



Fall 2017

STANDINGSTRONG

Blackburn Center News

A COMBINED NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL REPORT. This edition of Blackburn Center's fall newsletter will look a little different. We are combining the content of our standard newsletter with information that is typically included in our annual report. We are focusing on impact through this report, to provide you with important information about how community dollars make a difference through Blackburn Center's services in Westmoreland County. You can find a listing of those donors on our website: www.blackburncenter.org/publications.

Blackburn Center Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Our Impact in the Community

Each year, we provide vital support to thousands of people across Westmoreland County in two ways: (1) by providing a range of services to victims of violence and crime, and (2) by developing programs designed to end violence in our community. These services and programs have a direct impact on the lives of victims, and on the lives of citizens of Westmoreland County as a whole, making it a better and safer place to live. Each of our client services is provided free of charge to clients and community members, is confidential, and can be anonymous. We offer services to women, children and men, and are committed to providing services to the LGBTQ community.

24-Hour Hotline: We offer a 24-hour hotline for people whose lives have been impacted by violence or crime. The hotline is available to victims, their family and friends, and professionals who seek information about how they might be better able to meet the needs of their clients who are victims of violence or crime. Hotline counselors provide crisis intervention, safety planning, links to resources in the community, and information about Pennsylvania's Victims Compensation Assistance Program and Victim Rights.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center answered 3,040 hotline calls.

DID
YOU
KNOW?

Research documents positive outcomes, such as decreased distress and improved problem solving, when crisis intervention is available to victims of crime.

Emergency Shelter: We offer emergency shelter for victims of intimate partner violence and their children, for up to thirty days. We work hard to ensure that our facility is secure so that our residents can feel safe as they work to rebuild their lives. In addition, we can arrange for care and other housing for pets of people seeking shelter services.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center housed 249 adults and children through its emergency shelter program, providing a total of 4,217 days of shelter.

We're here to listen.
Reach out to us 24/7.
No fees. No judgement.
Just help.

We provide services for anyone whose life has been affected by any type of violence or crime.

- 24-hour hotline, providing support, options and community resources
- Counseling and therapy
- Accompaniment at hearings and trials
- Accompaniment at emergency rooms (for victims of domestic and sexual violence)
- Shelter (for victims of domestic violence and their children)

All services are confidential, can be anonymous and are available to women, children and men.

24-hour hotline 724.836.1122 or 1.888.832.2272, Deaf and hard-of-hearing may use VRS to call hotline



DID YOU KNOW?

Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime, according to the US Department of Justice.

Counseling & Therapy, including Support Groups: We are the only organization in Westmoreland County that offers trauma-informed counseling and therapy services for victims of violence and crime, and their significant others. These services incorporate a basic understanding of how trauma affects the life of a survivor, and focuses on core principles of safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center provided a total of 9,655 hours of counseling and therapy to 3,675 individuals in Westmoreland County.

DID YOU KNOW?

Trauma-focused psychotherapy is the most effective form of treatment for healing from the effects of trauma, according to the National Center for PTSD.

Legal Accompaniment: The court process can be overwhelming for victims of violence and crime. We provide legal advocates for victims to accompany them through the legal system, offering them support and encouragement, and helping victims plan for safety.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center provided 1,919 legal accompaniment contacts at Protection From Abuse (PFA) and District Justice hearings, and other court proceedings.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pennsylvania offers three separate protection order options, including Protection from Abuse orders, Sexual Violence Protection orders, and Protection from Intimidation orders.

Medical Accompaniment: Our medical advocates meet victims of domestic or sexual violence at the emergency room of any hospital in Westmoreland County at any time. Advocates provide support during medical examinations, as well as information about resources and options available.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center's medical advocates made 207 contacts with victims in Westmoreland County hospitals.

DID YOU KNOW?

Only 23% of medical professionals believe they had strategies that could assist victims of intimate partner violence, according to a report by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Community Education Programs: We strongly believe that educating the community is critical in helping to end violence. We offer speakers for any organization interested in learning more about issues such as domestic violence, teen dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, human trafficking, elder abuse, and fraud.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center reached nearly 500 Westmoreland County residents through these community education programs.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), raising awareness about issues such as elder abuse can help decrease the incidence of this type of violence, which impacts 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+.

