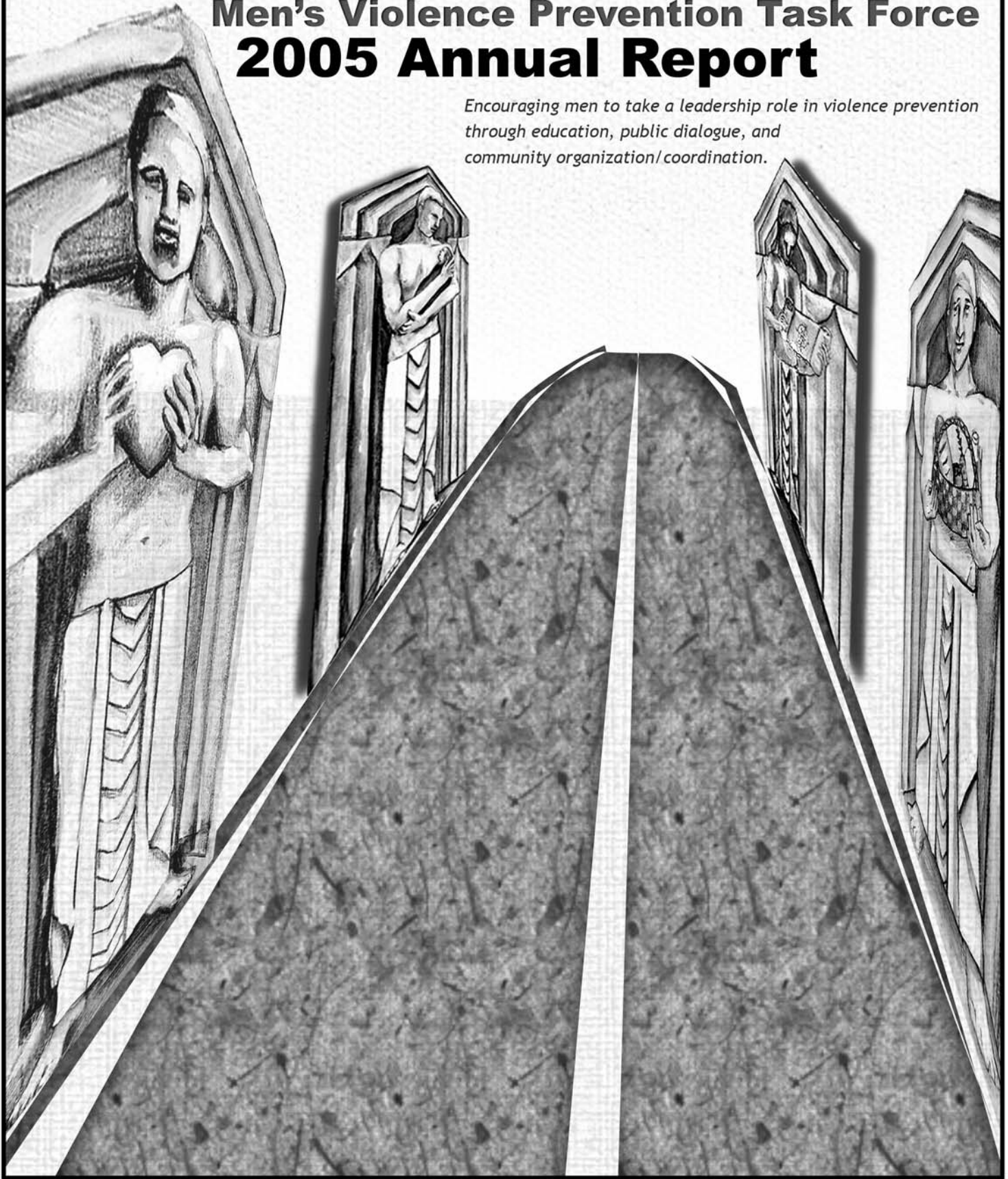




Cleveland Area

# Men's Violence Prevention Task Force 2005 Annual Report

*Encouraging men to take a leadership role in violence prevention through education, public dialogue, and community organization/coordination.*



# History

The Cleveland area Men's Violence Prevention Task Force (MVPTF), a unifying organization concerned with many aspects of masculinity and the role of men in society, works to involve and engage boys and men in violence prevention and encourages them to take leadership roles through education, public dialogue, and cultural intervention.

