

Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County



The Women's Center of Montgomery County Out in our Community!

Summertime is usually a time to take it easy – to sit back and relax... but not for the Women's Center of Montgomery County. Whew – we are busy impacting the lives of those in our community! Our dynamic team is reaching out to everyone from youth to seniors with a message of empowerment. Here is what's on tap:

- ☼ **Ardmore House** – The WCMC will present an interactive program to our cherished senior citizens. Art projects and games will be intertwined with tips for maintaining safe and independent lives.
- ☼ **Manna of Main Street** – Our collaborations with our fellow service providers are vital. Manna on Main Street does an excellent job providing necessities to those in need. The WCMC will be training the employees to identify possible Domestic Violence issues among the population in their care. Together we achieve more.
- ☼ **William Jeanes Public Library** – What a dynamic teen board this library has. The teens themselves have been active in arranging our visit. The WCMC will be presenting *The Hunting Ground* to college-bound students. This program deals with sexual violence on college campus in an authentic and eye-opening way. Knowledge is power!
- ☼ **Manor College** – We're back! After partnering with the college in the spring for a dormitory presentation, the WCMC is on Manor's fall orientation schedule. We will be speaking to hundreds of new students about healthy relationships within Title IX expectations. Additionally, the WCMC will have an informational table at the event.
- ☼ **The Democratic National Convention** – This is our chance to rock the nation with our mission – preventing Domestic Violence and other forms of abuse. Even though we serve Montgomery County, DV knows no boundaries. It is good to have this rare opportunity to reach many.

There is no summer sun hot enough to stop our cool volunteers, interns, board members and our community friends from stepping up to help with these events. Many, many thanks for all you do!

Please contact Robin Jordan in the Colmar office by email at rjordan@womenscentermc.org or by telephone at 215-996-0723 should you want to become more involved with our outreach programs or you know of an organization that might benefit from our education.



PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE

Below is a speech given by Tam St. Claire, President of the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition (BCWAC) at the Pennsylvania's Choice (pachoice.org) rally in Harrisburg on 6/27/16. The Women's Center of Montgomery County (WCMC) is proud to be one of the 37 nonprofit organizations that form this coalition. Tam addresses the need for passage of a timely, fair, balanced budget by our state legislators. Her words are reproduced below, and hopefully will provide language for any legislative contacts that our membership makes in advocating for a fair, balanced, economically sound 2016/2017 state budget.

BCWAC is a coalition of 37 nonprofit organizations who provide much needed services to women and their families. Our mission is to educate and advocate on behalf of women to promote systemic changes to achieve gender equity and economic security for all.

*We speak with **one voice** about how cuts, delays and gridlock between Senate and House, Legislators and the Governor, have hurt people who expect and depend on our organizational partners to provide health care, housing, child care, transportation and need for food.*

*These programs are rungs on the ladder needed to climb out of the devastation of poverty. They must **ALL** be in place. There can't be gaps in the rungs, if people are to become economically self-sufficient.*

Too many women are carrying 2 or 3 jobs and still struggling to make ends meet. Too many women are underpaid and are juggling their paid jobs with their unpaid jobs of caregiving for elderly parents or disabled children, and are finding important services cut that help them to survive.

Too many families are impacted by the inability of our public officials to find common ground on behalf of all of us in the Commonwealth.

*It made me angry last year that while citizens of this state were working hard for every penny, and doing their jobs, most of our elected officials were collecting their paychecks and **not** doing their job of passing a budget for 9 months.*

***We cannot tolerate** another devastating budget delay.*

***We cannot tolerate** more cuts to the social services that help domestic violence victims, our elderly, our disabled, kids at risk, victims of human trafficking, and those struggling with opiate addictions from prescriptions for pain killing drugs.*

***We cannot tolerate** flat spending, also known as cuts, to the education of our children, who are our future workers.*

***We cannot tolerate** the lack of enough money to provide Pre-K programs for all of our little starters.*

***We cannot tolerate** cuts to programs that train and re-train workers for minimum wage jobs.*

***We cannot tolerate** a minimum wage set at the unlivable level of \$7.25/hr.*

POLICIES MATTER. INVESTMENTS MATTER. WHAT IS IN THE BUDGET MATTERS.

Remember what your grandmother said, "A stitch in time saves nine." Investment in the future, in the many proven successful programs that help women and their children be economically secure saves money in the long run. The Senate conducted a study last year that confirmed that these programs work, and they need to be funded. When women succeed, families succeed.

