

Niagara County FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT Newsletter

Volume 9.1

September 2025



Domestic Violence Awareness

This October, for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we encourage you to show your support by attending the many events offered throughout Niagara County (see inside for details). We also ask that you share and post information on social media to raise awareness.

FVIP appreciates your efforts in keeping a trauma-informed lens when serving clients affected by Domestic Violence. With so many shortfalls in funding, changes to policies and how that affects the safety of those we serve, it is more important than ever to stay connected.

For additional ways to support our community in raising awareness, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely, **FVIP**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Research Corner	2
Special Feature	3
Hats Off	3
Upcoming Events	4
Upcoming Trainings	4
Fliers	5-10
FVIP Information	11-12

LEARN & SHARES

Save the Date!

September

9/26: Probation 101 9:30-11am
At BOCES Conference Center
See Flyer on Page 10 to Register

October - November

None

December

12/19: STRIVE Grant 9:30-11am
(Virtual)

Trauma Informed Care & Domestic Violence



Trauma-informed care (TIC) is a framework for understanding and responding to the effects of trauma in healthcare, social services and other settings. It aims to create safe, supportive, and empowering environments for individuals who have experienced trauma. The following are some principles of trauma-informed care that you can utilize while working with survivors: understanding how trauma impacts survivors, ensuring both physical and emotional safety, fostering trust in interactions and procedures, and promoting empowerment by involving survivors in decision-making. Through trauma-informed care, all experiences and needs are valued, including those of caregivers. This lens reveals a network of relationships between the survivor, service providers, organizations, friends and family and the community.

Research Corner:

Recent research related to IPV

If you would like a PDF copy of the article, please email Dr. Dana Radatz at dradatz@niagara.edu

Almost one in two women (47.3%) and two in five men (44.2%) reported contact of sexual violence, physical violence, and stalking victimization by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. To address such violence, victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) often look to protection orders (POs) to stop the abuse. POs are intended to provide immediate relief to victims by separating the abuser and victim.

Purpose: The original PASK project analyzed literature on POs and their effectiveness. This study builds on the previous PASK research to further understand the role and efficacy of restraining orders/protective orders in combining IPV, while addressing various factors, including age, gender, race/ethnicity, and legal issues.

Method: A systematic review, focusing on quantitative data. Eligible studies included those related to POs and IPV or DV. Studies had to be empirically based and between the dates January 1, 2013, and January 1, 2023. The data from 43 articles involving POs and IPV or DV were used. Based on the articles, themes included a) GVROs; b) courts, evidence, and policy; c) age, gender, and race/ethnicity; d) technology, stalking, victim safety,

and psychological well-being; and e) community demographics and international studies.

Overall, studies exploring age, gender, and race/ethnicity in the context of POs reveal critical disparities and challenges within the legal system's response to IPV. POs aim to enhance victim safety; however, the pervasive use of technology by abusers complicates matters. While POs show effectiveness in reducing certain forms of abuse and improving mental health outcomes, limitations remain. They may reduce moderate IPV, but not necessarily other forms of abuse, and varying restrictions impact abuse severity and mental health outcomes differently. Barriers to reporting and help-seeking remain stemming from dissatisfaction with the justice system, fear of retaliation, and concerns about child well-being. Studies found urban-rural disparities in PO effectiveness, health outcomes, and violations, emphasizing specific needs for rural victims.

Russell, B., Cox, J., Hamel, A., MacNeil, E., & Stewart, H. (2025). A Systematic Review of Intimate Partner Violence Protection Order Research: A Decade of Insight. *Partner Abuse*, 16(2)



Resource Feature:

The NO MORE Foundation is dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault by increasing awareness, inspiring action, and fueling culture change. With more than 1,800 allied organizations and chapters around the world, NO MORE sparks grassroots activism, encouraging everyone—women and men, youth and adults, from all walks of life—to be part of the solution. The Foundation creates and provides public awareness campaigns, educational resources and community organizing tools free-of-charge for anyone wanting to stop and prevent violence. First launched in 2013, NO MORE has brought together the largest coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, governmental agencies, major corporations, universities, communities and individuals, all under a common brand and a unifying symbol in support of a world free of violence.

