

The **Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV)** is dedicated to finding comprehensive solutions to domestic violence. OCDV works closely with community leaders, health care providers, City agencies and representatives from the criminal justice system to create solutions that are critical to preventing domestic violence in New York City.

The **New York City Family Justice Centers**, a public-private partnership initiative, reduce barriers faced by domestic violence victims seeking help. These innovative Centers help guide domestic violence victims to a life free of violence by co-locating essential social, self-sufficiency, criminal justice and civil legal services under one roof – all in their language while their children play safely in the next room.

Based on the success of the first Center, opened in Brooklyn in 2005, Mayor Bloomberg committed to opening additional Centers. The second Center, in Queens, opened in 2008, and a third Center, in the Bronx, opened in 2010. A fourth Center is scheduled to open in Manhattan in the fall of 2013.

In 2007, OCDV launched its first **Self-Sufficiency Program** to support clients' long-term economic stability. For domestic violence victims, access to financial, housing, vocational, and educational resources may make the difference between independence and long-term stability or returning to batterers or homelessness.

The **Advanced Volunteer Opportunity Network (A.V.O.N.) Mentoring Program** is a new initiative enhancing this work. Experienced professionals from various industries will be paired with qualified clients to focus on developing technical, professional, and personal skills, including networking, interviewing skills, and professional etiquette. The A.V.O.N Mentoring Program will provide professional guidance, offer relevant advice and feedback on short and long-term employment goals, introduce mentees to professional networks, and teach mentees the necessary tools to cultivate other networking opportunities to enable professional growth.

Mentors must commit to mentoring one mentee for a period of six months and engage in two meaningful contacts a month with their mentee, either in person, telephonically, or electronically. Training, support, and follow-up will be provided by OCDV.

We invite you to become better acquainted with A.V.O.N and the work of OCDV by visiting us at www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence or by reaching out to the Director of Mentoring Programs, Rachel Teicher, at OCDVSelf-sufficiency@cityhall.nyc.gov or at 212-788-3156.

Economic empowerment is the most effective strategy to breaking the cycle of abuse for victims of domestic violence. It fosters positive life expectations and enables survivors to become productive, fulfilled members of a workforce that contributes to the needs of today's, and tomorrow's, marketplace. An A.V.O.N mentor is a career and personal resource who promotes professional growth for survivors of domestic violence by opening doors to education and workplace advancement.

Empower survivors. Change a life. Become an A.V.O.N Mentor.