

Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County



Board Presidents' Notes

submitted by Amy Stern, WCMC Board Co-President

A Call to Members

As we begin gearing up for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, we'd like to put out an invitation to all of our wonderful and dedicated members.

We have a very energetic and talented Board of Directors with some new and exciting ideas for our organization. Our recent day long retreat gave us the opportunity to reflect on where we began and look forward to where we are going.

As part of our path forward, we'd like to reach out to our members and ask you to join us. If you have a few days each month or even just a few hours a week, we welcome your unique talents, ideas and assistance on one of our committees.

Each of our Board Committees is engaged in challenging work to grow our organization.

- Our Development Committee is in the process of organizing and planning some great events for the year and can always use an extra helping hand.
- Our Communications and Public Advocacy ad hoc Committee reaches out to media and elected officials and advocates to ensure the support of our mission, focus and goals.
- Our Finance Committee continues to work to diversify our funding sources and to maintain the controls and policies that ensure our stability and growth.
- Our Planning Committee is hard at work completing our next Strategic Plan that will serve as our guiding vision and goal plan for the next five years.
- Our Governance Committee, in addition to their ongoing review of our Board composition and committee structure, strives each year to identify potential new Board members who bring their skills, talents and energies to our Center.

If you are interested in joining one of these committees or would like more information, please contact my Co-President, Rosie Santulli, at rsantu9604@comcast.net.

We'd love to hear your personal stories of why and how you are passionate about the Women's Center. So please consider getting more involved in Center life and helping us bring awareness to our community and to bring our services to those who need them. Below please find our Board Meeting dates. At the start of each meeting we have 5 – 10 minutes called "Minute for Mission" to bring a greater emphasis to our mission. We would like to have a staff member or volunteer either come to the meeting or write a short paragraph about your experience as a volunteer or staff member, maybe a specific story (with retaining confidentiality of course), or any other topic that fits the "Minute for Mission" idea. Again, please contact rsantu9604@comcast.net for further information or if you would like to present a "Minute for Mission". If you decide to come and present, you are of course invited to stay for the Board meeting if interested.

Board Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2016-2017: (All on Thursdays)

- October 13, 2016 – Colmar
- November 17, 2016 – Elkins Park
- December 15, 2016 – Colmar
- January 19, 2017 – Elkins Park
- February 16, 2017 – Colmar
- March 16, 2017 – Elkins Park
- April 20, 2017 – Colmar
- May 18, 2017 – Elkins Park
- June 15, 2017 – Colmar

Saying Good-bye to Our Beloved Friend

Frana Klemencic

It is with great personal sadness that I announce the loss of a much-loved and admired volunteer, friend and inspiration, Frana Klemencic. A volunteer hotline and peer counselor with the Women's Center since 1997, Frana brought to her work here a wonderful blend of skill, directness, humor and, frequently, joyful irreverence for the absurdities we often face in our work. Seeing Frana in the office during her weekly shifts was enough to make the worst day seem not so bad. Through her playful antics and jokes, she lifted the spirits of all around her, with a vitality and energy that belied her 87 years.

What I most loved about Frana was her directness and openness. A survivor of abuse herself Frana used her life experience to inform, guide and deeply empathize with individuals she counseled. One of the most caring counselors it has been my pleasure to know, what made Frana most unique for me was her ability to firmly but compassionately call people on their 'stuff.' She was willing to go well beyond expectations to help others, but held people accountable for meeting her at least part way. She understood that positive life change could not happen until the individual was, themselves, committed and that no amount of empathy or action on our part would matter until they accepted that challenge.

Despite the ailments that she faced in recent years – Macular Degeneration and aplastic anemia – Frana continued to provide peer counseling and hotline services until she passed away on September 16th. Indeed, one of the most telling indicators of the amazing woman Frana was can be found in her last actions. Working with two peer counselees in her final weeks, she asked her husband to make sure that they received materials – inspirational articles and poems – that she put aside for them. Always thinking of others, she made the rest of us want to do more, to do our best.

