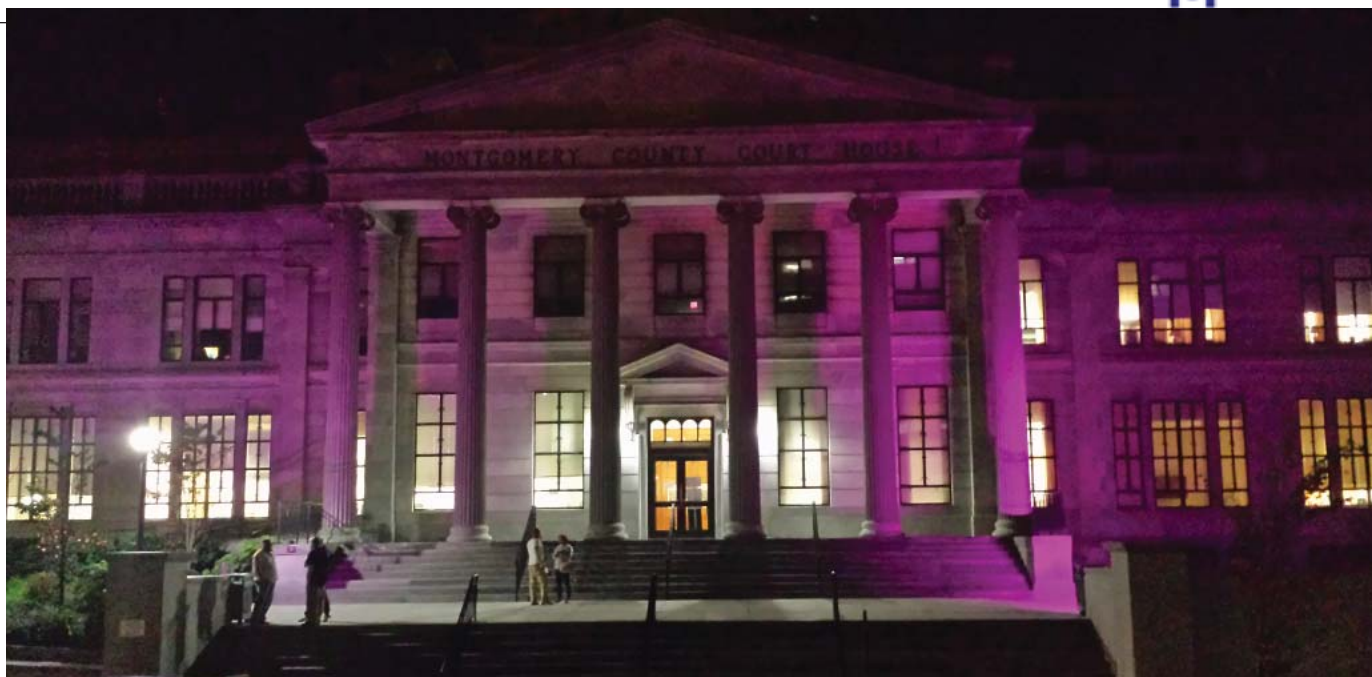


Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County



Our County Commissioners proclaimed October 5, 2016 Domestic Violence Awareness Observance Day, with our Courthouse illuminated in purple lighting to commemorate the event.

The Women's Center of Montgomery County Joins the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Promoting Domestic Violence Awareness Month During Victim Commemoration at State Capitol Building

92 victims who have died in domestic violence-related incidents over the last year in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, Pa., Oct. 17, 2016 --- Representatives from the WCMC traveled to the state Capitol today to join legislators, administration officials, local domestic violence programs, survivors and families as they remembered the 92 Pennsylvania victims who have been killed in domestic violence-related homicides since October 2015.

The third annual victim commemoration was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which runs throughout October. Participants in the commemoration read aloud the name of each victim during a roll-call ceremony. The 92 victims were women, men and children of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. More than half were killed with firearms.

Among the presenters was Jeanette Hall, mother of Karlie Hall, who was murdered Feb. 8, 2015, while attending college in Millersville, Lancaster County. Karlie's sisters, Kristen and Katelyn, also participated in the event. Kristen led a moment of silence and Katelyn placed the last puzzle on a mosaic.

continued on Page 2

The names of all 92 victims are displayed on jigsaw pieces on the mosaic to symbolize the interlocking impact that domestic violence has on individuals, families and communities. The mosaic will be on display in the Capitol all month. Additionally, the white marble columns of the state Capitol Building will be cast in purple lights Oct. 17-23 to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence affects one in four women, one in seven men and more than 90,000 Pennsylvanians annually.