Student Awareness Programs: We provide education and awareness programs to students throughout Westmoreland County, from pre-school through twelfth grade. Blackburn Center's Education Specialists provide presentations to students and teachers about domestic/dating violence, sexual assault awareness/prevention, and cyber-bullying/bullying awareness.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, nearly 13,000 students and teachers participated in our awareness programs.

DID YOU KNOW?

The CDC estimates that approximately 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18.

Trainings to Professionals: We maintain relationships in key systems across the county that interact with victims of violence, providing training to support an informed and appropriate response by each system to victims.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center provided more than 200 trainings to over 3,000 professionals in these systems.

DID YOU KNOW?

The collaborative relationships that Blackburn Center maintains with police, the criminal justice system, health care providers, faith leaders, and others professionals in the community help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. (Office of Violence Against Women)

continued

Special Projects: We have recently undertaken a number of special projects that are focused on expanding the positive impact the agency has in the community.

- **Underserved Population (UP) Program:** In 2016, we received a grant through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to launch our UP Program, which is designed to reach four traditionally underserved groups of people: those who are (1) older adults; (2) dealing with mental health issues; (3) victims of human trafficking; or (4) living in outlying parts of the county. Using targeted outreach, our UP Program team is working to ensure that each of these groups is better able to access our services. This includes establishing safe sites for service delivery in outlying parts of Westmoreland County, partnering with county agencies and Senior Centers to expand our outreach, and implementing strategies to reach victims of human trafficking.
- **Lethality Assessment:** We have partnered with several police departments in Westmoreland County to implement the Lethality Assessment Program, a brief screening tool to be used by police officers at the scene of domestic violence incidents, allowing them to identify domestic violence victims at the highest risk of being killed by their abusers. Law enforcement officers can then connect victims by phone to Blackburn Center’s hotline to receive immediate assistance based on the results of this assessment.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Maryland, the use of the Lethality Assessment Program has led to a 34% decrease in domestic violence fatalities over five years.

- **Campus Programming:** Blackburn Center is working closely with all of the colleges in Westmoreland County — Seton Hill, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, St. Vincent College, Westmoreland County Community College and the Penn State New Kensington campus — to strengthen each institution’s response to victims of sexual assault or dating violence. These programs provide information to students about their rights and the services available to them, and serve as a resource to faculty and staff in responding to incidents of violence on their campus.

In addition, Seton Hill University and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg are partnering with Blackburn Center in a comprehensive campus initiative to change the attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate rape culture, and to challenge the belief that gender-based violence is inevitable. On each campus, the project is led by a team from administration, student life, and faculty and has grown into university-wide initiatives, with the goal of encompassing all facets of the campus and campus culture. This aspect of campus programming supports Blackburn Center’s commitment to primary prevention.

Primary Prevention Work: We are strongly committed to providing quality services to victims of crime – and believe that

we must also work to prevent violence from occurring. We are dedicated to primary prevention efforts that address the root causes of gender violence, including the development of the Fearless Advocates for Male Engagement (FAME) group. This group consists of men who have demonstrated a willingness to be involved in advocating for the end of gender-based violence in Westmoreland County. We are also implementing the Coaching Boys into Men Program in some school districts in the county, to support athletic coaches as they address critical topics with their players: respectful relationships with dating partners, consent, harassment, and sexual assault.

Our primary prevention efforts reach all in Westmoreland County through our social media and website outreach efforts, and through Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, our annual event to engage the community in speaking out against gender-based violence.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Blackburn Center’s FAME group has trained more than 50 men to take on the role of agents of change in Westmoreland County.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to a study by the non-profit PSI, primary prevention efforts such as engaging boys and men and community mobilization and advocacy initiatives were most effective at reducing gender-based violence.

