

Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County



Board of Directors News

A word to the Board – Sandy Capps

I was going to write about how through the years experiences through the Center has brought tears and laughter to me and made me a stronger person. But, recently my fifteen (15) year old granddaughter, Ashley asked me to read a homework assignment in English that she scored a perfect score. After reading and shedding a few tears to see the strength she has I feel it is something worth sharing with women of today. It gives me hope that our nation will become stronger during these trying times and that our young people will play a big part in the foundation of our country.

I run as fast as the wind that hits my skin
 It is cold but does not slow me down
 I must keep going
 My stride opens wide like the doors of freedom I am running to
 The freedom for equality that I strive for
 My dress frees me in a way nothing else can
 It is a shield that protects me
 It proves women can do anything, I can do anything
 People watch and look at me funny
 Because I am a girl? Because I am wearing a dress? Why?
 They all look at me funny I do not care; I have too much determination to care
 I have determination to prove them wrong
 To prove that just because I am a girl does not mean I am powerless
 It does not mean I am weak
 It makes me stronger

Ashley Peavy





Our Legal Advocacy Project Program Director, Denise Flynn, recently presented a valuable message to behavioral health professionals at the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children workshop held on March 24th. Indeed, what we ALL do MATTERS and MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Do you want to hear some good news? Our education programs work! In the past year we have received numerous calls from victims who requested our services after attending one of our programs or seeing one of our informational flyers. They found out about us, because we found them, *first*.

Our job is far from over – it is only beginning. We want to have the Women’s Center’s name and our Hotline number in every corner of this oddly-shaped Montgomery County. Here’s how you can help:

- Do you know of an organization, a business, a church or a gym that would accommodate our materials?
- What about your local train station or library? A medical facility? Think outside the box.

We are proud of the extensive services we provide to many and we want every person in our communities to have access to us.

So.... where is *your* special spot? Email Robin Jordan at rjordan@womenscentermc.org or Colleen Brown at cbrown@womenscentermc.org to arrange for a material delivery.

Save The Date! Garden Luncheon

May 7, 2017
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
at the Abington Art Center
515 Meetinghouse Road – Jenkintown, PA

for details - www.wcmontco.org



**Legal Aid of Southeastern PA
and
Women's Center of Montgomery County
Partner to Expand Services for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA was recently awarded funding from the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) program to expand services for victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County. The VOCA grant supports a partnership between Legal Aid, the Montgomery County Bar Association and the Women's Center of Montgomery County, enabling Legal Aid to increase the availability of skilled attorneys who are trained to understand the dynamics of abuse and to take a trauma-informed approach to serving these victims.

Under this grant, in cases which require legal representation, the Women's Center and Legal Aid have formalized an internal 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 such as counseling, support group, assistance with locating affordable and/or temporary housing, emergency cash assistance for victims escaping an abuser, Crime Victim Compensation filings, victim impact statements to the courts, and assistance locating emergency shelter.

Under this formal Memo of Understanding, the WCMC will also partner with Legal Aid to provide specialized domestic violence training that incorporates aspects of the state-supported Justice, Autonomy, Restoration and Safety (JARS) curriculum to Legal Aid and pro bono attorneys assisting victims of domestic violence. The JARS curriculum provides advocates with the basic levels of knowledge and skills needed in order to assume their respective roles in working with survivors in a trauma-informed approach. WCMC trainers will present this 45-hour at least twice a year to help attorneys understand the dynamics of domestic abuse, trauma informed legal practice, community resources, the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund and other relevant topics.

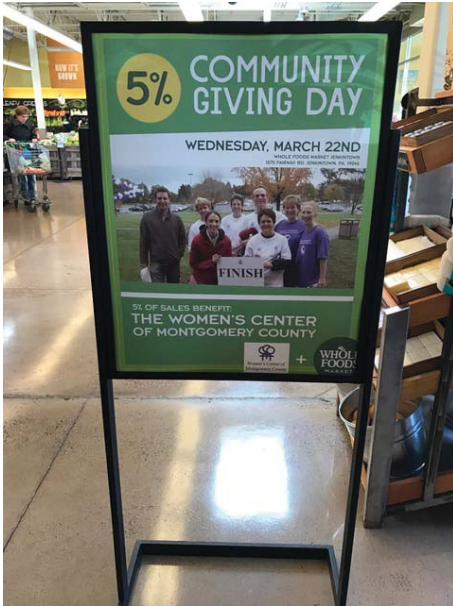
This arrangement, coupled with our successful partnership in the Friends of the Court Initiative, enables us to successfully link victims with attorneys who are well-trained and knowledgeable as to the impact the domestic violence, with an ultimate goal of enhancing and expanding victim access to the justice system.

Legal Aid has also established a countywide toll free PFA Helpline (1-855- 980-6924) to make it easier for domestic abuse victims in Montgomery County to connect directly with Ms. Boyle or the new paralegal for legal assistance. Callers will be able to obtain information on filing for a PFA, get legal advice directly related to their situation, be informed of other services such as the Women's Center of Montgomery County and set up an appointment for a one-to-one consultation with the PFA Attorney. The Helpline will be available during business hours, and callers can leave a message outside of those hours.

Beverly Boyle Esq. has been hired as a full time Domestic Violence attorney in Legal Aid's Norristown office. A full time paralegal will also be hired.

Thank You for Supporting Our 5% Giving Day at Whole Foods!