For more information on NO MORE or to create a membership follow the link to: <https://www.nomore.org/>

Special Feature: STRIVE Grant

The STRIVE Team:

Amaya Springer	Advocate NCSO
Carrie Borges	Advocate YWCA
Emma Halleen	Crime Analyst
Maria Faso	Detective
Rhonda Busch	Paralegal
Kathy Stack	STRIVE Coordinator

The new STRIVE (Statewide Targeted Intimate Partner Violence Initiative) grant is designed to offer support to survivors and ensures better resources for both law enforcement and victim services. The goal is not only to support survivors of intimate partner violence but also to look at perpetrators to see how we can avoid future violence.

The grant focuses on swift and effective action before the violence escalates. Some of the new training will focus on identifying high risk lethality cases at the scene and then connecting with an advocate immediately to safety plan. Survivors who choose not to engage with the legal system or press charges can still find the support they need with multidisciplinary collaboration with the community.

Agencies will work together to collaborate with survivors in a trauma informed way that individually addresses their needs. This is a Coordinated Community Response (CCR). A CCR brings together a diverse group of community partners to develop a shared vision to collectively and consistently

address the widespread impact of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and provide multiple pathways to support, healing and accountability for families.

Typical CCRs are exclusively legal systems, however the goal of STRIVE is to address community issues by including community partners such as: Faith-Based Organizations, Colleges, Community members, Tribal Leaders, CPS, Elders, Child Care, Mental Health, Social Services, Animal Shelters etc.

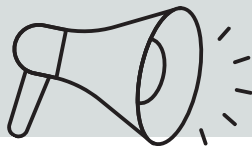
Collaboration is essential to everything we do. We partner with organizations inside and outside the criminal justice system to help survivors, hold offenders accountable and keep communities safe.

The STRIVE Grant is set to be released in October 2025. For any further questions, please contact Kathy Stack; kathy.stack@niagarafallsny.gov

“Hat’s Off!” to... Stephanie Hubler!

Stephanie first joined Passage House, emergency domestic violence shelter, in 2021 as a Residential Care Worker and quickly showed the dedication and heart that make her an incredible advocate for survivors. In 2023, she stepped into the role of Residential Manager, taking on the enormous responsibility of overseeing a 24/7 domestic violence shelter.

Running a shelter that never closes requires patience, fairness, compassion, strong leadership and the ability to remain steady for residents and her team. She is a true team player, making sure staff feel supported while always keeping survivors at the center of her work. We are so proud of Stephanie’s hard work, commitment and growth. Hat’s off to you, Stephanie! Thank you for your tireless advocacy and unwavering dedication to ensure survivors have a safe and supportive place to heal.



Events Coming Up... You're Invited!

Fliers for all listed events can be found starting on page 5

Wednesday, 10/1 - *An Overview of Domestic Violence Risk Assessment* featuring Guest Speaker and FVIP member, Dr. Dana Radatz. 9:30-11:30am at Russell Salvatore Dining Commons, Niagara University. Registration required, see page 5 for more details.

Thursday, 10/2 - *12th Annual Purple Ribbon Walk & Art Show* hosted by Pinnacle Community Services. 4:30pm at 3rd & Old Falls St. Food and Drinks will follow at The Archives. RSVP recommended, see page 6 for more details.

Monday 10/6- *Living in Light* hosted by Niagara University's Office for Violence Prevention and Education. 4:30-6:30pm at Niagara Castellani Art Museum. No RSVP required.

Tuesday, 10/14- *In Her Shoes DV Simulation* hosted by Pinnacle Community Services. 1pm at The Lockport Public Safety Building. RSVP required, see page 8 for more details.

Thursday 10/23- *Safe At Home Conference* hosted by Niagara County's Family Violence Intervention Project. 8:30-4:30pm Doubletree by Hilton. Fee includes lunch. Registration required, see page 9 for more details.

Available Online Trainings



Wednesday, 10/1 - *Domestic Violence 101: Back to the Basics* presented by NSCADV to kickoff Domestic Violence Awareness Month. 2-3:30pm online webinar. Registration required, free of cost.
<https://nrcdv.coalitionmanager.org/eventmanager/TrainingEvent/Details/109>

Tuesday, 10/21 - *Poly-victimization: Connecting the Dots with Intimate Partner Violence* presented by Justice Clearing House. 1-2:15pm online webinar. Registration required, free of cost.
<https://www.justiceclearinghouse.com/webinar/poly-victimization-connecting-the-dots-with-intimate-partner-violence/?source=regpage>

Thursday, 12/4- *Victim Safety Planning and Mobile Devices* presented by Justice Clearing House. 3-4:15pm virtual webinar. Registration required, free of cost.
<https://www.justiceclearinghouse.com/webinar/tech-safety-planning-and-mobile-devices/?source=regpage>

Tuesday 1/27- *The Internet of Things and Safety Planning* presented by Justice Clearing House and NOVA. 1-2:15pm virtual webinar. Registration required, free of cost.
<https://www.justiceclearinghouse.com/webinar/the-internet-of-things-and-victim-safety-planning/?source=regpage>

An Overview of Domestic Violence Risk Assessment



DANA L. RADATZ, PH.D.

