

Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County



Under the Sea and Over the Board Walk

Be A Domestic Violence Life Saver

5K Run/ 3K Walk

Sunday August 6th @9:00

Germantown Academy – Carey Stadium 340 Morris Rd - Fort Washington

Celebrating the Life of Ellen Gregory Robb

The Women's Center of Montgomery County is dedicating our 13th annual 5k Run/3k Walk to End Domestic Violence on Sunday, August 6th to the life of Ellen Gregory Robb, an Upper Merion homicide victim of domestic violence.

Ellen Robb, a 49-year-old mother from Upper Merion, was beaten to death by her husband Rafael Robb, a former University of Pennsylvania professor, on December 22, 2006. After serving only ten years in jail, Rafael was released this past January and lives free in Pittsburgh.

As details of her death were replayed in the media after her husband's release, the Women's Center chose to honor Ellen Robb at our annual race by celebrating her life, rather than remember her as "Rafael's victim." Many people only know Ellen from the news stories of her murder. However, there is so much more to her. As we have learned more about her, it became important that we remember the lovely, talented and caring woman who graced the world and brought happiness to many."

Members of Ellen's family will be in attendance, including her brother Gary who will kick off the race by sharing positive memories he and his family share of Ellen. Gary's family and members of the Women's Center will place photographs of Ellen along the race's route to pay tribute to and highlight positive memories of her life. Montgomery County elected officials will join Gary Gregory and Women's Center board members in a symbolic walk to honor Ellen and all victims of domestic violence.

"I am honored that the Women's Center of Montgomery County would honor Ellen's life in this positive and beautiful way," said Ellen's brother, Gary Gregory. "Ellen was a doting mother, a loving sister and a loyal friend whose spirit will always be there for her loved ones. By the Women's Center honoring her life through a race rather than her memory, she will be immortalized as a wonderful woman rather than 'Rafael's victim'. I will never stop fighting to end domestic violence and am grateful to my partners at the Women's Center."

The event starts at 9:00 am, rain or shine, with registration beginning at 8 am. The cost is \$25 per runner or walker. Children under 12 are free. For those who do not wish to run or walk, they can enjoy the "boardwalk," which will be set up at the Carey Stadium and have games, food vendors and crafts.

Register online at www.wcmontco.org. For additional information, call 215-635-7340.

REMEMBERING ELAINE PURDUM

Christine Wiita, Bryn Mawr Office

It is with a heavy heart that we share news of the passing of Elaine Purdum, a long-term and much loved and admired volunteer in our Bryn Mawr Office. It is my honor to share some thoughts about this amazing woman.

Elaine became a WCMC volunteer back in 2010, after retiring from her rewarding career as an airline flight attendant. Elaine brought many of the qualities that no doubt served her well in her professional career to her work at the Women's Center. She had a genuine interest in all people, a caring and thoughtful attitude, deep compassion for those struggling, as well as a cheerful disposition, wonderful sense of humor and sharp wit. Elaine was a beautiful person – graceful and elegant – inside and out.

For those of us at The WCMC who had the privilege to get to know Elaine on a personal level, we also appreciated her joyfulness and zest for life. Elaine shared with us her devotion to and love of family and friends, her curiosity about the world and her passion for travel, as well as the pleasures of a good movie and great wine. She told fascinating stories, and was equally interested in hearing our stories. Elaine had a flair for fashion, and was our “go to” person for fashion recommendations and questions.

Even in the past couple of months, Elaine remained connected to The WCMC and her selflessness and care for others was undaunted. Elaine reached out to a fellow volunteer who had broken her shoulder and was unable to drive, offering to take her out to a movie or bring food in for her. Despite the volunteer's protestations that she was managing, Elaine insisted upon bringing soup (no doubt from Carlino's – a favorite market) and good cheer to her colleague and friend.

However, what I will remember most about Elaine, and will keep with me always, is that she was absolutely the most positive and upbeat person I have ever met. Despite the challenges of having a progressive illness, Elaine always exuded joy and optimism, and inspired us all greatly. She has been a role model to me, and has touched so many lives.

While we miss Elaine greatly, we remember her legacy, and will strive to emulate her beautiful spirit in the work we do and the lives we lead. We will keep Elaine's family and friends in our thoughts.

Condolences

It is among the saddest duties associated with my role here at the Center when I must report on a loss among our Women's Center family. Words are so inadequate in expressing condolence but I hope that our friends will take comfort in knowing that the Women's Center community is here for them, with love and support. I hope that you will join me in offering our sympathies to the friends and families of the following Women's Center members and friends:

Lillian Orr, founding member of the Women's Center, who passed away on May 31st;

Joanna Hutton-Hogg, a longtime member and former volunteer, July 6th;

And Elaine Purdum, a dedicated volunteer counselor in our Bryn Mawr office and cousin to our former Board President, Beth Brinly, July 9th;

To their families and friends, we offer our sympathies and our fond memories of these strong and special women.



