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Living In The Black- Panel Discussion Session #1 Panelists

What is your community doing to prevent the cycle of domestic violence?

Mary Watson received her B.A. in Psychology in 1989 and her MA in Recreation with a concentration in special populations in 1993 from the University of New Mexico. She has been serving as the **Shelter Director at the YWCA in Evansville Indiana** since June of 2010. Ms. Watson has over 25 years of experience working with adults with chronic mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance abuse or dependence and domestic violence. As the Shelter Director at the YWCA, she has been an advocate for all populations that have been involved with domestic violence. Ms. Watson believes in the shelter empowerment model and has implemented various programs in order to increase the self-esteem of the shelter residents and has helped facilitate groups for both the victims and the abusers. She is a certified by the state of Indiana as a facilitator for the Batterer's Intervention Program.

Leslie James has been providing advocacy services to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors since 2008. As the **Crisis Response Advocate at Albion Fellows Bacon Center**, Ms. James provides immediate, post-crisis intervention, crisis counseling, information sharing and referrals to community partners, emotional support, safety planning and legal advocacy. Ms. James is certified by the Law Enforcement Training Board and trains new officers on the dynamics of domestic violence through the Southwestern Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. She serves on the Enforcement/Treatment Subcommittee of the Mayor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Vanderburgh County Domestic Violence Cross County Team. Ms. James has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Evansville.

Brandi Watson has been working with sexual assault and domestic violence survivors for 16 years. Since 2001, *Ms. Watson has been providing peer counseling, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, crisis intervention, and support group facilitation for survivors at Albion Fellows Bacon Center.* She also has provided prevention education, professional trainings, and community awareness on many topics related to sexual assault and domestic violence. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications and another in sociology.

Bill Braun is a USI grad Sociology major w/a concentration in Criminal Justice. He has 27 years with the *Evansville Police Department*, 22 years as a firearms instructor and a Former Field Training Officer (4 years) and Crime Prevention Officer (CPO 5 years) 11 Years in the Domestic/Sexual Violence Unit. Contact Information- *Desk: 435-612*
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Anna Finnerty- I am a practicing attorney for twenty two (22) years, 12 of those years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Recently, I have been *prosecuting a little over 200 domestic violence cases per year in Vanderburgh Misdemeanor Court* and overseeing all cases sentenced to a certified batterers program. In addition to misdemeanor, I am the assigned Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Vanderburgh County Mental Health Court.

Trudy Rascoe is *First Lady of Nazarene Missionary Baptist Church is Evansville, IN.* She studied nursing at Indiana State and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1984. Trudy is an active advocate of Christ and impacts the lives of many in the Evansville Community and Tri-State area.



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Albion Fellows Bacon Center

The mission of Albion Fellows Bacon Center is to prevent domestic and sexual violence and to empower victims through advocacy, education, support services and collaborative partnerships.

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