PROFESSOR, NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

October 1, 2025

9:30AM – 11:30AM

RUSSELL SALVATORE

DINING COMMONS

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

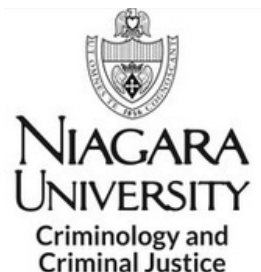
Training Description

This presentation will provide an overview of the most commonly used evidence-based framework in correctional programming and supervision: Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR), and describe the purpose and benefits of risk assessment. The training will cover risk communication and the relative benefits of communicating risk numerically vs. subjectively. Further, the presentation will highlight the most current research on risk factors, provide a cursory overview of the most widely used domestic violence risk assessment tools, and their accuracy in predicting domestic violence recidivism. The training will end on notes for future directions and a Q&A.

Please Use the Link Below to Register:

<https://forms.gle/VhjSTo61tQoURoJ1A>

FREE TO ATTEND AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY





12TH ANNUAL - Passage Domestic Violence Services

Purple Ribbon Walk & Art Show

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Thursday October 2nd

Walk starting Corner of
3rd & Old Falls St. at 4:30pm



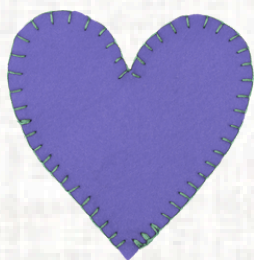
Let us know you're coming!
Or share our event!

Kick off event to follow the walk at
The Gold Bar on 3rd

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY'S OVPE PRESENTS

Living in Light

The Art of Healing



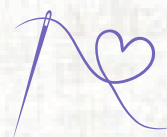
We invite you to a one night exhibit featuring domestic violence survivor artwork from members in our local community.

All donations will benefit Pinnacle Community Services'
Passage Domestic Violence Services

October 6, 2025
Castellani Art Museum

Open from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Brief program to begin at 5:00 PM
5795 Lewiston Rd, 7 Varsity Dr,
Niagara University, NY 14109

*"Art becomes our voice when words feel unsafe,
our power when we thought it was lost"*



Presented in Collaboration with our Community Partners:

- Pinnacle Community Services
- Castellani Art Museum
- Child Advocacy Center of Niagara
- YWCA of the Niagara Frontier
- Niagara County Sheriff's Office
- Victim Services & Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- Seven Dancers Coalition



This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GG-04480-CAMP awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Questions? Please email OVPE Director,
Emily Pike at epike@niagara.edu

716-286-8105 @nu_ovpe



**PASSAGE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SERVICES**

IN HER SHOES DV SIMULATION

**Tuesday, October 14th
1pm | The Lockport Public Safety
Building**



Take the opportunity to learn more about
what domestic violence survivors face
everyday and the decisions they need to make



FREE EVENT



RSVP with Caleigh at
cskinner@pinnaclecs.org | 716-285-6984 ext.215

Niagara County Family Violence Intervention Project

2025 Safe at Home Conference



**Thursday,
October 23, 2025
8:30am - 4:30pm**

Doubletreeby Hilton
Niagara Falls, NY

Ticket Price: \$60 (includes lunch)



To Register
Scan Code or
Visit HERE

Join us for an exciting day as speakers from across our region share their expertise, lived experience, and work in our communities.



Joseph Fazzary

Schuyler County District Attorney

It would take him over twenty years to tell his own story but once he did, he knew there was more he had to do to help victims. Join DA Fazzary as he discusses the critical need for advocates and law enforcement to coordinate efforts to construct healing centered programs and venues for survivors, while recognizing the long-term effects of sexual assault. Advocacy for survivors is a marathon, not a sprint.



Kelly Marie Wofford

Director of Health Equity, Mental Health & Wellness Advocate, Doula, Founder, Front Seat Life, LLC., & Healthy Illness Podcast

A survivor of childhood sexual abuse, chronic depression & anxiety, as well as lived suicide experiences, Kelly Marie uses her life to educate and empower others. Through her Healthy Illness podcast she helps listeners build healthy relationships while living with mental health conditions. Encouraging people to "Be the Light", join Kelly Marie as she shares her stories and strategies.



