

Womenews



Save the Date!
Friday May 18, 2018

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Philly Nites and Lites Celebration!

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
invites you to our Annual Fundraiser in support of our Domestic Violence program

Manufacturers Golf & Country Club

Presentation of the Third Annual Toby Lynn Dickman Award
to PA. State Rep. Todd Stephens

Program Patron Award to Sheriff John Durante, in Memoriam,
Accepted by his daughter, Deanna Durante

Community Empowerment Award
Presented to Abington Friends School

Domestic Violence Services Provided by the Women's Center Six Month Period Fiscal Year 7/1/17 to 12/31/17

Number of Domestic Violence Victims Served:

Number of New Victims	
Female	2,579
Male	396
Transgendered	6
Number of Significant Others	132

Counseling Hours:

Individual Counseling:	3,637.30 hours
Group Counseling:	330.75 hours
Total Counseling Hours	3,968.05 hours

Community Education Programs:

Number of programs to community groups	56
Number of persons reached through community groups	2,699
Number of programs to schools	44
Number of students reached in schools	1,654
Systems Training (healthcare, law enforcement):	27
Number Trained:	626

Condolences

On behalf of the WCMC Board and staff I would like to offer our sympathy and support to Board member Lisa Neely Poelck, whose beloved father passed away in February.

As a loving daughter and caregiver, these recent months have been challenging and emotional for Lisa and her family. From all of here at the Center we want Lisa to know that she is in our prayers and thoughts!

THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF MONTCO BOARD

It is my pleasure to tell you about the Governance Committee of the Women's Center Board, a group that I happily and enthusiastically chair. I have been the Chair for a number of years, and am always working to hone my Governance skills. Governance is a committee that is integral to the Board's operation, providing and monitoring much of the framework for the work of the Board. I, as Chair, am described in our By-Laws, as the Board "Parliamentarian".

We on Governance work to recruit quality people, who are devoted to the work of the Women's Center, and ready to be active Board members. We manage the process of recruitment, by informally interviewing prospective members, and getting them involved. The new members that we recommend are part of the slate presented to the membership in the May newsletter, or by special mailing. We ask that active members vote on the slate. The results of that vote are presented at the annual Board meeting in June.

The Governance Committee also ensures that current Board members are held accountable to their Board commitments. Committee members monitor the annual fulfillment of four education hours, in the field of domestic violence, by the current members. The committee also conducts a periodic review of the Board's By-Laws, to make sure they reflect the current work of the Board. The Governance Committee is active and committed to making the Board of the Women's Center of Montco a well-oiled, functional, and efficient organization. If you have some interest in joining our committee, I'd be happy to talk to you about being a part of our work!!

Respectfully submitted, Beth Rubin, Chair

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women's Center of Montgomery County is seeking to fill the following two NEW part-time positions:

Bilingual Advocate- Norristown or Pottstown

Part-time - 20 hours per week

Responsible for provision of supportive counseling and advocacy services to victims/survivors of domestic violence in Spanish and English. Community education presentations, translation of agency materials

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide services to victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence in a non-judgmental manner using an empowerment framework.
- Assist victims/survivors with risk assessment and safety planning.
- Provide supportive counseling, and crisis intervention.
- Provide support for goal setting/service plans.
- Facilitate support groups.
- Provide victims/survivors with appropriate referrals in the community.
- Advocate on victims'/survivors' behalf with other social service agencies as appropriate.
- Provide community education presentations to the Latino community.
- Represent agency to the community and articulate the agency's policies and procedures.
- Assist with and support translation of community education materials and social media.

Legal Services Coordinator- Norristown

Part-time - 20 hours

Duties 1) Assist the Legal Advocacy Project in delivering services to victims of abuse; 2) Review and coordinate docket schedules weekly to ensure adequate court coverage; 3) Monitor cases in the civil and criminal justice systems, creating a weekly schedule that identifies cases requiring court accompaniment; 4) Provide a communication link between victims, legal advocates and our satellite office to ensure comprehensive coverage responsive to court needs. 5) Assist in training and supervising volunteers who deliver these services through training and recruitment;

Resumes should be submitted by March 20TH

Via email to Maria Macaluso, Executive Director at mmacaluso@womenscentermc.org

or

Postal mail to the WCMC - 8080 Old York Road, Suite 200 - Elkins Park, PA 19027

The Women's Center of Montgomery County is an equal opportunity employer.

International Women's Day

IT'S OUR DAY!



