

## OUT OF THE CROSSFIRE

*“I am excited to partner with the Cincinnati Bar Foundation and University Hospital on this creative program to address violence in the community by treating an underlying cause of violence. This long-term solution is going to have a tremendous impact on the lives of victims as well as the community as a whole.”*

- Mayor Mark Mallory

Mayor Mark Mallory, the Cincinnati Bar Foundation, and the University Hospital have teamed up to launch a new program that will focus on treating gunshot victims, by provide intensive counseling and other services beyond simply treating the wound. Studies have shown that once an individual has been the victim of gun violence, the odds go up dramatically that that individual will either be a victim again in the future or will victimize someone else. This program seeks to break that cycle of violence by intervening at the earliest point in order to turn around the victim’s life.

The program registers victims of gun violence after their admission at University Hospital, which treats most gunshot victims in the region. A program coordinator will conduct an assessment of each patient including, employment history, education level, housing situation, drug/alcohol use, contributing environmental factors, socio-economic status, prior episodes or hospitalization for violence, coping skills, and support systems. The program creates a unique safety plan for the victim including individual or family counseling.

The program was developed by Dr. Jay Johannigman, director of trauma services for University Hospital and associate professor of medicine at the UC College of Medicine.

### **Facts:**

Similar programs in Baltimore and Los Angeles resulted in:

- Decreased relapse rate of the participants
- Decreased number of return hospital visits or wounds of violence
- Decreased incidence of further adverse interactions with the court system
- Increase in the employment scale of the participants
- Increased level of participation in social responsibilities such as child support payments
- Positive impacts on the patient’s life and circumstances

The Cincinnati Bar Association obtained a grant for \$45,000 including support from the National City Community Justice Fund, \$50,000 from the Joseph J. Schott Foundation, and \$30,000 from the Federated Department Store’s Foundation. Mayor Mallory was able to secure a \$10,000 donation from Kroger’s for the program. An additional \$115,000 is needed to fully fund the three-year program and is currently being sought from corporations, community groups, and private foundations. The program is currently operational.