2012 Annual Report

Letter from the Board President and E.D.

2013 marks MensWork's fifth anniversary. In the past five years, we have slowly but steadily increased our presence and worked to establish ourselves as one of the primary organizations in Kentuckiana (and indeed, nationally) working to combat violence against women. We have survived the “great recession” (no small feat for any organization, but particularly a start-up nonprofit) and have, in fact, found a way to grow and expand despite these economic and financial challenges.

2012 was in many ways a particularly challenging year. Changes at Jefferson County Public Schools meant that we are no longer allowed to provide our programming within the schools during school time; funding cuts from several of our partner organizations (such as YMCA of Southern Indiana) meant they no longer had the time to include us in their programs and services; the elimination of a major grant providing programming in Southern Indiana meant the curtailment of those projects; and the lingering financial downturn meant new relationships were harder than ever to establish. We have managed these challenges by looking at new partners, expanding our donor initiatives, and becoming more creative with our programming efforts.

In spite of these challenges, we think you will be impressed with what we were able to accomplish this past year, and with some of our plans for 2013. We have seen, for example, another year of significant financial growth (up nearly 35% over our budget from 2011) while reducing some of our expenses. After 4 years of significant growth in our reach, we seem to be stabilizing at reaching roughly 5000 people a year with our educational and leadership development efforts. We also created new partnerships (most notably with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, and the Muhammad Ali Center), and have strengthened our partnerships with both Spalding and Bellarmine Universities.

We also continue to position ourselves to have regional, national and even international impact. MensWork was invited to provide a major workshop at the 2nd World Conference of World Shelters in Washington, DC (in front of an estimated 1100 participants), was selected as part of the Steering Committee of the North American Men Engage Network, and was invited to both Ontario and Lithuania to provide intensive training and technical assistance on engaging men and boys in prevention of sexual and domestic violence. We provided key technical assistance and support for the launch of the Ohio Men’s Action Network (OH-MAN), as well as other initiatives in other states.

As much success as we had in 2012, we are extremely excited about the prospects for 2013. Although still in very difficult financial times, we are confident that we will be able to expand our reach even further. We launched a new organizing initiative at the beginning of the year (“White Ribbon Kentuckiana”) and have some other new initiatives that we’re working on.

MensWork is deeply indebted to you, our supporters, for the encouragement you provide us. There is no way we could do what we’re doing without your support (financial, emotional, and otherwise).

Peacefully,

Mark Miller,  
Board President

Rus Ervin Funk,  
Executive Director
General Report

MensWork focuses our efforts on “developing multiple points of entry for men to become involved and active, and to take leadership to prevent sexual and domestic violence”. This means we organize events, provide programs, develop collaborative efforts and become involved actively in community committees and task forces. These efforts follow the Public Health model of Prevention, working across various levels of the “ecological framework” in a comprehensive way to affect change.

Our primary foci remain on developing and supporting male leadership, and community organizing. The community organizing we’re involved in focuses on creating more environments where more men feel more supported to take action.

In 2012 we advanced in all these areas: we organized more events, expanded our programs and created new ones, and entered new collaborative relationships. Together, our efforts have continued to strengthen the base for MensWork to take more aggressive action in 2013 and beyond.

Events

“Men’s March”

MensWork continues to organize our annual “men’s march in support for women taking back the night” as a part of the Take Back the Night event in Late September. This year we had over 50 people (including several youth) join us for this act of solidarity with women and girls.

We met at Spalding University, and then walked past the Center for Women and Families, Planned Parenthood, and Family Scholar House on our way to the University of Louisville Campus to join the Take Back the Night Rally.

Dads’ Rallies and Panel Discussions

In 2012, due to the success of our “father’s day rally” in 2011, we organized two events: in New Albany and Louisville (we had to cancel the Louisville event due to weather). These were great opportunities to mobilize fathers to take a stand against dating violence and for gender respect.