In Celebration of International Women's Day

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
invites you to

Join us at Gypsy Blu Restaurant
34 East Butler Avenue in Ambler

Thursday, March 8th
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Admission \$25.00

Includes:

Appetizers - Cash bar

Dance Exhibitions - Free chair massage

and

An inspirational message of strength from
a Domestic Violence Survivor

For more information on this event or to purchase tickets, contact Maria at our
Elkins Park office at 215-635-7340 or visit our website at www.wcmontco.org
after February 1st to purchase tickets.

Proceeds will benefit the Women's Center of Montgomery County



International Women's Day

Stealthing Violates Consent!

February 15, 2018

Violence against women and girls takes many forms. Reproductive abuse, coercion, and sexual assault are tactics of abuse facing many survivors of domestic violence, even though these tactics are not as commonly known or understood as emotional or physical abuse. People who choose to abuse may use reproductive abuse and coercion to exert power and control over victims. Abusive partners may employ manipulation, intimidation, threats, and/or physical violence to control their partner's reproductive and sexual choices. (For example, when one partner pressures the other partner to get pregnant by threatening to leave if she does not comply.) An abusive partner may also directly interfere with reproductive choices, which can include confiscating birth control, forcing someone to either end or continue a pregnancy, or sabotaging birth control, such as nonconsensual condom removal— also known as “stealthing.”

Consent exists when all parties enthusiastically agree to all acts that are happening throughout the entirety of a sexual experience. The violation of consent and exposure to recognizable harm that stealthing presents clearly identifies this act as a dimension of sexual assault and reproductive abuse. The purposeful, nonconsensual tampering with or removal of condoms is high-risk sexual behavior; it also violates an individual's choice and autonomy over their own body. In addition to possible physical consequences, stealthing is experienced by many as a violation of dignity, autonomy, and trust.

Emotional, Physical, and Financial Consequences of Stealthing

Victims of stealthing can experience serious harm, as consequences can be emotional, physical, and financial. While some survivors have shared their uncertainty about how to classify this experience, health professionals report the immediate and long-term effects of stealthing as similar to rape, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and hypervigilance.

Access to and proper use of condoms reduces the risk of unplanned or undesired pregnancy and most sexually transmitted infections and diseases (STI/Ds), including HIV/AIDs. When someone purposefully, non-consensually removes a condom, the probability of transmitting or contracting STI/Ds such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis dramatically increases. Treating infection or trauma resulting from stealthing can come at a high financial and emotional cost. This can seriously impact a survivor's livelihood, especially considering that 99% of survivors of domestic violence experience financial abuse.

Legal Remedies to Stealthing:

Currently, state laws do not clearly and specifically address stealthing. However, in some cases, survivors may be able to make certain legal arguments based on the sexual assault laws in their state and may also be able to access civil legal remedies (such as restraining orders or suing for damages in civil court) depending on their situation. Survivors can find state-specific legal information about sexual assault online at WomensLaw.org.

Additional Resources to Address Stealthing:

Individuals' autonomy and choice are fundamental human rights and central to gender equity and equality. Ending gender-based violence requires a focus on reproductive justice, which can only be achieved when all individuals have the power to make decisions about their own body, health, and sexuality.

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. In an effort to have our teen population reflect on their relationships, we provide to them the quiz below. Take the time to think about your own relationships. If you have any questions or need support, please do not hesitate to call our confidential 24-hour Hotline: 1-800-773-2424.

Healthy Relationship Quiz



Everyone deserves to be in a safe and healthy relationship. Do you know if your relationship is as healthy as you deserve? Answer "yes" or "no" to the following statements to find out! Make sure to circle your responses. At the end you'll find out how to score your answers.

The Person I am With?

Circle One

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Is very supportive of things that I do. | Y | N |
| 2. Encourages me to try new things. | Y | N |
| 3. Likes to listen when I have something on my mind. | Y | N |
| 4. Understands that I have my own life too. | Y | N |
| 5. Says I'm too involved in different activities. | Y | N |
| 6. Texts me or calls me all the time. | Y | N |
| 7. Gets extremely jealous or possessive. | Y | N |
| 8. Accuses me of flirting or cheating. | Y | N |
| 9. Constantly checks up on me or makes me check in. | Y | N |
| 10. Controls what I wear or how I look. | Y | N |
| 11. Tries to control what I do and who I see. | Y | N |
| 12. Tries to keep me from seeing or talking to my family and friends. | Y | N |
| 13. Has big mood swings – gets angry and yells at me one minute, and the next minute is sweet and apologetic. | Y | N |
| 14. Makes me feel nervous or like I'm "walking on eggshells." | Y | N |
| 15. Puts me down, calls me names or criticizes me. | Y | N |
| 16. Makes me feel like I can't do anything right or blames me for problems. | Y | N |
| 17. Makes me feel like no one else would want me. | Y | N |
| 18. Threatens to hurt me, my friends or family. | Y | N |
| 19. Threatens to hurt him or herself because of me. | Y | N |
| 20. Threatens to destroy my things. | Y | N |
| 21. Grabs, pushes, shoves, chokes, punches, slaps, holds me down. | Y | N |
| 22. Yells screams or humiliates me in front of other people. | Y | N |
| 23. Pressures or forces me into having sex or going farther than I want to. | Y | N |

