

**La Donna Combs-Spight, DEL**

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Website: [www.sistersagainstabuse.org](http://www.sistersagainstabuse.org)

**Professional Profile**

Compassionate leader, author and violence prevention expert with over 20 years of experience with Black and African American victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, Human Trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C). An executive director with experience that includes international leadership in domestic violence programming, curriculum writing, adjunct university teaching, economic empowerment, nonprofit and grassroots organization development, and middle management finance and technical assistance. This also includes the writing and acquiring of more than $3.4 million dollars for culturally specific domestic & sexual violence prevention agencies

**Fund Development, Grants and Programming**

* Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan: **Administration for Children’s and Families Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach (DVHT-SO) Program $2. 4 million (2022).**
* Michigan Department of Health & Human Services secured: **$346,000, Culturally Specific Domestic and Sexual violence Prevention,** (2019).
* **Sisters Against Abuse Society, (SAAS)** faith-based domestic violence prevention services, Detroit, MI – Co-Director Otis Combs (313) 878-2384: secure annual**: $554,147.86** Office on Violence Against Women, (OVW) FY 2020-2022.
* **Sanctum House, Inc.** Human Trafficking Prevention, Birmingham, MI – Executive Director Edythe Franklin (248) 229-6021: **secured: $675,000 (in federal funding)**/2016/ 2017.
* **OVW Domestic/Sexual Violence Project Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts** – Executive Director Traci Jackson Antoine (617) 459-2420: Instrumental in helping to secure: $**300,000**/2016.
* **Verizon Wireless foundation,** $**35,000** /2012-2020).

**Contract Consultant and Technical Assistance /Violence Prevention Women of Color**

**Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan.** 731 Woodward Ave. Detroit, Michigan 48210. Fund and Program Development. Board Training and client services. Technical Support and Assistance.

**Sanctum House, Inc.**

President & CEO, Edythe Franklin. 200 W. Second Street, Royal Oak, MI 48068.Office: (248) 229-6021. Tasks: Fund and Program Development. Board Training and client services. Technical Support and Assistance.

**African American Domestic Peace Project, (AADPP)**.Founded by: Dr. Oliver J. Williams,University of Minnesota, and Department of Social Work. Co-Chairs: La Donna M. Combs, Detroit, MI and Rev. J.R. Thicklin, West Palm Beach, FL. Contract Tasks: Research & development of culturally specific programming for: domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, FGM/C, first-responder & crisis intervention law enforcement training focusing on communities of color, and Safe Return Initiatives (Women’s Curriculum for Domestic Violence for Re-Entry, and Clergy Training). **Published curriculum facilitation & support for the following organizations**:

**A Safe Place**

Executive Director, Carolyn Russell P.O. Box 23006 Oakland CA 94623-0006.Office: (510) 986-8600

Fax: (510) 986-8606. Website: [www.asafeplacedv.org/](http://www.asafeplacedv.org/) Dates: October 2016, August 2015, October 2014.

**Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office** Jessica Cooper, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI. Law Enforcement Training, *“Responding to Domestic Violence in Communities of Color.”* October 2015

**Our House, Inc.**

Executive Director, Dr. Patricia Ann Davenport, CEO. P.O. Box 3956, Greenville, MS 38704. Office (662) 334-6873, Fax: (662) 334-6875. Website: [www.ourhousenb.com/](http://www.ourhousenb.com/) August 2015.

**Institute on Violence Abuse and Trauma, (IVAT)**, Town & Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, CA. (858) 572-1860 Ext. 4030. Conference Coordinator: Merhawit Gamay, [girma012@umn.edu./](mailto:girma012@umn.edu./)

August 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015.

**CHASS/La Vida,** Director Delores Gonzales, 5635 W. Fort St. Detroit, MI 48209. (313) 849-9320. Dress For Success, April 2014, May 2015, June 2016. Economic Empowerment all-day Conference/with transportation for all centers and food (free to all clients).

