

# NEW DIRECTIONS HISTORY

**1982**

A task force of concerned citizens plans throughout the year to open a shelter in Knox County for survivors of domestic violence. New Directions becomes incorporated on October 6, 1982.

**October 1985**

New Directions moves into its current site a 3-level house leased from the Knox County Commissioners

**1989**

New Directions further expands services by creating a victim advocacy program to provide legal support to survivors of domestic violence seeking protection orders in criminal or civil proceedings.

**2003**

New Directions is given funds for the Delta Project, the predecessor to the current prevention program.

**June 2014**

Mary Hendrickson, the first and only Executive Director since its incorporation, passes away unexpectedly.

**2017**

New Directions leases additional space to create a separate administrative office; shelter services expands to include a pet kennel for residents and a third bedroom is created to house additional residents.

**March 2020**

New Directions purchases 212 N. Main Street days before the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

**August 2020**

New Directions partners with Kenyon College to oversee and train the student-led Sexual Respect Peer Alliance (SRPA) Peer Advocates.

**January 1, 1983**

New Directions begins housing survivors in an efficiency apartment rented from Interchurch Social Services and employs a part-time director and 20 volunteers. Along with housing, New Directions offers a 24-hour hotline and supportive services.

**1988**

New Directions expands services to include a rape crisis program, becoming Knox County's first and only rape crisis center.

**1992**

The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) certifies New Directions for residential support services.

**2005**

ODMH (Now OhioMHAS) certifies New Directions for mental health education.

**August 2014**

Matt Hellman is hired by the Board of Directors to become the next Executive Director.

**March 2018**

Lori Jones-Perkins is named the third Executive Director of New Directions.

**January 2019**

New Directions partners with local law enforcement entities to implement the Lethality Assessment Program.

**June 2020**

New Directions receives the Excellence in Prevention Award from the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

**January 2021**

New Directions received the Knox County Chamber of Commerce Quality of Life Award.