For more information, you can visit: www.loveisrespect.org

Repurposing is allowed and encouraged. Please contact Break the Cycle or the National Dating Abuse Helpline for more information.

Connect NOW!



www.loveisrespect.org



"loveis" to 77054 | 1-866-331-9474

Discuss your options anonymously.
Peer advocates are available 24/7.

Healthy Relationship Quiz Scoring:

Give yourself 1 point for every "no" you answered to numbers 1-4; 1 point for every "yes" response to numbers 5-8; and 5 points for every "yes" to numbers 9-23.

Now that you're finished and have your score, the next step is to find out what your score means. Simply take your total score and see which of the boxes below applies to you.

Score: 0 points

You got a score of 0? Don't worry—it's a good thing! It sounds like your relationship is on a pretty healthy track. Maintaining healthy relationships takes some work—keep it up! Remember that while you may have a healthy relationship, it's possible that a friend of yours may not. If you think you know someone who may be in an abusive relationship, find out how you can help that person end the abuse.

Score: 1-2 points

If you scored 1 or 2 points, you might be noticing a couple of things in your relationship that could be unhealthy, but it doesn't necessarily mean they are warning signs. It's still a good idea to keep an eye on them to make sure there isn't a pattern. The best thing to do is to talk to your partner and let them know what you like and don't like. Encourage them to do the same. Remember, communication is always important when building a healthy relationship. It's also good to be informed so that you learn to recognize the warning signs. Break the Cycle can give you information about teen dating violence and the different types of abuse there may be.

Score: 3-4 points

If you scored 3 or 4 points, it sounds like you may be seeing some warning signs of an abusive relationship. Warning signs should never be ignored. Something that starts small can grow much worse over time. No relationship is perfect—it takes some work! But in a healthy relationship you won't find abusive behaviors. If you think your relationship may not be as healthy as you deserve, contact us for help and to get more information.

Score: 5 points or more

If you scored 5 points or more, you are definitely seeing warning signs and may be in an abusive relationship. You don't have to deal with this alone. Break the Cycle can help. We can talk to you about your different options and legal rights

The National Organization for Women (NOW) Seeks Our Support

The Women's Center of Montgomery County has been approached by the National Organization for Women (NOW) with a request for a supportive presence at an upcoming trial in Montgomery County.

As you may know, Bill Cosby's retrial on sexual assault charges is scheduled for early April in Norristown. NOW is reaching out to invite activists from various organizations to meet up outside the courthouse during the trial, in a show of support for the survivor, Andrea Constand, and her fellow survivors. Through this presence, NOW hopes to thank Andrea for her courage in testifying and express solidarity with all survivors.

The trial will take place at the Montgomery County Courthouse (2 East Airy Street, Norristown, PA) starting Monday, April 2 approximately through April 13.

We are passing this request along to our members and volunteers who may be interested in participating in this effort. If you are interested, please contact our Elkins Park office (215-635-7340) to sign up. Let us know if there is a particular time in the window that works for you. Supporters can come for one date or as many dates as they wish.

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Great Cause

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201 Leedom Street,
Jenkintown, PA 19046

215-885-0651

Monday - Friday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday
10:00 am to 4:00pm

Women's Center of Montgomery County

Elkins Park Office

215-635-7344

FAX: 215-635-7347

Thrift Shop: 215-885-0651

Norristown Office

610-279-1548

FAX: 610-279-7740

Pottstown Office

610-970-7363

FAX: 610-970-0705

Bryn Mawr Office

610-525-1427

FAX: 610-525-1429

Colmar Office

215-996-0721

FAX: 215-996-0725

www.wcmontco.org

1-800-773-
2424

DATED MATERIAL

Women's Center of Montgomery County
8080 Old York Road, Suite 200
Elkins Park, PA 19027

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



United Way
of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Community Partner