I will always remember and love Frana, for what she taught me as a counselor and for the joy she brought in knowing her. It is impossible not to smile when I think of her, to strive to be better and to remember to find the laughter and joy in life. We will miss her!



Condolences

On behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers I would like to offer our support and sympathy to counseling volunteer Charna Binder on the loss of her husband, Norton, who passed away on August 26th. Charna has been a part of our Women's Center family for more than 20 years and, through her, we came to know her beautiful family. To Charna, her children and her grandchildren, we hope she can take some solace in knowing that she is in our thoughts and hearts!

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Women's Center of Montgomery County is seeking to fill the following part-time position to be based in our Norristown office:

Legal Advocate/Court Liaison

Purpose: Providing court accompaniment in PFA court and legal advocacy to victims of domestic violence and assist in training and supervising volunteers who deliver these services.

The Court Liaison assists victims in understanding their legal options and the civil legal remedies available to them through the PFA process and family courts through court accompaniment and legal advocacy assistance. Their goal is to assist, to the best of their ability, those who are victims of domestic violence. Additionally, our legal advocates assist victims in understanding and accessing their rights under Pennsylvania's Crime Victims' Rights and Services Act, including support with crime victim compensation filings, preparation of victim impact statement, and enrollment in notification services such as SAVIN.

Classification: Part-time (up to 20 hours per week)

Interested applications should fax their resume to (215) 635-7347 or email to mmacaluso@womenscentermc.org or mail resumes to Maria Macaluso, Executive Director c/o the Elkins Park office, no later than October 26, 2016.

It is the policy of the Women's Center to provide program services and opportunities for volunteerism, training and employment without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, ancestry, disability or sexual orientation.

SAVE THE DATE JOIN US IN HARRISBURG TO COMMEMORATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October 17, 2016

11:00 am

In honor of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence will hold our third annual commemoration to the domestic violence victims killed in the past year in Pennsylvania. The 2016 ceremony will again take place in the Main Rotunda of the Harrisburg Capitol Building on **Monday, October 17, at 11:00am**. A video of last year's ceremony commemorating the victims can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vu7iNNo151Y>

Event Details:

Date: Monday, October 17

Time: 11am-noon

Location: Harrisburg Capitol Building, Main Rotunda

Description: Commemoration and roll call of Pennsylvania victims killed in domestic violence-related fatalities in the past year.

We would love to bring a group of volunteers and members in remembrance of the lives lost to domestic violence, the survivors helped by programs like the Women's Center across the state, and in support of the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which celebrates 40 years of service in 2016.

If you are interested in attending please contact Maria Macaluso at mmacaluso@womenscentermc.org or at the Elkins Park office at 215-635-7340.

Thank you for your consideration!

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL NETWORK OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
(D.V.L.N.):
THE EDUCATION/AWARENESS/COMMUNICATION/HEALTH COMMITTEE**

OUR HISTORY: The Domestic Violence Legal Network of Montgomery County (DVLN) was formed in 1986 by professionals from law enforcement, the court system, and agencies working with victims of domestic violence (DV), for the purpose of sharing resources and expertise to serve victims more effectively.

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: DVLN strives to eliminate Domestic Violence (DV) in the community by whatever means available including, enhanced communications between victim of (DV) and county services in an effort to secure safety and relief; to work with DV victims to remove stumbling blocks in the their path to a more secure future; to keep the community informed by providing a clear profile of available services; to take action on behalf of DV victims through policy reform.

SERIES OF ARTICLES: So that we may reach more victims of DV, DVLN ‘s **Education and Awareness Committee (TEACH)** have created a series of articles to offer a better understanding of DV; which impacts the lives of 1 in 4 woman and 1 in 7 men. For previous articles go to: www.montcopa.org/dvln

“Although October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is important to know this information all year long. Periodically, I will post some articles written by experts in their field who are also members of DVLN. Although these are excerpts, the full DVLN newsletter articles can be accessed at [www.montcopa.org /dvln](http://www.montcopa.org/dvln).”