**Sisters Against Abuse Society, (SAAS)** Program Coordinator La Donna M. Combs, 23500 West Seven Mile Road. Detroit, MI (313) 543-6060. Clergy Training, over 7000 hours of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault support group & Individual counseling annually. Legal Advocacy, International Domestic Violence 101 training (2006 -2016), non-offending loved ones & victims of crime funerals (no-charge). [www.saasinthecity.org](http://www.saasinthecity.org).

**Centro Multicultural La Familia**, 35 W. Huron St. Suite #100, Pontiac, MI, 48342. Assisting with direct service culturally specific capacity building and economic empowerment and healing curriculum. [www.centromulticultural.org](http://www.centromulticultural.org).

**Contributions to the scholarly study and practice of culturally specific SA/DV prevention work.**

Co-creator of the Documentary and User’s Guide funded by the Office on Violence Against Women’s project for the University of Minnesota’s Social Work Department’s Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community’s, “*Speaking of Faith: Domestic Violence Programs and the African* *American Church.”* Which has also been published in multiple Christian and Psychology Journals and publications. Also, the author of “Does until death do us part include domestic violence?” A nonprofit curriculum for Spring Arbor University’s department of social work and psychology’s adjunct nonprofit business facilitation.

**Employment History**

**Executive Director**

Sisters Against Abuse Society, SAAS/2002- Leadership for **7** employees, **18** volunteers, Multidisciplinary partners national collaborations, funded strategies for culturally specific domestic & sexual violence prevention, collaborative partners with Greater Grace Temple Church Detroit, MI. SAAS is a federally funded faithbased nonprofit organization.

**Finance Officer**

*Saints Incorporated* / 35115 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne, MI 48184/ 734.722.2221

*June 1994 – April 1999/ Dec 2003 – Nov 2007/Jan 2013 - 2017*. **Manage** **Fiscal Budgets of 5 million dollars.** Manage and facilitate budgetary contracts for 31 corporate satellites. Compilation and disbursement of payroll for 300 employees, including management of Internal Revenue Levy’s, court ordered garnishments, bankruptcies, and tax preparations. Auditing of client social security benefits & allowances. Manage all finance data input systems and software applications. Liaison maintaining a cohesive relationship between all corporate funding sources.

# Results

\* Established partnerships with state funding sources to establish additional resources for client base.

\* Re-developed corporate finance policies & procedures to effectively cut operational costs and reduce unnecessary spending, resulting in liquidity.

\* Created new data reporting tools which effectively and timely tract revenue.

**Adjunct Professor of Psychology**

*Spring Arbor University* 106 E. Main Street. Spring Arbor, MI 49283

Psychology Adjunct & Thesis Coordinator. 2007 – Present**.** Supervisor: Northwest Regional Director Carolyn Watson. (800) 968-1722. Adjunct teaching regionally in: Jackson, Toledo, Troy and Dearborn, MI. Lectured business curriculum/ for profit and nonprofit based. Thesis director and Adult Studies Programs.

**Domestic Violence Program Coordinator**

*AWARE, Inc*. 706 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI

49203. 9/2008 – 05/2010. Supervisor: Executive Director Rebecca Filip.

(517) 783-1638. Responsible for managing 26 bed residential program, funding and grant writing and federal reporting. Manage 15 employees. Perform all domestic violence volunteer & staff training. Develop & implement domestic violence curriculum in accordance with the standards of the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, (MCADSV) and the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention Treatment Board, (MDVPTB) to help faith-based communities create education and awareness for Christian women and families. Created *Speakers Bureau* to perpetuate awareness and social

change.

**Awards**

Michigan Chronicle 2019 Women of the Year/ Excellence Award

2018 Community Service Award – SARAH’S HOUSE of Southeastern, MI

2018 Oakland County Coordinating Counsel Against Domestic Violence – HAVEN

Phenomenal Woman Award – Aware Shelter Jackson, MI 2008

Phoenix Award HAVEN – 2007

**Education**

**Doctoral Degree** Pastoral Community Counseling

*Argosy University, Chicago, IL 2015*

**Post Doctoral Studies***; Executive Leadership: University of Charleston, WV*

*Currently2024*

**Master of Arts** in Organization Management – 2005

*Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, MI.*

**Bachelor of Arts** in Organization Development – 2003

*Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, MI.*