The formation of the Men's Violence Prevention Task Force would not have come about without a visit to the Case Western Reserve University campus by former professional athlete Don McPherson. Don's visit, sponsored by the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women as part of the Center's annual programming on men and gender, included workshops with Case's Interfraternity Congress and male athletes about the links between gender-based violence and masculinity. Don also hosted a working brunch with members of community organizations and individuals interested in the issues of men's violence prevention. It was from this well-attended brunch that the need to create a mechanism for continued collaboration among those working in this field became apparent.

Prior to the formation of the MVPTF, numerous organizations throughout the Cleveland community worked independ-

ently on issues relating to the prevention of men's violence. The MVPTF, with membership including representatives from various social service agencies, such as the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Centers, Planned Parenthood, Jewish Family Services, the Healthy Fathering Collaborative, and the Men's Action Network, as well as representatives from local universities and government offices, now supports a network that encompasses all aspects of men's violence prevention, from domestic violence prevention to fathering skills.

With more than 40 people on the contact list, the MVPTF has become a presence in the greater Cleveland community. Since its formation, the Task Force has participated on preexisting committees such as the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Coalition Against Violence and Neglect; hosted a visit to Case Western Reserve University by Sut Jhally to show and discuss his film examining the connection between professional wrestling and men's violence; co-sponsored a conference entitled "Mentoring Boys into Men"; offered support to John Carroll University following a rash of campus sexual assaults; and addressed the Promise Keepers by passing out flyers at their 2005 conference held at the Gund Arena. Only a year after the Men's Violence Prevention Task Force's formation, it has involved itself in the Cleveland community, and will continue this participation and concern for men's issues in years to come.

# Table of Contents

## **MISSION:**

*The Cleveland area Men’s Violence Prevention Task Force seeks to engage and involve boys and men in violence prevention and encourage them to take a leadership role through education, public dialogue, and cultural intervention through community organization/coordination.*

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# Media

## Logo

An image of the Detroit Superior Bridge serves as the logo for the Cleveland Area Men's Violence Prevention Task Force. The logo symbolizes the community connections that the Task Force has made, is making, and will make in the future, and the chasms we hope to bridge between traditional concepts of masculinity and the practice of nonviolent, collaborative communication. With these connections and bridges, we hope that one day our society will not be constricted by gender stereotypes that encourage violent or abusive behavior.

## E-mail

The Men's Violence Prevention Task Force can be contacted at **info@mvptf.org**.

## Website

**www.mvptf.org**

The Task Force website, created during the summer of 2005, presents an array of information. The mission and objectives of the Task Force can be found here, as well as dates and times of upcoming meetings and events. In addition, the website provides resources on combating men's violence, up-to-date statistics about the results of men's violence, and coverage of the Task Force and related articles.



**member agencies:**

- anti-oppression discussion group
- begun center for violence prevention research and education
- business volunteers unlimited
- cleveland department of public health
- cleveland mediation center
- cleveland municipal court
- cleveland rape crisis center
- coalition against violence and neglect
- cuyahoga county department of justice affairs
- diocese of cleveland, office of women
- domestic violence center
- fathers and families together (faft), center for families and children
- flora stone mather center for women
- case western reserve university
- greek life, case western reserve university
- healthy fathering collaborative
- jewish family service association, family violence services
- john carroll university
- men's action network
- northeast ohio neighborhood health services, inc.
- planned parenthood
- positive education program
- west side catholic center
- witness/victim



**Letterhead:**

This is the letterhead used by the Men's Violence Prevention Task Force when reaching out to the community and other organizations.

**216-368-0985 • [info@mvptf.org](mailto:info@mvptf.org) • [www.mvptf.org](http://www.mvptf.org)**

# Participating Agencies

**Anti-Oppression Discussion Group**

**Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education**  
**Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences**  
10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106  
(216) 368-2280

**Business Volunteers Unlimited**  
200 Public Square, Suite 2650, Cleveland, OH 44114

**Cleveland Department of Public Health**  
1925 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114-2080  
(216) 664-3920, Fax: (216) 664-2370

**Cleveland.Indymedia.org, Cleveland IMC Radio Hour**  
Tuesdays 4-5pm on 91.1 FM

**Cleveland Mediation Center**  
2012 West 25<sup>th</sup> St., #906, Cleveland, OH 44113  
(216) 621-1919

**Cleveland Municipal Court**  
1200 Ontario Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

**Cleveland Rape Crisis Center**  
1370 Ontario Street, Ste. 420, Cleveland, OH 44113  
(216) 619-6194

**Coalition Against Violence and Neglect**

**Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs**  
1276 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Ste. 409, Cleveland, OH 44113  
(216) 698-6558, Fax: (216) 698-6524