By Denise Flynn, MHS, Program Director, Legal Advocacy Project, Women’s Center of Montgomery County

Definition of Domestic Violence by Jan Biresch, Domestic Violence Literacy

Domestic violence (DV) is a pattern of verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and economic abuse sometimes used in combination so that one adolescent or adult family member or partner can gain power and control over another. Legally within the State of PA., domestic violence includes current or former spouses or partners, those related through blood or marriage including in-laws.

Adult Victims of Domestic Violence by Stacy Sweinhart, DART Manager, Laurel House

Many people have in their head, a picture of a “typical” victim of domestic violence. This woman is “typically” a minority, she is uneducated, she is poor, and she comes from the wrong side of town. But this is not always the person who comes through the front door of a domestic violence agency. When domestic violence affects one out of every four women, it begins to paint a picture of how widespread the problem is and who it actually affects. It is an equal opportunity crime that can happen to anyone, anywhere. Domestic violence does not discriminate. It can happen to a person regardless of sex, race, religion, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1.3 million women are victims of domestic violence each year. Without a doubt, these 1.3 million women will all be different from each other and they will all come from different life circumstances and experiences. Women, who experience this horrific problem, do not fit into a mold of any kind. Each year hundreds of women come through the doors of domestic violence shelters throughout the country. Some arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs, while others walk through the doors in Jimmy Choo shoes and carry Coach Luggage. In order for communities to continue to fight against domestic violence and continue to serve victims, people

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need to open their eyes to those who desperately need the help of a domestic violence agency. If we can break the silence about who this dreadful crime takes as its victims, we can truly begin to face the issue and begin to make an impact for victims of domestic violence throughout our community.

IS YOUR CHILD BEING HURT? by Michele Kristofco, Office of Children & Youth

It is hard to determine exact numbers, but research has shown that in households where there is domestic violence, children living in those households are at increased risk for being victims of violence themselves.¹ Some children are directly abused.² Children may be beaten, punched, slapped, kicked, and more by an angry abusive adult, some children may be injured while trying to protect a parent from violence, and some children may be sexually assaulted or violated by an angry or hostile adult in the home. Some children are neglected.² Children may be left alone or unsupervised when there is ongoing violence in the home, some children may be left without adequate food, clothing, or necessary healthcare as a result of domestic violence, and some children may be left in deplorable conditions or inadequate housing arrangements due to violence at home. Some children are emotionally damaged.² Children exposed to traumatic events may have low self-esteem, increased fear and anxiety, or depression, some children may have problems with school performance, peer relationships or problem-solving skills, and some children grow up and become violent themselves.

Are you concerned about your child? Children have a right to a life free of violence and to a home that is safe and secure. Children do best in a home environment where there is a sense of routine and normalcy.³ Children need adults in their lives who value them, listen to them and protect them. Our youngest children are the most vulnerable victims. If you are concerned for the health and safety of your children, you are not alone. Many adults struggling with domestic violence have these concerns.

Take steps to protect yourself and your children:

1. Make a plan
2. Gather resources
3. Seek out community supports and the assistance of family and friends
4. Consider whether formal child protection services are needed

Remember, this is not a problem that only exists in your household. There are many other people dealing with issues of violence. Domestic violence is a local, national and global problem in our society today.³ We must work together and support each other in order to be safe and free of violence and to keep our children safe, happy and healthy. What we do for our children today helps them develop into the adults and the leaders they will become tomorrow.

1. Edleson, J. L. (1999). The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering. *Violence Against Women*, 5(2), pp. 134 to 154.

2. Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau, Caliber Associates. Bragg, H.Lien. (2003)Child Welfare Information Gateway, The Overlap Between Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence

3. Unicef, (2006). Behind closed doors, The impact of domestic violence on children

October Domestic Violence Awareness Events

With so much happening in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we thought we would put together this brief calendar of events to help guide our members through the varied and numerous activities through which you can participate, engage and promote awareness. Flyers and information for all of these can be found in this newsletter and on our website and Facebook pages,

Tuesday October 4th - Noon at the Norristown Courthouse. Annual DV Awareness Month Commemorative Program in the Courthouse, this year's special honoree is Chief Willie Richet, formerly of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department and the Norristown Police Department.

Wednesday October 5th - 4:00 pm in Norristown. Premiere screening of part 1 of our PFA Courtroom Orientation Video at a reception at the Montgomery Bar Association, followed at 4:45 by a procession to the courthouse steps for the presentation of a proclamation, at which time the courthouse will be lit in purple lights in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Friday October 7th – 9 am to 1:00 at the Fire Academy – Domestic Violence Legal Network hosts a training – Understanding the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children. Pre-registration required.

Sunday, October 16th - Noon at Sellersville Theater. Third annual benefit concert by *nxt2normal* Band to promote awareness. The concert is free and open to the public. No rsvp needed.

Restaurant week: The following restaurants will contribute a portion of their proceeds from your meal to the Women's Center. These opportunities are date and location specific and some require the diner to present a coupon, available for download on our website and Facebook page.

Monday, October 24th:

The Red Cedar Grill (Colmar)
Chipotle (Ardmore) - from 4 to 8 pm
Burger King (Blue Bell) - from 4 to 9 pm
Burger King (Pottstown) - from 4 to 9 pm

Tuesday, October 25th:

Poppi's Pizza (Wynnewood)
Friendly's (Fort Washington)
CheeBurger CheeBurger (Oaks)
Iron Hill Brewery (Huntingdon Valley)
Burger King (Lansdale) - from 4 to 9 pm

Wednesday, October 26th:

Santucci's (Warminster) - from 5 to 9 pm
JJ Bootlegger's (Philadelphia)

Thursday, October 27th:

Saladworks (East Norriton)
Burger King (Roslyn) - from 4 to 9 pm

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Friday, October 28th:

JJ Bootlegger's (Ladies Night) (Philadelphia)

And Coming Up in November:

Saturday, November 12th - Presentation by Phil Arkow at our Colmar location from 11 to 1 -on the intersection of animal abuse and domestic violence. Admission free and open to the public.

Sunday, November 20th – Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the William Penn Inn. RSVP required.

EXTRA, EXTRA; READ ALL ABOUT IT:

One Woman's Powerful Stand Against Domestic Violence

Connecting the Global Epidemic of Human Trafficking to the Domestic Violence Epidemic

She Has No Money, She Will Come Crawling Back. NOT!

The Secret History of Women in the Senate

Do you find the titles of these articles intriguing? Do you want to read more? Do you share a commitment to be informed and empowered? If so, we encourage you to follow the **Women's Center of Montgomery County** on **Facebook** where, each day we update our links to articles that we believe educate us about our mission and the world in which we carry it out.

Our Facebook page includes articles that span the mission from empowering women and achieving gender equality to understanding the dynamics and impact of violence against women.

In becoming a member of the **Women's Center of Montgomery County** you have demonstrated your commitment to these issues. We hope that by following us on **Facebook** that we reward that commitment with the information and awareness that we all need if we are to affect meaningful and positive social change!

**Visit the Women's Center of Montgomery County
on Facebook!**



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

MODERN DAY POLICING

A forum discussing multiple agencies involved in assisting local police

EVOLUTION OF MODERN POLICING

Past policing practices consisted of simply catching criminals and locking them up. When the prosecution phase was complete, the police had essentially fulfilled their duty. However, history has shown this philosophy lacking in substance with regard to reducing the rate of recidivism, preventing future criminal behavior and caring for the needs of victims. Therefore, the role of police in society needed to be expanded beyond an “arrest only” mentality to a philosophy of intervention, teaching, and community partnerships. This new philosophy includes close working relationships with social service organizations, schools, health & wellness professionals and all agencies across the criminal justice spectrum.

