crime Victim Compensation applications. Townhall II also facilitates the Portage Sexual Assault Response Team, a coalition of agencies that serve sexual assault survivors through a variety of multidisciplinary services.

We are so grateful for this donation. Our program, as all programs throughout the state, has continued to see cuts in funding. Our main goal is always preventing these cuts from affecting the people that we serve; this donation will help us achieve this goal.

Thank you, Bell Tower, for making a Brave Noise for all the survivors of Portage County!



Let's Talk About It

Mother's in Recovery Support Group Nomination

Townhall II was proud and honored to have our Mothers in Recovery Support Group, Let's Talk About It, nominated for the Health Initiative Award through Celebrate Portage.

Leaders from across the county came together on September 22nd to recognize organizations and individuals who are among some of the "best and brightest". The evening included entertainment, food, and an awards ceremony.

The Health Initiative Award recognizes programs or initiatives in Portage County that have been developed and implemented to demonstrate an effort to build better systems to provide all people with the tools they need to reach their full potential for health and wellness.

This support group was started with an idea from one of our case managers who recognized the different expectations the system was putting on the mothers on his caseload versus the fathers who were on his caseload. He met with two of his clients to ask for their input and ideas and it was there that our support group was born.

The space provides moms in recovery with a safe, understanding and judgement free platform. The group is mostly peer led with a prevention specialist and case manager on hand to keep topics and conversations flowing as needed. Educational components are added throughout as requested and topics include, but are not limited to, parenting, self-care, advocacy, the legal system. Childcare and meals are provided, and the group meets on Monday evenings twice a month at the Townhall II Ravenna office.

Although our group did not win, our staff along with two of the founding mothers of the group, had a wonderful evening and were proud to be nominated.



For more information on the Mothers in Recovery Support Group, please contact Sarah McCully at 234.236.4803 or sarahmc@townhall2.com.

Happenings this Month

October 2nd: International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2nd, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. He was the leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

October 11th:

National Coming Out Day

This day continues to raise awareness for individuals within the LGBTQ+ community. On this day, many people who identify as LGBTQ+ will “come out” to friends or family about their sexuality, which is a very big moment!

October 14th: National Stop Bullying Day

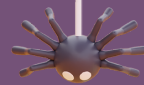
This day is celebrated on the second Wednesday in October bringing together students, faculty, and parents to end bullying. Bullying comes in many forms. It occurs repeatedly and is a way for the perpetrator to show their power. Whether the bullying is verbal, physical, relational, or cyberbullying, the results are detrimental. To learn more click [here](#).

October 26th:

National Pumpkin Day

By October 26th, most of us are in a craze with our pumpkin obsession. Not only do they make great fall decorations, but pumpkin also completes a variety of tasty recipes. How are you going to celebrate National Pumpkin Day?

October 31st:



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

Student Anti-Vaping Video Contest

The focus of the Anti-Tobacco Video contest is to recruit local youth that are interested in creating individual anti-vaping videos intended to educate their peers about the dangers of youth vaping and to educate the larger community about the need to reduce the access and availability of these tobacco products. Youth will work alongside The Kent City Health Department and Townhall II to learn about the issues related to youth vaping, including the impact of nicotine addiction and the targeted marketed strategies used by tobacco companies to market their products to the youth.

If you have students who would be interested in participating in the Anti-Tobacco Vaping contest, please reach out to Tiffany Rittenour at tiffanyr@townhall2.com or Jalessa Caples at jalessa.caples@kent-ohio.org.

Staff Shout Out

Barb Folan has been the administrative assistant for Townhall II for almost 17 years! Barb is our go to person for everything! She makes sure that the agency has everything we need to function on a day to day basis. Barb also puts together all of our staff trainings and our parties. Barb did an amazing job organizing our annual staff picnic, making a day for employees to feel appreciated. The picnic is a day to relax, get to know newer employees, and recognize those who have been at Townhall II for years. Barb, we all appreciate the work that you do here! Thank you!



Townhall II is growing! We are hiring for the following positions:

- Crisis Intervention Program Manager
- Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist
- Peer Supporter
- Licensed Counselor
- Facility Coordinator
- Child Care Workers

Click [here](#) to find our online application, send your resume to info@townhall2.com, or call 330.678.3006 for questions.

Staff Spotlight

Kyle Scherer



Start Date: August 2019

Current Title: Crisis Intervention Specialist

Previous Titles at Townhall II: Helpline Volunteer

Background into the field: Kyle received his Bachelors of Science in Psychology from Kent State. He had a strong passion for the field of psychology since taking an intro course in high school. He expanded his knowledge in college and was eager to get practical experience in the field. He started to volunteer and intern at Townhall 2 his senior year. He has loved it ever since and the thing he loves the most about the Helpline is knowing that he is there for anyone in Portage County at a moment's notice when they are in a crisis and don't know where to turn.

Fun facts about Kyle: He holds a school record at his high school for track and field in the 4x200 meter relay.

Kyle's Favorite Quote: "Go Browns!"

NEW STAFF

Amanda Riffle
Peer Supporter

Kodie McCully
Case Manager

WELCOME
ABOARD!



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