**Diocese of Cleveland, Office for Women**  
1031 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114  
(216) 696-6525

**Domestic Violence Center**  
P.O. Box 5466, Cleveland, OH 44101  
(216) 651-8484

**Fathers and Families Together (FAFT)  
Center for Families and Children**  
4500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103

**Flora Stone Mather Center for Women**  
**Case Western Reserve University**  
10900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106-7175  
(216) 368-0985, Fax: (216) 368-0977

**Greek Life**  
**Case Western Reserve University**  
10900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106

**Guerilla Radio**

**Healthy Fathering Collaborative**  
**Community Endeavors Foundation**  
1951 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, #511, Cleveland, OH 44113  
info@neofathering.net

**Jewish Family Service Association's  
Family Violence Services**  
3659 South Green Road, Suite 322, Beachwood, OH 44122

**John Carroll University, Office of Student Affairs**  
20700 North Park Blvd., University Heights, OH 44118

**Men's Action Network**  
11917 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44111

**NorthEast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.**  
Hough Health Center  
8300 Hough Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103  
(216) 231-7700, Fax: (216) 231-7920

**Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland**  
3500 Lorain Ave., Ste. 400, Cleveland, OH 44113-3704  
(216) 961-8804, Fax: (216) 334-2211

**Positive Education Program**  
**Help Me Grow**  
3100 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115

**Spectrum (GLBTQ Student Group)**  
**Case Western Reserve University**  
11111 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44106

**West Side Catholic Center**  
3135 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, OH  
(216) 631-4141

**Witness/Victim Service Center**  
1275 Ontario St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Cleveland, OH 44113  
(216) 443-7397, (216) 443-7345, Fax: (216) 443-7365

**Women's Comprehensive Program**  
**Cleveland State University**

**YO! Cleveland**  
540 E. 105<sup>th</sup> St., Cleveland, OH 44108  
(216) 249-2002

**YWCA of Greater Cleveland**  
4019 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103

***Over 40 individuals representing 29 agencies participate on the Men's Violence Prevention Task Force. Included on this list are representatives of various social service agencies in the Cleveland area, representatives from local universities and government offices, and individuals interested in various aspects of men's violence***

# Education

## **Objective #1:**

**Education:** To educate the greater Cleveland community about the dynamics and dimensions of violence and to provide violence prevention resources.

The MVPTF sponsors and supports presentations, workshops, and seminars on issues such as the connections between violence and oppression, men's mentorship, and healthy masculinity. The Task Force also maintains resource and referral materials, including a comprehensive website and a current referral guide of local agencies

## **Co-Sponsored Programs,**

### **Mentoring Boys into Men: Helping Adolescent Boys Prevent Gender Violence**

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the Men's Violence Prevention Task Force took part in a conference aimed at educating men in the prevention of gender violence and the role mentors can play for a boy growing up in a gender biased world. The topics covered included:

- Domestic Violence Dynamics and Dimensions
- Characteristics of Batterers
- Children, Adolescents and Violence
- Mentoring Boys into Men
- Dating Violence Dynamics and Dimensions
- Cultural Aspect of Domestic Violence

The Mentoring Boys into Men conference was the collaborative effort of the Domestic Violence Center, Cleveland Municipal Court, Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, and the Begun Center, and included speakers Don McPherson and Rev. Dr. B. Alexander Moore. This conference brought in 61 men from throughout the community.

### **Sut Jhally**

In co-sponsorship with the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women at Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Cinematheque, the Task Force brought in prominent speaker and film maker Sut Jhally. Jhally is known for his numerous publications and productions dissecting media and its influence on gender stereotyping. Some of his best known works include "Dreamworlds II: Gender/Sex/Power in Music-Video", (1995) and "Tough Guise: Violence, Media and the Crisis in Masculinity", (with Jackson Katz, 1999).

In his January 25<sup>th</sup> visit to Cleveland, Sut Jhally brought along his most recent production, "Wrestling with Manhood: Boys, Bullying & Battering" (2003) for a viewing and discussion at the Cinematheque. This video looks at how professional wrestling influences boys growing up in pop culture.

With support coming from a number of Case Western Reserve University organizations including the Interfraternity Congress, this program brought in over 100 participants.