Celebrating the Life of
Ellen Gregory Robb

Whose life was brutally taken
through an act of
domestic violence
December 2006

We remember her as a
lovely, talented and caring woman who
graced the world and brought
happiness to many

Under the Sea * Over the Boardwalk**

Be A Domestic Violence Lifesaver!

13th Annual 5k Run/3k Walk to End Domestic Violence

When:

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Run/Walk starts at 9:00 a.m.

in-person registration starts at 8:00 a.m.

Where:

Germantown Academy - Carey Stadium

340 Morris Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034

What:

5k Run/3k Walk on campus

Featuring Artisan Collections/Craft Sales

Registration:

\$25 per Runner or Walker

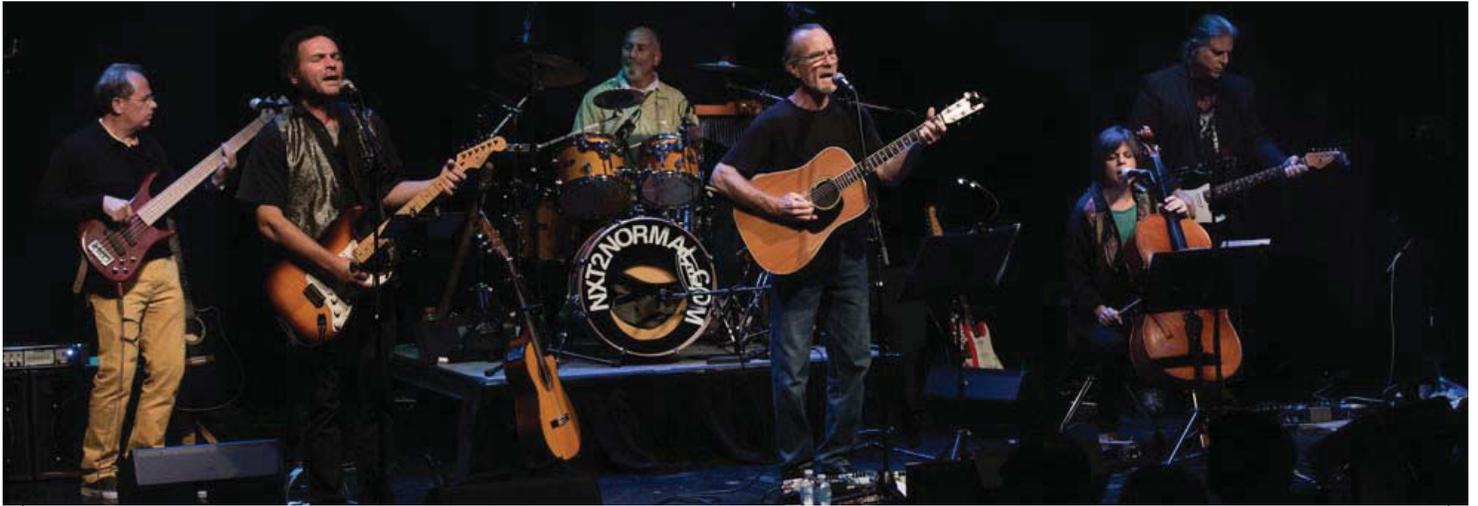
Children under 12 Free



**Women's Center of
Montgomery County**

EIN 23-2000206

Start a team/register at: www.wcmontco.org



In Recognition of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Join the Women's Center of Montgomery County
As we present the
4th Annual Benefit Concert performed by

nxt2normal

Saturday, October 7th, 2017
8 to 10:30 p.m.
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Chaplin's

66 N Main Street
Spring City, PA 19475
(610) 792 - 4110
www.chaplinslive.com/

You may make a donation of any amount in advance or at the door.
100% of all proceeds go to the Women's Center
Our past 3 shows have raised over \$15,000 for the Women's Center!

Donate online at <http://www.wcmontco.org/benefit-concert.html>

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
2506 N. Broad Street, Colmar, PA 18915
For information contact Maria at 215-635-7340

Executive Director's Notes

Submitted by Maria Macaluso

While we endure what seems to be an endless series of summer heat waves, things are also heating up in our offices, as we close out another satisfying fiscal year and move ahead with exciting plans for the coming year. On behalf of the Board and staff I want to express our sincerest gratitude and regard for our members and volunteers who support and embrace our mission. You enable us to achieve our goals, strengthen and grow our organization, and, mostly importantly, save lives. Through the many ways in which you all encourage, enable and engage you truly make all of these accomplishments possible!

In Fiscal Year 2016-2017, we provided services to 4,929 adult victims and 238 significant others (friends and family members of these victim) through 7,508 hours of counseling services. Of those adults served, 4,238 were female, 684 were male and 7 self-identified as transgendered. 95 adult victims self-identified as disabled. 9% of the adult clients served were between the ages of 18-24; with 83% between the ages of 25 and 59, and 8% over the age of 60.

