

## How can you become involved?

The Roundtable welcomes **everyone concerned about domestic violence in later life** and interested in stopping the problem locally. This includes **older people and their advocates** as well as **professionals** in such systems as senior services, domestic violence programming, adult protective services, criminal justice, victim assistance, health care, and education.

## Interested in joining the Roundtable?

Name

Agency

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone Number

Email Address

*Please forward this information to:*

[vgrant@dvcac.org](mailto:vgrant@dvcac.org)

*Or mail the information to:*

**Victoria Grant, Roundtable Co-Chair**  
**c/o Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center**  
**P.O. Box 5466, Cleveland, Ohio 44101**  
**Fax 216.229.2474**

## Did you know?

- Only **1 out of every 24** cases of abuse in later life is reported.<sup>a</sup>



- Common reasons victims do not report domestic violence include:**

- Fear of retaliation
- Fear that no one will believe them
- Fear of court process
- Guilt and shame
- Feeling responsible for the abuse
- Cultural and religious beliefs
- Isolation
- Financial concerns
- Lack of social support/care
- Lack of alternative housing
- Poor past experience reporting



a. Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study. Retrieved from <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/reports/Under%20the%20Radar%202005%202012%202011%20final%20report.pdf>

# Greater Cleveland Elder Abuse/Domestic Violence Roundtable

**Working Together to Confront  
Domestic Violence in Later Life**



The Roundtable is in collaboration with the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center.

## Who are we?

The Roundtable is a group of professionals and citizens in Cuyahoga County dedicated to **education and advocacy** around the interface of elder abuse and domestic violence, that is, domestic violence in later life.



## What is domestic violence in later life?

It is the **repeated pattern of behavior** that an **abuser uses to gain control over an older adult**. It includes physical, sexual, emotional, and/or financial abuse.

Research suggests that annually **1 in 10** older Americans is a victim of elder abuse, that the **majority of abusers are family members** (particularly spouses/partners or adult children), and that **half** of all elder abuse is really domestic violence in later life.

## How did the Roundtable begin?

We were formed out of a **Community Dialogue Series** in 1997 that resulted in the following **guiding principles** concerning domestic violence in later life:

- There should be zero tolerance for abuse.
- Intervention is a community-wide responsibility.
- Prevention and treatment should be available for each family member.
- Prevention is as important as treatment.
- Elder abuse and domestic violence need effective legal recourse.
- Interventions must respect the victim's dignity, personal choices, and rights.



## What are our accomplishments?



Past successful initiatives:

- Specifically funded **education projects** targeting
  - Older adults in center centers and housing complexes
  - Paraprofessionals and others who provide care to impaired elders
  - Women's groups in faith communities
  - Children and adolescents
- Development of accessible and elder-friendly local **emergency shelter facilities**
- **Technical assistance** for Shukutaoku University to establish an elder abuse prevention program in Japan
- Various **conference and workshop sponsorships and abuse awareness activities**