# Public Dialogue

## Objective #2:

### **Public Dialogue: To promote and inform dialogue about gender-based violence prevention.**

The MVPTF strives to increase public awareness and dialogue about gender-based violence prevention within the greater Cleveland community through both active and passive programming, including flyering and public service announcements, as well as educational presentations, workshops, and seminars.

## **Passive Programming Campaign, 2004-**

A series of flyers were created and distributed to various locations in the Greater Cleveland Area with the catch phrase “**Male Models Wanted.**” The flyers stated some positive qualities of men in different roles. Each flyers targeted a specific population, from high school and college students to fathers, and contained a specific message. The campaign aimed at prevention of both men’s violence against women and men’s violence against other men.

### *High School and College Students:*

- **FEARLESS** (not afraid to ask for help)
- **SMART** (knows how to talk things out)
- **RIGHTEOUS** (avoids teasing and hazing)
- **COURAGEOUS** (not afraid to cry)
- **STRONG** (enough to walk away from a fight)

### *Violence Against Women:*

- Maintains healthy relationships with women
- Does not laugh at jokes that put women down
- Talks to other men about healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Treats women with respect, even when he doesn’t get his way
- Knows that violence is not a normal part of a relationship

### *Violence Against Other Men:*

- Has self-respect
- Knows that violence does not equal strength
- Does not laugh at jokes that put others down
- Can walk away from a fight
- Takes responsibility for his choices
- Is not afraid to ask for help

### *Fathering:*

#### **Do you . . .**

- Listen to your kids?
- Spend time playing with your kids?
- Talk to your kids about yourself and share your feelings with them?
- Model respect for all women, especially their mother?
- Give your children lots of love, every day?
- Stay actively involved in your child’s school?

USE IT TO STOP VIOLENCE

EMPLOYMENT

# MALE MODELS WANTED

**ATTENTION MEN:**

*We are seeking role models to show other men that violence is not okay*

**Qualifications:**

- \*Maintains healthy and respectful relationships
- \*Has self-respect
- \*Shows that violence does not equal strength
- \*Manages and communicates his feelings
- \*Takes responsibility for his choices
- \*Is a leader; speaks out against violence
- \*Is not afraid to ask for help

**Does this sound like you?**

**If so, you're the man for the job!**

*You are a role model . . . Be a good one.*

Sponsored by the Men's Violence Prevention Task Force  
(216) 368-0985, [www.mvptf.org](http://www.mvptf.org), [info@mvptf.org](mailto:info@mvptf.org)

# Cultural Intervention

## Objective #3:

**Cultural Intervention: To design interventions that reduce cultural support of gender-based violence.**

The MVPTF will address issues relating to gender-based violence as they arise in the greater Cleveland community through letters and editorials, outreach to various organizations, offices, and individuals, and participation on various committees and councils. The Task Force will also forge political partnerships in the interest of impacting policy decisions within the greater Cleveland community.

## Community Involvement,

### Participation on Pre-existing Committees

The Men's Violence Prevention Task Force has representation on various pre-existing committees, including the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Coalition Against Violence and Neglect.

### Address to Promise Keepers

On the weekend of July 22<sup>nd</sup>, a conference was held in Gund Arena by the Promise Keepers. The Promise Keepers are a Christ-centered men's group with a number of "promises" meant to help men grow as Christians. This group, however, has been charged as anti-women, homophobic, and racist due to its steadfast promotion of certain biblical values.

The Men's Violence Prevention Task Force was present at the July 22<sup>nd</sup> conference to pass out flyers attesting to what it means to be a strong, healthy man. The flyers presented information about some qualities of strength, including sincerity and interdependence, and information on the predominance of violence committed in the world by men.

### Formal Outreach to John Carroll University

In late December 2004, John Carroll University was depicted in the Cleveland Plain Dealer after a few undergraduate women came forward and admitted to being sexually assaulted. John Carroll received a lot of positive publicity in the aftermath of the claims due to their quick response and partnership with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center.

We responded in two ways, primarily, Dr. Dorothy Miller, the director of the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women, sent a letter to the editor of the Plain Dealer expressing support for the women who came forward and explaining the mission of the taskforce. Soon after, Dana Blocker, Assistant Director of the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women contacted lead student affairs and academic personnel at John Carroll, offering support and an invitation to participate on the Task Force. They expressed desire to join the MVPTF and were appreciative of the support.