Community Support: We continue to receive strong support from the people of Westmoreland County. Our **volunteers** provide support in a number of capacities, from answering hotline calls to distributing literature at health fairs to helping with administrative tasks. Our **donors** also continue to help us achieve our mission. We must raise a minimum of \$450,000 from the community to continue to provide the current level of services, a goal that we met for fiscal year 2016/2017.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are a variety of ways to donate to Blackburn Center, including through our website, planned giving, stock donations, purchasing through Amazon Smile, hosting your own event, and more.

MISSION STATEMENT

Blackburn Center advocates for the rights of all individuals to live free from domestic and sexual violence and other forms of violence by eliminating the root causes of this violence and providing for the well-being and safety of survivors/victims.



BlackburnCenter

Standing together to end violence.

PO Box 398
Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

Board of Directors

Jerry Supko, President
Sheila Confer, Vice President
Becky Campbell, Secretary
Len Caric, Treasurer
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Quatrini Rafferty, Solicitor

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit NO. 648
Greensburg, PA

Financials

Blackburn Center receives financial support and revenue from a variety of sources, including the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the PA Coalition Against Rape and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency. A major source of funding is contributions from our local community, including United Way of Southwestern PA, individuals, foundations, businesses, and community organizations. This local support enables us to continue to provide critical services to victims of gender-based violence throughout Westmoreland County.

Revenue & Support

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV):	\$447,108
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR):	\$305,291
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA):	\$614,244
STOP Violence Against Women Act:	\$51,287
Other Government Funding:	\$75,329
Contributions:	\$451,825
Other Income:	\$15,433
Total Revenue and Support:	\$1,960,527

Expenses

Program Services:	\$1,592,952
Management & General:	\$305,078
Fundraising:	\$57,782
Total Expenses:	\$1,955,812

Blackburn Center takes its responsibility to be a good steward of its funds seriously. For each \$1.00 of revenue and support received, \$.81 is spent on program services.

Blackburn Center is funded in part by United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, PA Department of Public Welfare funds, including Title XX and Act 44 funds, foundations and local contributions. A copy of official registration and financial information for Blackburn Center may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling within Pennsylvania 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



MANY THANKS

to those who supported the Special Occasion Card:
A Greeting with a Purpose

TRIBUTES:

In MEMORY of

Yolanda Botti by Anthony Botti
Viola M. Cote' by Anonymous
Jason Davis by D-Bug Waterproofing Inc.
Barbara J. Dorundo by Ms. Georgine Dorundo
Albert Essey by Mrs. Virginia Essey
John P. Gercher by Anonymous
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Rosalie Panebianco by Ms. Beth Alwine
Dennis W. Paulin by Ms. Deanna Demezza
Ross Wallis by Ms. Nancy J. Wallis

In HONOR of

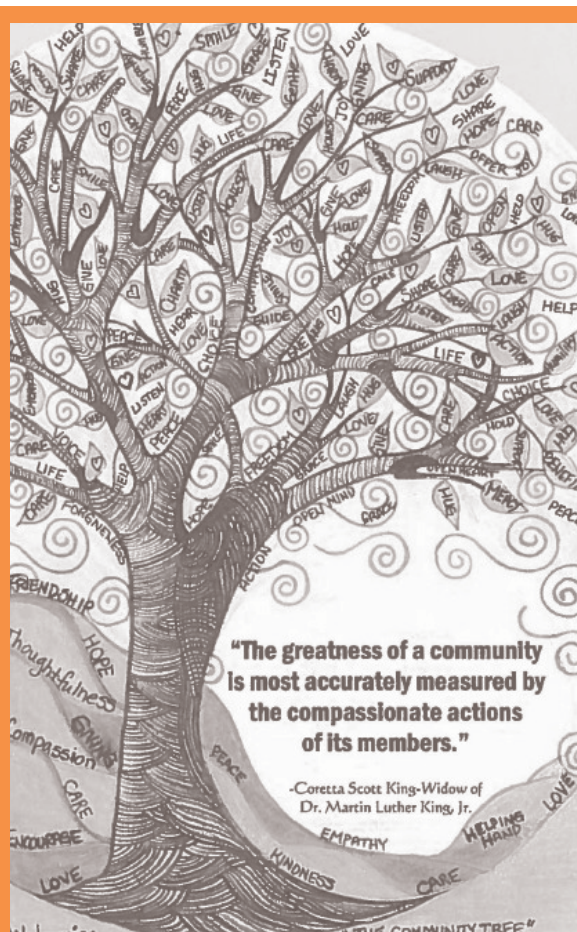
All brave people who stand against violence by Cheryl McCabe
Peg Carpenter by Robert Carpenter, Jr.
Raymond Dorundo, Sr. by Georgine Dorundo
Julie Ebersole by Berny and Betsy Borza
Barbara Ferrier by Anonymous
Freedom by Anonymous
Andrew and Ruby Kurnock by Anonymous
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Carmella Neil by Ms. Patty Neil
Ann M. Schrems by Bill and Cathy Reeves
Tse Daka Facebook Challenge by Ms. Karen Chobirko
Marge Walrath by Anonymous
Max Walrath by Anonymous

