

Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome and thank you so much for joining me to support the important work of LSS CHOICES, the only domestic violence shelter and 24-hour crisis and information hotline in Franklin County.
- [SHARE PERSONAL ANECDOTE AS TO WHAT MAKES YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT THE CAUSE]
- As you may know, domestic violence is a wide-spread problem that tears apart families and our communities and cuts across every age, race, region and socio-economic status.
- There is a good chance you may even know someone who has experienced domestic violence.
- In fact, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience intimate partner abuse in their lifetime.
- Franklin County police departments in 2015 responded to nearly 7,000 domestic violence incidents.
- It also has a significant impact on our economy, costing more than \$8.3 billion each year in the workplace, including medical care, mental health services and lost productivity.
- Victims and their children need a safe place to go to break the cycle of violence and begin the healing process, and the CHOICES shelter has been the sole resource in Franklin County for more than four decades.
- However, the current shelter is no longer an acceptable safe haven for victims. It is often overcrowded and at one point, housed about 100 victims and their children; double what the facility is configured to hold.
- The CHOICES shelter desperately needs a new home to meet the need in our community.
- CHOICES will serve nearly 2,000 different individuals this year, including more than 750 who seek refuge at the shelter.

Capital Campaign Outline

- LSS CHOICES is in the beginning stages of a broad-scale campaign
- The goal for the fundraising campaign is \$15.3 million, which will cover land acquisition and construction costs, three years of incremental operating and new programming costs, and a building maintenance fund. An endowment also will be established to support the community's immediate and emerging needs related to serving domestic violence victims.
- We have been fortunate to have engaged many wonderful supporters to the cause including Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, Worthington Industries, the McConnell Family Foundation, American Electric Power Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, the Wexner Family, and L Brands Foundation. Also supporting CHOICES are Huntington Bank, the Wolfe family, The Columbus Foundation, the State of Ohio and many other generous donors.

New Facility Overview

- LSS CHOICES organized a Shelter Design Planning Committee that included local leaders from the Columbus Division of Police, the sheriff's office, as well as local domestic violence experts.
- They are focusing on creating a thoughtful design, inspired by Building Dignity – a national concept for shelters that supports our trauma informed care model, enhances security and fosters a sense of healing.
- The trauma informed care model considers the many behaviors and responses expressed by survivors that are directly related to traumatic experiences.
- The new shelter will increase the number of beds from 51 to 120, with capacity to add 48 more beds in the future.
- It will have a small neighborhood feel with bedrooms, bathrooms and a sitting room in each neighborhood.
- There will be several communal areas and counseling rooms, as well as space for youth programs and a secure outdoor playground and garden.
- The shelter will also have kennels and exercise areas for pets.

Support Ask

- It is more important than ever that our community – including each of us in this room – steps up to provide those who are experiencing domestic violence in Franklin County a safe and secure roof over their heads.
- This really is a unique chance for each of us to make a difference right here in this moment and to make an investment that is good for local families, our community and our society as a whole.
- I ask you to join me in pledging a commitment today/tonight to support the work of LSS CHOICES, helping us reach our goal to have a state-of-the art shelter with the security, resources and programming needed to change lives and transition victims into survivors.
- There are materials about the campaign here for your review.
- Please think about how you can help ensure safety and either fill out a pledge card before you leave or take one with you and mail it in.
- On behalf of all those served by CHOICES, I thank you.

Follow LSS CHOICES on social media & share your event photos with us!



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