We also added, a panel discussion of dads from the local community discussing why it is critical for men in general and dads in particular to take an active and public stand against dating violence. Thanks to the Family Scholar House for hosting our panel included Congressman John Yarmuth, Lawrence Wilbon, Director of the Presbyterian Community Center, Dr. Armon Perry from the Kent School of Social work, and Mikal Forbush from the Muhammad Ali Institute. More than 50 participants joined us for a lively and powerful conversation. We’re looking forward to duplicating these panels in the coming months!

The main point of these efforts is to focus on the fathers of adolescents who, we believe, have a vested interest in working to prevent dating violence and sexual harassment. We are working to expand our database of dads, and hope to secure funding in 2013 to help us expand this effort by developing the leadership skills of dads to prevent dating violence and promote gender respect in our communities.

Contact us if you’d like us to organize a panel such as this with you or your organization.
Programs

Our programs fall under two main categories: education (which focuses on raising the awareness or knowledge of a particular audience) and Leadership Development.

EDUCATION

In 2012, MensWork reached over 4000 people with our educational programs and services. One key example of our educational programming is the "Recovering Masculinities" program, which we offer in conjunction with the Enough is Enough Program at Metro Department of Corrections. MensWork provides a 6-session program, 5 times a year, addressing masculinity, nonviolent and respectful relationships, and responsible and engaged fathering with the men who are part of this in-house addiction therapy. The goal is to provide men additional information and skills to help secure their ability to remain both clean and sober, and also to engage in healthy relationships; both of these are connected, and both are tied to men’s successful re-entry into the community once they have completed their jail time. MensWork is reaching 350 men a year with this project.

Other educational topics include: Clarifying Consent, Parent Education, The Harms of Pornography, Dating and Flirting with Respect, and other similar issues.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As critical as it is to educate men and boys, we believe it is more important, and ultimately more effective, to help develop men and boys, women and girls, as leaders in combating violence against women and promoting gender respect and equality.

Men and women who participate in our leadership development programs demonstrate a greater willingness to act as allies, a broadened understanding of violence against women and the impact of violence against women, and they know more about how individuals can act as an ally.

A core example of our leadership efforts is with ASSIST — a student organization at New Albany Montessori School. We offer ongoing support to ASSIST; their focus is suicide prevention, and promoting gender equity. In 2012, we helped them organize a community-wide youth Health Festival, trained a core group as peer educators (in partnership with the Center for Women and Families), and helped them create and produce a social marketing video.

In 2013, we plan on helping them launch a second social marketing campaign — “promoting gender strength” and supporting their peer educators.

VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION

Thanks to funding from the Verizon Foundation, MensWork was able to expand our VYO efforts last year. In October, we launched a campaign entitled “we are men who support women” which included a dozen men from the community who have committed to speak out against, and work to end, violence against women. We were able to get posters for this campaign up in all of the TARC buses and throughout the community for October and November.

As a part of this campaign, we organized, in partnership with the Muhammad Ali Center (special thanks to Erin Herbert), a panel discussion, “Men Respond to the War on Women.” The focus of the panel discussion was on the ways the “war on women” gets played out, the implication of this war, and how and why men should be actively involved. Panel members included Paul Troy (Center for Women and Families), Derek Selznik (ACLU of Kentucky) and Mikal Forbush (Muhammad Ali Institute). Nearly 100 people attended this vibrant conversation.

LIFTED

The Louisville InterFaith Taskforce to Eliminate Domestic Violence got a resurgence of energy and effort in 2012. Thanks to some seed money provided by the Staff of the Presbyterian Church USA, we organized a 1/2 day “conference-conversation” of DV advocates and Faith Leaders. Core partners included the Center for Women and Families, the Kentucky Council of Churches, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Kent School of the University of Louisville, and several local congregations.

The focus of this event was to begin creating relationships between the Faith Community and DV advocates (we recognize that there are folks who are both) to expand our efforts to provide comprehensive services and programs community wide. This event was a next step for LIFTED whose main goals are to

- increase the capacity of the faith community to respond to and prevent domestic violence, and
- enhance the capacity of DV advocates to address issues of faith for those affected by domestic violence.

We plan on following up with this with a variety of programming and resource development in 2013.

“Men Respond to the War on Women” Panel

“The support and guidance of MensWork has been integral not just to the current success of ASSIST, but its very continuity.”