The Upper Merion Township Police Forum will examine four (4) specific areas of modern policing where social services, private organizations, local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies work together in furtherance of the modern policing philosophy. Emphasis will be placed on victimology and victim assistance so that attendees will better understand their risks as well as their role in prevention. Adults over the age of 18 yrs. are invited to attend any one or all of the forums.

Upper Merion Township Building (Freedom Hall)
175 West Valley Forge Road King of Prussia, PA 19406

Monday October 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM ----- Internet Crimes against Children
Monday October 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM ----- Human Trafficking
Monday October 24, 2016 at 7:00 PM ----- Domestic Violence
Monday October 31, 2016 at 7:00 PM ----- Fraud and Scam Protection

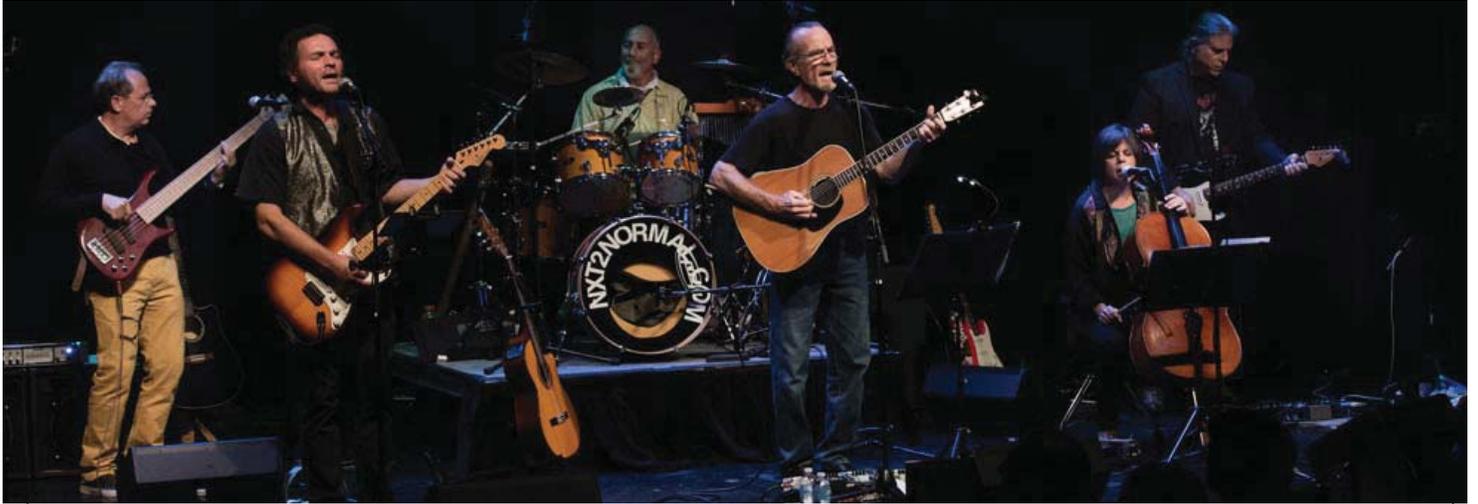
Please join us for interesting and educational information about these contemporary issues.



Upper Merion Twp. Police
175 W. Valley Forge Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-265-3232

For Information contact:
Off. Harry M. Nuskey
h nuskey@umtownship.org





In Recognition of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Join the Women's Center of Montgomery County
As we present the
3rd Annual Benefit Concert performed by

nxt2normal

Sunday, October 16th, 2016
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
General Admission - Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Sellersville Theater
24 W. Temple Avenue, Sellersville, PA
Adjacent to the Washington House Restaurant
www.st94.com/

Monetary Donations in lieu of tickets
at the door or online:
www.wcmontco.org

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

All proceeds benefit the Domestic Violence Program of the Women's Center

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!

Like us on Facebook!



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

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