These are the "MUSTS:"

*- We **MUST** invest in our future, our children, our women and our men.*

*We **MUST** have an economically sound budget.*

*We **MUST** have a budget in which everyone contributes their fair share.*

*We **MUST** have a budget with enough revenue to cover the growing needs of our state.*

*This weekend, we will be celebrating the 4th of July, and we are reminded that we are **ONE** nation. We are **ALL** Americans. We are **ALL** equal. In 2016, we are still working as our founding mothers and fathers did in 1776 to be a “more perfect union, to establish justice, to ensure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare and to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”*

*How the budget is designed and how it is sliced and diced, is a clue as to how much our elected representatives pay attention to the phrase “promote the general welfare.” That means **ALL** of us, not just the privileged 1%.*

Today as we near the end of the fiscal year, we ask our elected officials ... No, not ask ...

*We are a **DEMOCRACY**,*

*We are **THE PEOPLE**,*

***WE** are the boss,*

*So, we are **TELLING** our elected officials, “**Do your job!**”*

***PROMOTE** the general welfare,*

*Agree to a budget that is **FAIR to and FOR ALL** Pennsylvanians.*

*If our elected officials do not want to do what is fair and right and just for everyone in the state, then we will: **REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER! REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER!.....***

An Appeal and A Challenge from the 12th Annual 5K Run/3K Walk Event Planning Committee

While most of us are enjoying the summer activities and fall seems months away, our 5K Run/3K Walk Special Events Committee is hard at work coordinating our 10th Annual event, which will take place on Sunday, July 31st at 9:00 a.m. at Carey Stadium on the campus of Germantown Academy in Fort Washington.

As in past years, the committee wants to ensure that this event is successful as both a fundraiser and a friend-raiser. In an effort to motivate us all to engage our friends and family to participate in the event – financially and actively – the Committee will award a \$100 Spa Gift card from Massage Envy to the paid staff, volunteer, or student intern who secures the highest donation level.

Please contact the Elkins Park office for more details and for registration materials. Information about the event and a link to the online registration are available in this newsletter and on our website at:

www.wcmontco.org.

Advocacy Action Updates

As we have report in the past, the Women’s Center is an active member and participant in the Bucks County Women’s Advocacy Coalition (WAC). Since part of our organizational mission and vision is to help empower women and affect social change, our goal is to engage our community and inspire action and advocacy by sharing highlights of upcoming and proposed legislation in Pennsylvania. With the help of our friends at WAC we draw your attention to the following action updates:

SB1073 - The 2016-17 PA House spending Budget Bill was passed June 28, 2016 by a vote of 132-68. The \$31.6 billion budget - which does not include a plan for raising the revenue to cover \$1.4 billion increase in expenditures – was sent to the Senate for consideration. In the Senate amended version, which passed on June 29th, funding to domestic violence and rape crisis services received a 3% increases! We are hearing that it was a bipartisan effort from our senators to increase our line items in the budget bill. Thank you for your messages and calls advocating to protect domestic violence services funding and invest in the lifesaving work you do every day. You were heard!

Here is a breakdown of line items of particular interest to our work in the senate amended version of SB 1073:

SERVICE	SFY 2015-16	SB 1073 *(6/29)	Increase/Decrease
Child Advocacy Centers	\$1,000,000	\$0	(\$1,000,000)
Mental Health Services	\$768,057,000	\$789,027,000	\$20,970,000
Cash Grants	\$25,457,000	\$25,457,000	\$0
County Child Welfare	\$949,726,000	\$1,146,591,000	\$1,196,865,000
Domestic Violence	\$16,851,000	\$17,357,000	\$506,000
Rape Crisis	\$9,639,000	\$9,928,000	\$289,000
Human Services Develop. Fund	\$13,460,000	\$13,460,000	\$0
Legal Services	\$2,461,000	\$2,661,000	\$200,000
Homeless Assistance	\$18,496,000	\$18,496,000	\$0
Child Care Assistance	\$152,609,000	\$152,609,000	\$0

The budget is now in the House awaiting a concurrence vote OR another round of amendments. Importantly, a bill outlining the revenue needed to fund the appropriation levels in the state budget is still without agreement. We will continue to update you on developments and who to reach out to for advocacy if needed. In the meantime, you can give a quick call to your senators to thank them for supporting a modest but needed increase to domestic violence and rape crisis services in SB 1073. Thank you for your consistent advocacy

HB1581 - Strangulation Bill, which passed the House in April, was on the Senate calendar for its third and final consideration on Thursday 6/30. This bill would create the crime of felony for strangulation. Strangulation is a common and dangerous means of assault in domestic violence cases, it is a known risk factor for homicide, and non-lethal strangulation causes significant injuries and is frequently used as a control tactic. Results will be known after this goes to press but it looks very promising to be able to put another bill we support, track and advocate for in the “win” column.