Kyle Herman, ASSIST Advisor
New/Expanded Partnerships

In 2012, we developed several very strong new partnerships. We’re excited about the prospects for moving into 2013—and beyond! We have developed new partnerships with both Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, the Muhammad Ali Center and the Clifton Cultural Center. We have also deepened our partnerships with both Bellarmine and Spalding Universities. We are very excited about what we’ll be able to do with these new partners and the reach we’ll be able to achieve.

With BBBS, we initiated a process to develop the capacity of “Bigs” to support their “Littles” to flirt and date with respect. What began as a series of workshops and morphed into a full-out organizational transformation that we’re supporting BBBS through, including making adjustments to the recruitment process for Bigs and the engagement process with Littles and their families. We’re thrilled to be a partner with BBBS.

We’ll discuss our partnership with Muhammad Ali Center and the universities at the “Plans for 2013” section of this Annual Report.

National and International Efforts

We continue to increase our national and international presence and “footprint.” Not only did we continue to speak and train throughout the country, but we were also invited to provide Technical Assistance and training to a variety of other states and countries, and have been invited to participate in some national initiatives.

Highlights of Conferences and Training:
- 2nd World Conference of Women’s Shelters
- Engaging Men in Prevention training, Toronto, Canada
- Week of Training and TA provided in Vilnius, Lithuania, at the invitation of the US State Department

We are gearing up for a busy year in 2013, including a training trip to Malta.

We also became active in the following national initiatives:

North American Men Engage Network (NAMEN)
In mid 2012, we were elected to serve on the steering committee of NAMEN. The purpose of NAMEN is to create a network and umbrella group to connect the efforts in the US & Canada to engage and mobilize men. We are VERY excited to be a part of this network and to be in a position to help create this network. You can learn more about this network at www.menengage.org

National Interpersonal Violence Prevention Council
We’ve continued our leadership in the “IPV Council” -- working to create a national advocacy and organizing body which can work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Congress and other entities to ensure that we have the available funds and resources necessary to ensure that we can actually do prevention work locally and state-wide. Currently, these funds are extremely limited and have been reduced in the past couple of years. We intend to reverse that trend and begin expanding the national focus on preventing sexual and domestic violence.

Healthy Masculinity Action Project Advisory Board
This past summer we were invited by Men Can Stop Rape, A Call to Men and the Verizon Foundation to serve as a part of the Advisory Board of the “Healthy Masculinity Action Project (HMAP).” The purpose of HMAP is, over the next three years (2012—2015), to begin national and regional conversations on what healthy masculinity is, and beginning to create a strategic plan to promote healthy masculinity. A big part of healthy masculinity, as we see it, involves being nonviolent and respectful in our relationships, and promoting gender equality and respect.

We are proud to be able to represent Louisville in these efforts!
Financial Report

In 2012, we successfully increased, quite dramatically, our income to a total of just under $75,000, an increase of roughly 30% over our income in 2011. The graph below shows our financial growth over the past five years. We think it is important to point out that this growth of our funding occurred during the same period as the “great recession” — a time, as you all know so well, when corporate donations have been reduced and individuals have been hesitant to offer contributions.

We made a tremendous change in our funding structure in 2012. We have been basing our funding plan and sense of “health” as coming from three funding streams: grants, contracts and donations. We have shifted our focus to a more sustainable and (we believe) transparent and accountable funding plan which relies on 80% donations. We will still seek grants and contracts, but we will focus our funding on the local community which means deepening our relationships within the communities where we provide programming, and ensuring our efforts are driven by our local community rather than by external agencies.

For 2013, we are planning an ambitious budget of $145,000.

