

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

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.^a



- 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%2005%2012%2011%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**