This is the direct service constituency for our program, but we also target our efforts at informing and educating allied professionals - healthcare workers, law enforcement, court administration, etc. - to improve how they interact with victims. During the past fiscal year we conducted 65 systems trainings, training 1,365 community partners and an additional 180 community education programs, reaching more than 9,700 adults and children.

We have been extremely successful this year in expanding upon our collaborations with partners whose expertise with a specific population, combined with our expertise in providing trauma-informed services, improves our ability to assist victims. Examples include:

To expand our efforts to address the generational cycle of domestic violence we have recently entered into funded partnerships with Abington- Jefferson Health, nationally recognized as at the forefront of senior health care management and Creative Health Services, one of the only therapeutic programs specializing in children exposed to violence in our region.

In 2017, we also formed a partnership with Legal Aid. In cases which require legal representation, the WCMC and Legal Aid have formalized a referral process to safely transition the client. Legal Aid assumes responsibility for assisting the client with their legal issues, while the WCMC provides supportive services. This collaboration has provided opportunities for cross-training and resulted in more comprehensive service provision to victims.

In 2016 we were selected by our Court Administration to serve as the first responder to victims seeking an Emergency Protection order. Emergency orders address the after- hours emergency needs of victims when the courthouse is closed. Victims are now referred to our hotline to determine whether they meet the eligibility criteria for an Emergency Order and to provide options counseling to those who may not meet that criteria. This process has been informative for our hotline counselors and also educational to our community partners in law enforcement as we work together on these cases.

The WCMC has also been an active partner in the creation of community HUBs, an evidence-based collaborative problem solving tool, which uses the combined expertise of community agencies and the assessment of risk data and outcome evaluation before they become catastrophic for individuals and families. The HUB model was developed as an alternative to traditional preventive policing strategies and aims to address community problems.

Our goals also included increased collaboration with partner agencies, implementation of prevention education curricula, and increased training for allied professionals. We have made substantial progress this year in all of these areas including:

- We have developed prevention education programs designed for different school-age group that have been extremely well received and responsive to the needs of the individual school systems.
- In partnership with Court Administration, we have also developed a PFA court orientation video that will be broadcast on a constant loop at the courthouse and on our website in October.
- As part of our skill building workshops for our volunteers and staff, we now offer workshops to include certification in Mental Health First Aid for staff and volunteers.

Over the past 41 years we have seen our Center grow in wonderful ways that enhance our services to victims while also providing opportunities for our members to empower and enrich their lives through community engagement. To maintain and build upon those efforts, this year, we initiated the essential process of developing a long-term Strategic Plan that began with identifying the following:

- Purpose: WCMC empowers members to be catalysts for change in our community in order to improve the lives of women and girls.
- Approach: Eliminate domestic violence, champion gender equality, increase enrichment programs.
- Values: Committed, empowering, compassionate.
- Economics: Increase organizational growth through volunteerism and diversity of services with budgetary increases to support that growth.

In 2016/2017 we expanded our programmatic goals to reflect this strategic plan, which focuses on 4 areas:

1. Work to eliminate domestic violence so women can live safer, more stable lives and thrive.
2. Provide educational and growth opportunities to enrich the lives of female members of the community each year.
3. Promote positive change toward gender equality.
4. Grow the organization by increasing volunteer hours, increasing funding, increasing awareness, and maintaining high membership satisfaction.

As we conclude this fiscal year, I hope that you will all join me in celebrating all that we have achieved together in our efforts to empower women and to serve victims of domestic violence!



24 hr Domestic Violence Hotline is [1-800-773-2424](tel:1-800-773-2424)

Domestic Violence Legal Network

T.E.A.C.H. (The Education, Awareness, Communication, Health Committee)

Presents

*How Faith Communities Can Support Families Impacted by
Domestic Violence*

*Topics include Domestic Violence 101, Interventions, System
Collaborations, and Resources*

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017

**Time: Sign in at 8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

***No charge for training but must preregister to attend!
Limited to 75 participants.***

**Location: One Montgomery Plaza: Grand Jury Room 7th Floor
425 Swede Street (At Airy), Norristown, PA 19401**

**Limited free parking at Garage on Main and Cherry Streets (across
from The Pretzel Factory) on a first come first serve basis.**

Light Breakfast—Bring lunch or try a local restaurant

The Domestic Violence Legal Network of Montgomery County (DVLN) has been established to act in assisting in making vital services available to domestic violence victims through the sharing of resources and expertise among law enforcement, government, and community agencies.

T.E.A.C.H. is a sub-committee under DVLN whose main goal is to educate and raise awareness about domestic violence for the Montgomery County Community and elsewhere.

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Great Cause

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201 Leedom Street,
Jenkintown, PA 19046

215-885-0651

Monday - Friday
11:00 am to 6:00 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