2012 Contributions

$5,000+
Andrew & Stephanie Davidson
Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Metro Department of Corrections
Nathan Cummings Foundation
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Verizon Foundation

$1,000 - $4999
Amy Weston Roth
Rus Ervin Funk & Amy Mudd
Louisville Metro Government
Northwest Men’s Project

$500 - $999
Republic Bank
Staff Assoc. of the Presbyterian Church

$250 - $499
Anonymous
Carol Mattingly
Carol Wallace
Kevin Gilman

$100 - $249
Anonymous
Richard Barnett
Kevin Borders
Darin Smith
FRYSC
Marian McClure
Clifton Cultural Center
Taco Punk
Jill Adams
Mark Reischel
Peter Salerno, Jr
Mark and Stephanie Miller
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana
Laura Berry Berman
Saundra Dockin
Brenda Mattingly
Terry Singer
Colleen Yeakle
Merrick Printing Company
Martha Fuller
Fred Schloemer
Nancy Troy
Nellie Barnett
Judith Heitzman
Jonathan Lowe
Sharon Bowland & Joyce McManus
Georgetown College

$50 - $99
Fred J. Merrick
Lincoln-Darst Foundation
Andree Mondor
Patti Stauffer
Carol Cook
Marta Miranda
David Nicholson
Kyle Herman
John and Julie Weigel
John and Barbara Russell
Justin DeLorenzo
Scott Lajoie

< $49
Melynda Lands
Armon Perry
Allison From
Lawrence Wilbon
Stacie Steinbock
David Sharpe
Russell Vandenbrouke
Walter Smith
Ginnette Simko
John Nevitt
Christopher Watson

We believe in you, the work you’re doing, and the change that you’re making.”
Anonymous Donor
MensWork is a community-based nonprofit organization located in Louisville, KY. Our mission is to develop male leadership to prevent all forms of sexual and domestic violence. We believe most men are opposed to sexual and domestic violence, and we work to engage men to become more active and effective in their opposition.

MensWork events, projects, and programs are designed to engage men to be part of the solutions to violence against women. Beyond education, we utilize community organizing and leadership development strategies to engage men as partners and allies for women in responding to and preventing sexual and domestic violence. We invite and encourage men to be part of our organization.

2013 Plans

As we look ahead to 2013, we are in the best financial shape in our history, and are as strong as we’ve ever been. We have two main initiatives for 2013 which we are extremely excited to announce!

White Ribbon Kentuckiana

In January, we launched “White Ribbon Kentuckiana” (WRK). WRK is an effort to reach out to men and boys, asking them to sign the following pledge:

I will not condone violence against women
I will speak out against violence against women
I will take action to end violence against women.

MensWork will work to organize the men who sign to support their efforts to take meaningful action to prevent all forms of domestic and sexual violence. This will take several forms. We will develop materials and ideas for action for individuals on our web-site and will provide materials that help men take action on their own.

We will reach out to organized groups of men in various venues on ways they can take action. We have, for example, begun efforts to organize white ribbon efforts at both Bellarmine and Spalding Universities. And we will work to organize constituencies of men and boys to take action (coaches, dads, men of faith, athletes, etc.).

Through WRK, we intend to develop a large, vibrant and active constituency of men and boys working in a variety of ways (some of which will be under the auspices of MensWork and some on their own) to combat and prevent violence against women.

“Shining a Light”

We are extremely thrilled to be partnering with the Muhammad Ali Center for what we believe will be a truly amazing project.

“Shining a Light” is an international photo exhibit and arts-based education and social change project which we plan to launch here in Louisville in November of 2013 (as part of the 16 days of Activism Against Violence Against Women). In mid-February, we will be releasing a call for exhibitors from around the world for photographic depictions of violence against women coupled with depictions of men and women’s activism to combat and prevent violence against women.

Along with these photographic pieces, MensWork and the Muhammad Ali Center will create several curricula for Middle School, High School, College and Community, and a train-the-trainer as well as other educational and social change material.

This is the first exhibit of its kind! As such, we intend to make it a growing exhibit, meaning that there will be interactive components and as people experience the exhibit, they will be invited to offer their responses and comments through art, which will then be collected and become a part of the next iteration of the exhibit. We also expect to see some moving and powerful art created through the educational aspects, and these pieces too can be added to the ever-expanding exhibit to fill in the “story” of men and women’s activism to end violence against women.

We are also planning, as a part of this exhibit, a concert in honor and celebration of International Human Rights Day (Dec 10). Stay tuned!

Although this will become a traveling exhibit, it will be in Louisville every November as a part of our honoring of the 16 Days of Activism Against