Each year, PCADV tracks and reports on domestic violence-related fatalities in Pennsylvania. In calendar year 2015, the last year for which there is a full report, there were 146 deaths, which included 113 victims and 33 perpetrators. PCADV's annual "Fatality Report" has been the single most reliable source for domestic violence-related homicides in Pennsylvania for nearly 20 years.

The WCMC is a member of PCADV, which marks its 40th anniversary in November.

Since 1976, PCADV has been a community lifeline for domestic violence victims and their families, providing shelter, legal assistance, counseling and children's services to more than 2.8 million people. PCADV has grown from nine community-based domestic violence programs in 1976 to 60 centers today serving all 67 counties assisting 90,000 victims per year, helping them find safety, obtain justice and build new lives free of abuse.

The legislature currently is considering several measures that would protect victims and help law enforcement and advocates.

In the days following this ceremony and our advocacy with our State Senators, the Senate approved House Bill 1581, elevating intentional strangulation to a felony and give prosecutors a tool to protect victims. Non-fatal strangulation is a tactic that abusers use to terrorize victims. Yet, prosecutors lack the ability to criminalize strangulation. Thirty-seven states and a U.S. territory already have laws that define strangulation.

House Bill 1581 passed the House in April 2016 and passed the Senate on October 24th.

Another measure, Senate Bill 1182, would help to prevent domestic violence homicide by taking firearms out of the hands of convicted abusers. Anyone subject to a final protection from abuse order or convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence would be ordered to relinquish their guns and store them with law enforcement or a federal firearms dealer. This will bring Pennsylvania law into alignment with existing federal law.

The legislation current is in committee but will be re-introduced in January 2017 during the new legislative session.

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
Please make us your highest priority



United Way Donor Option Number 00433



24 hr Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-773-2424



Appearing in their third annual benefit concert to raise funds and awareness for the Women's Center of Montgomery County, nxt2normal performed at Sellersville Theater on October 16th, raising more than \$5,800 to support the Center's mission. The Board and staff of the Women's Center want to express our gratitude and regard for the band, which has raised collectively more than \$16,000 over the past three years to empower our mission to end domestic violence



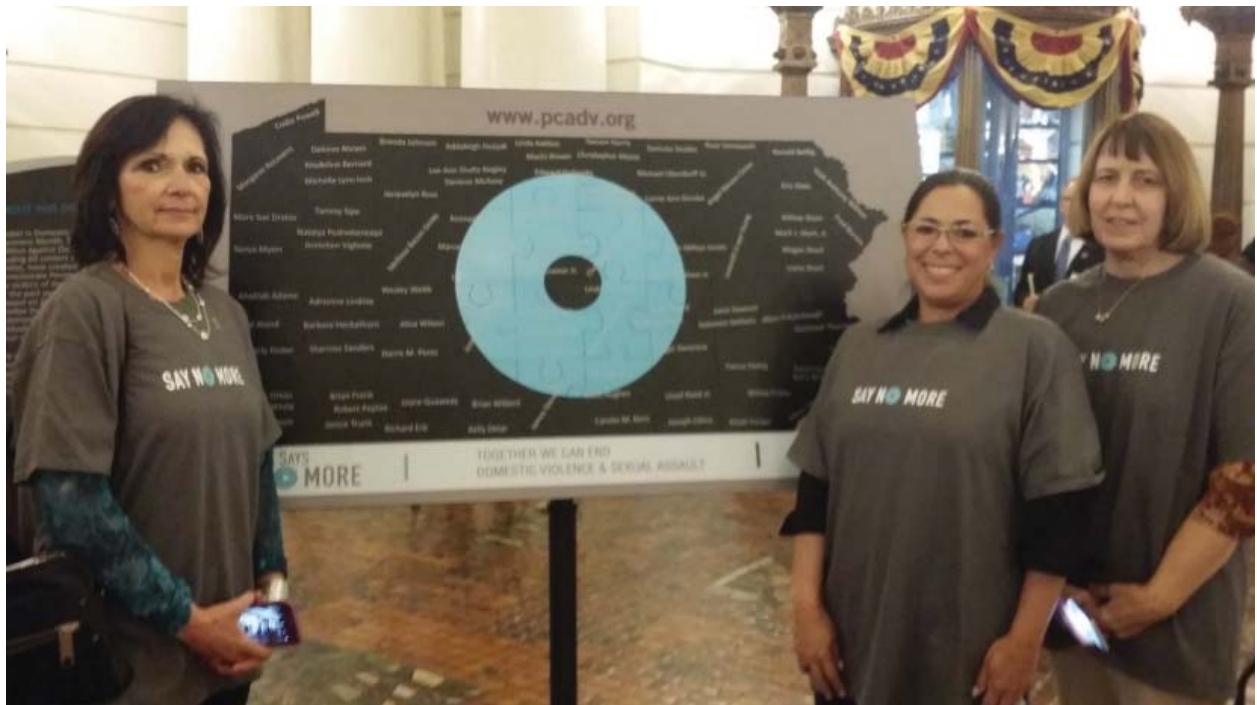
The Women Center on television! Robin Jordan and Amy Stern appeared with Maria Macaluso on Salima Speaks (Comcast 66/966HD or Verizon FIOS 29/30) to promote domestic violence awareness.