Dana Radatz, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Niagara University

Domestic violence (DV) evaluation results have indicated DV treatment programming has been minimally effective in reducing recidivism. In response, scholars and practitioners have looked to other evidence-based correctional programming known to be effective at reducing recidivism among general offenders, known as the principles of effective intervention (PEI), as a guiding framework to potentially improve current DV treatment and supervision. Join Dr. Radatz as she discusses these prior efforts, current challenges, and future directions.



Matthew Stegner

Founder, Stegner Consulting & Training | Retired Senior Investigator, New York State Police

Join Matthew for a comprehensive education on trauma-informed criminal investigations involving child abuse and exploitation. Drawing on Matthew's 26 years of law enforcement experience, the training will focus on integrating victim-centered principles into criminal investigations, emphasizing procedural justice to improve survivors' experiences.

For more information, visit: cacofniagara.org/services/family-violence-intervention-project/



NCSO VICTIM SERVICES 5K RACE FUNDRAISER



5K RUN & WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

LOCATION: WIDEWATERS MARINA, MARKET ST., LOCKPORT

TIMELINE:

8:30 REGISTRATION
9:30 KIDS FUN RUN
10:00 5K RUN/WALK



SCAN TO
REGISTER

REGISTRATION:
PRE-RACE FEE \$30
RACE DAY FEE \$35
RUNNER'S TEE

POST RACE PARTY!
FOOD, DRINKS, RACE PRIZES

QUESTIONS:
(716) 438-3306

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT NCSO VICTIM SERVICES

NIAGARA COUNTY

TRUNK OR TREAT

**JOIN US
IN YOUR SPOOKIEST COSTUMES!**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | FREE EVENT

**SUNY Niagara 3111 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT RD
SANBORN, NY 14132 LOT #4**



To RSVP, scan the code, use this link:
<https://forms.gle/JWWUQhuEflhXSpl6>

**September 26, 2025
9:30am-11:00am**

BOCES Conference Center
4124 Saunders Settlement Road
Sanborn, NY 14132

NIAGARA COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT

LEARN AND SHARE



Probation 101: *What does probation look like in 2025?*

Join the Niagara County Probation Department for a presentation discussing recent changes in probation, including Raise the Age and Bail Reform/PreTrial Release.

Presented by:

Michael Torrie
Probation Officer/WDS
Niagara County Probation Department

This is a great opportunity to share agency updates and network with agencies in our area.



What Is FVIP?



The Niagara County Family Violence Intervention Project (FVIP) is a coalition of agencies and organizations committed to addressing interpersonal violence and child abuse through collaborative responses, community education and professional training.

For nearly 20 years, FVIP has recognized the co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence and worked together to protect children and adults alike. Volunteer FVIP Steering Committee members set the FVIP's strategic agenda for training, collaboration and networking for mutual support for a shared mission.

We are so excited to share the FVIP Newsletter with the community. We will be sharing news, events, and program highlights on a bi-annual basis!

The FVIP is coordinated by the Child Advocacy Center at Niagara, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

For more information on FVIP, please visit our website:
<https://cacofniagara.org/services/family-violence-intervention-project/>



Domestic Violence
Hotline Numbers:

Passage (716) 299-0909
YWCA (716) 433-6716



STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Child Advocacy Center of Niagara

Shelley Hitzel, LMSW, Executive Director, shelley.hitzel@nfmmc.org

Marissa Virtuoso, Education and Outreach Coordinator, marissa.virtuoso@nfmmc.org

Neighborhood Legal Services

Kathy Kephart, Staff Paralegal, Family Unit, kkephart@nls.org

Niagara County Sheriff's Office Victim Services

Stacy Suess, Niagara County Victim Services Coordinator, Domestic Violence Intervention Program & Victim Assistance Unit, stacy.suess@niagaracounty.gov

Niagara County Department of Social Services

Bridget Janese, Deputy Director of Services, bridget.janese@dt.state.ny.us

Niagara University

Dr. Dana Radatz, Professor, Criminology & Criminal Justice, dradatz@niagara.edu

Pinnacle Community Services

Caleigh Skinner, LMSW, Director of Domestic Violence Services, cskinner@pinnaclecs.org

YWCA of Niagara Frontier

Rachel Sandle-Sacco, Rape Crisis Program Supervisor, rsandle@ywcantf.org