The Women's Center of Montgomery County is grateful to our members and supporters - with your help we raised \$5,173 from our 5% Giving Day at Whole Foods Jenkintown on March 22nd. Thanks to all of you and our friends at Whole Foods for this wonderful effort!



Staff and Volunteers at Second Chances Shoppe, our thrift shop located at 201 Leedom Street in Jenkintown, celebrated the success of our first Bag Sale Event held in February. The event drew more than 50 shoppers, raising \$532!

If you haven't been by to check out our sales and our merchandise we look forward to welcoming you soon!

A CALL TO ACTION – Advertise the Garden Party!

We would appreciate your help spreading the word for upcoming Garden Party on May 7th!

For those of you on Facebook, here's how you can help:

STEP #1: (Quick and Easy!)

Click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1661194254185391/>

And click on "Share" then "Share in Newsfeed" and write a little something to encourage your friends to attend.

---- Then do this ----

STEP #2:

Click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1661194254185391/>

And click on "Share" ... then "Invite Friends" then on the left "All Friends" ... then scroll through the list and check each of the friends that you think would be interested in joining us for the event.

Then click on "Send Invites" in the bottom right corner.

Boom. You're done!

Repeat Step #1 once or twice a week.



MAY 7 Garden Luncheon
Public · Hosted by Women's Center of Montgomery County

✓ Going ▾ Share ▾ ...

🕒 Sunday, May 7 at 11 AM - 2 PM

📍 Abington Art Center
515 Meetinghouse Rd, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania 19046

🎟 Tickets Available www.wcmontco.org Find Tickets

Invite Friends
Share in Messenger
Share in News Feed

Announcement from the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition

EQUAL PAY DAY - APRIL 4th

On Tuesday, April 4, people across the United States will observe a national day of action to combat the gender pay gap. This date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to bring home what men made in 2016. Median earnings for men in Pennsylvania are \$50,976 compared to \$40,214 for women - an earnings ratio of just 79 percent, or 27th out of all states and the District of Columbia. Compared to white men's wages, in Pennsylvania, Asian American women are paid 81%, African American women are paid 68%, Native American women are paid 61%, and Hispanic and Latina women take home just 56%. Over a lifetime (47 years), the total estimated loss of earnings for women compared with men are \$700,000 for high school graduates, and \$1.2 million for a college graduate.

A dangerous bill is pending in the Pennsylvania legislature. Senate Bill 241 quickly passed the Senate in February and is now in the House Labor and Industry Committee. While Pennsylvania has some equal pay protections, they are incomplete. Unfortunately, SB241 is not the answer. Pennsylvania's act prohibiting discrimination in rate of pay because of sex was enacted in 1959. It was amended in 1967, excluding anyone subject to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), substantially reducing the number of people covered. It only applies to farm labor on small farms, employment in public amusements, and "seamen on foreign vessels." The law needs to cover everyone. It will not protect women in Pennsylvania from receiving unequal pay for comparable work, and it will not protect employees from retaliation for talking about their wages. The so-called pay transparency protection in the bill only protects employee wage inquiries, discussions, and disclosures if they are "reasonable" without defining what is reasonable. More importantly, SB241 would undercut local provisions that establish important equal pay provisions and undo a great new ordinance in Philadelphia. This bill would send the state backwards.

Two other pay equity bills were recently introduced in the House. HB830 increases the time to bring action from two years to three and raises fines on employers who violate the law. It does not eliminate the reference to FLSA so does not cover everyone. HB931 addresses some of the issues lacking in SB241 such as comparable work, family leave time for pregnancy or medical issues not reducing seniority, asking about salary history and prohibiting retaliation. It also establishes an Equal Pay Commission to study the issue of pay equity. It does not eliminate the reference to FLSA, so also does not cover everyone. There has also been lots of research on pay equity, so what a new commission would find is questionable. We anticipate Representative Brian Sims and Senator Anthony Williams will be introducing pay equity legislation that will address all of these issues. We need our legislators to pass real solutions that will help real Pennsylvania women achieve full economic equality.

Join the Women's Center of Montgomery County and our friends at Congregation Beth Or on Sunday June 4th for a 5K/10K run. Congregation Beth Or has generously selected the Women's Center as the beneficiary of the event proceeds!



Sunday June 4, 2017, 8:30 AM
Congregation Beth Or, 239 Welsh Rd., Maple Glen, PA 19002
5k run, 10k run and 1 mile walk
Chip-timed, over-all and age category winners, team competition (5K)
Proceeds from this years race will support The Woman's Center of Montgomery County

ON-LINE REGISTRATION:
www.bethor.org



Accelerate Your Job Search

Sponsored by:
The Microsoft Corporation and *The Women's Center of Montgomery County*



Are you ready for a career comeback? Entering the workplace for the first time?

We will help make your transition a less daunting one.

Come learn: skill assessment, resume building, interviewing skills, budgeting, and tips and tricks to organize appointments. We will tailor all instruction to meet YOUR individual needs.

COST: FREE

DATES: Beginning APRIL 28TH, then the last Friday of each month for eight (8) sessions.

TIME: 12 PM – 2 PM

WHERE: The Microsoft Store at the King of Prussia Mall

Your young children will be able to take advantage of Microsoft Children's Computer Camp Programs during this time. This is also FREE of cost.



REGISTER by email: latripp@microsoft.com or by calling 215-996-0723
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/locations/pa/king-of-prussia/king-of-prussia-mall/store-1110>

The Microsoft Corporation

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
1-800-773-2424



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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