Tuesday, October 4th, Legal Advocacy Project Director Denise Flynn, with Court Administrator Michael Kehs, presented an award to retired Chief Willie Richet as part of our annual Domestic Violence Awareness ceremony.



On Saturday, October 29th, the WCMC and Microsoft ran four stations for children and parents about staying safe online. Coordinated by our Community Education Specialist Robin Jordan, the WCMC helped to teach the safety comparison to real world common sense and how online common sense is the same thing. Incorporating a Halloween theme, Robin educated the children as to how sometimes people hide behind a the computer like they are wearing a mask. The program also included a parent station that provided technical tips and support for parents.



Women Center advocates in Harrisburg at the Domestic Violence Awareness program coordinated by the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Harrisburg on October 17th. Represented in photo: Board Members Dov Weiner and Rosie Santulli; Staff Member Sue Pontoski.

Board of Directors News

The next meeting of the Women’s Center of Montgomery County Board of Directors will be held on **Thursday, November 17th at 6:45 pm** in at our Elkins Park location in the ground floor Community Room.

The February Board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 15th at 6:45 pm** at our Colmar office at 2506 N. Broad Street in the Walton Meeting Room.

Board meetings are open to current members of the Center.

Also, as a reminder, current members can also join most of our Board committees. If you have an interest on serving on our standing committees – Finance, Special Events, Planning, Governance or Development – please contact our Co-Presidents Amy Stern and Rosie Santulli c/o the Elkins Park office.



Domestic Violence Services Provided by the Women’s Center First Three Months Fiscal Year 7/1/16 to 9/30/16

Number of Domestic Violence Victims Served:

Number of New Victims	1,692
Number of Significant Others	54

Counseling Hours:

Individual Counseling:	1,532 hours
Group Counseling:	133 hours
Total Counseling Hours	1,665 hours

Community Education Programs:

Number of programs to community groups	38
Number of persons reached through community groups	3,608
Number of programs to schools	19
Number of persons reached in schools	2,231
Hospital-based Training:	21

Join the Women's Center of Montgomery County for



The Link Between Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence



PHIL ARKOW
The National LINK Coalition

The workshop will explore:

- the link between animal cruelty and neglect and domestic violence.
- the roles of law enforcement and veterinarians in identifying and responding to potential abuse.
- campaigns and safety-planning materials that protect humans and non-humans.
- available funding opportunities and technical assistance to help their shelters to become pet-friendly.



<http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org>

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2016

TIME: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WHERE: 2506 NORTH BROAD STREET, COLMAR, PA 18915

RSVP: wcmcevents@womenscentermc.org by November 1, 2016

Second Chances Shoppe

Thrift Store

201 Leedom Street - Jenkintown
215-885-0651

High Quality - Best Low Prices -
Great Cause!

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Benefiting the
Domestic Violence Project of the



Women's Center of
Montgomery County

www.wcmontco.org

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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8080 Old York Road, Suite 200
Elkins Park, PA 19027

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



United Way
of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Community Partner