SB 851 - Safe Harbor in Human Trafficking is awaiting amendments but appears to be moving

forward. The Safe Harbor bill will immunize the child victims of human trafficking from criminal prosecution. The bill would further require law enforcement officers to report to the Department of Human Services any encounter with a person under the age of 18 who has been subject to sexual exploitation. The Department will develop and implement a statewide protocol to deliver safe long-term housing, education and life-skills training, and counseling to the children who have been exploited.

SB 1330 - SURPRISE!! Pennsylvania Preemption Statute Regarding Firearms and Ammunition is on a fast track for passage. It was introduced late Friday, June 24th to the Local Government Committee and reported as committed (8-3) on Monday without any hearings. The bill has received first and second consideration by the full Senate. This is similar to the bill passed last year attached to unrelated legislation. Because of the illegal procedural move last year, the bill was overturned by the State Supreme Court. Senator Mensch is a co-sponsor of SB1330. An Action Alert was sent out Wednesday morning to our Partners.

HB 415 - A new memo is being circulated about a PA Senate companion bill to HB415, the Child Access Protection bill that would hold gun owners responsible for preventing children from getting access to guns in the home. There are 4.76 unintentional firearm injuries and 3.85 deaths **each day** across the U.S. for children under 18.

Direct Service Statistics for the Period July 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016

Although we will be bringing you a complete report in August of our Fiscal Year 2015/2016 domestic violence services, we thought we would share with you some of the early numbers for our domestic violence program through the first eleven months.

From July 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016 we served 5,124 new victims of domestic violence and 183 significant others (typically supportive services to their family members).

4,458 victims were female with 664 male victims served and 2 transgendered adult victims. While the majority of victims served were adults, 410 victims were classified as elderly. 140 victims disclosed physical or cognitive disabilities.

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
Please make us your highest priority
**United Way Donor Option
Number 00433**

Under The Sea

**Turn the Tide
of Domestic Violence**

The Women's Center of Montgomery County

12th Annual 5k Run/3k Walk to End Domestic Violence

When:

Sunday, July 31 2016

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

Registration:

\$25 per Runner or Walker

\$30 Virtual Run - Walk

online at www.wcmontco.org

Children under 12 Free



Women's Center of
Montgomery County

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

THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Under the Sea – Turn the Tide of Domestic Violence
5K RUN/3K WALK
Benefitting Victims of Domestic Violence

SUNDAY, July 31, 2016
RUN/WALK starts at 9:00 AM
RAIN OR SHINE

The Carey Stadium & Athletic Field at GERMANTOWN ACADEMY
340 Morris Road, Fort Washington PA 19034

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 per runner or walker/\$30.00 Virtual Run-Walk (incl. shipping)

Event Day Registration: 8 am to 8:45 am at
The Carey Stadium and Athletic Fields on Morris Road

We encourage you to register on line at: www.wcmontco.org

REGISTRATION FORM:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEAM NAME (IF APPLICABLE): _____

• REGISTER AS: Runner (\$25) _____ Walker (\$25) _____

• REGISTER AS: Virtual Runner/Walker (\$30) _____

Virtual Participants: All you have to do is commit to run or walk – you choose the date; you choose the location. You will receive an event t-shirt and finisher medal as a thank you for your support! Your shirt and medal shipped prior to the Event Date if registration received by 7/15/16.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

T-shirt Size: (circle one) Small Medium Large XL XXL

• I/We cannot attend the event at this time. Please find a contribution in the amount of \$ _____ to support the event.

If paying by mail, please fill out Registration Form and return with payment payable to:
The Women's Center of Montgomery County
at 2506 N. Broad Street, Suite 203, Colmar, PA 18915

For more information contact us at 215 635 7340





Second Chances Shoppe

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

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Elkins Park, PA 19027

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



United Way
of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Community Partner