GENERAL

Anonymous
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Mr. John Goettlicher
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Kiwanis Club of Greensburg
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Ms. Kim Marker

Mr. John McCarthy
Ms. Ruth E. McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moyar
Ms. Judith Rhodes
Ms. Jeanne Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Stillman
Ms. Sue Wintermeyer
Youngwood Lion's Club



In 1853, Esther Howland brought young girls into her Massachusetts home to hand-color valentines. She provided them with shelter and an opportunity to earn a livelihood. In that tradition, this specially created collector's card was designed and colored by a friend of Blackburn Center.

KITCHEN

Coffee (regular)
Coffee creamer
Cookie sheets
Cooking oil
Food items: any canned food, other non-perishables, etc.*
Glass baking dishes
Kitchen towels & dish cloths
Paper products: paper towels
Paper towel holders
Pots & Pan sets
Silverware, service of 4
Skillets
Small appliances: **electric can openers, coffee makers, toast-ers, mixers, etc.**
Water filter pitchers
Zip-lock bags: 2 gallon size, quart size
Canned food & non-perishables, including: soups, condiments (mayonnaise, mustard & catsup), jelly, cake & brownie mixes, canned tuna, chicken and other meats, canned or bottled juices.

BATHROOM

Baby lotion
Baby wash
Hair conditioner (full-size)
Liquid hand soap
Paper products: toilet paper
Toddler - training toothpaste
Toothpaste (full-size)

Towels: durable, bath and hand towels and washcloths

BEDROOM

Alarm clocks
Baby monitors
Bed-in-a-bag sets (twin & full)
Blankets – cotton (twin & full)
Comforters (twin & full)
Pajamas sets: Winter-weight
Women- small, medium, large
Children's sizes
Boys – sizes 4-5
Girls – sizes 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14
Slippers – All sizes

MISCELLANEOUS

60-Watt Lightbulbs, or equivalent
Bras – all sizes
Brooms
Diapers – size 5 only
Fabric softener sheets
Flashlights
Gasoline cards (GetGo & Sheetz)
Gift cards (Giant Eagle, Walmart Shop 'N Save & Target)
Juice boxes
Laundry detergent
Mops
Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
Outdoor garbage bags
Sweat suits: Small, Medium, Large
Tool kits
Underpants:
Women's sizes 4, 5, 6, 7
Boys' sizes L & XL
Girls' sizes 6, 7, 8

NEEDS LIST

A donation of items from the needs list throughout the year helps Blackburn Center sustain the shelter program, and helps to maintain the support groups the agency provides for victims of crime. In addition, some of these items are made available to clients – and their children – who are establishing their own homes and need support with basic household items.

Please put the items that are in **bold italics** at the top of your shopping list, and help Blackburn Center manage donations by bringing new items. If you have used items to donate, the agency can provide a list of thrift shops in the area that make items available to Blackburn Center shelter residents at no cost to them.

PLEASE NOTE:

Deliver donations to Blackburn Center's administrative offices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please call if you cannot bring your donation during regular business hours. We can make other arrangements if necessary. For more information about donation opportunities, contact: Blackburn Center, PO Box 398, Greensburg, PA 15601, 724.837.9540, www.blackburncenter.org.

Look at our List, and Check it Twice...



As the holiday season approaches, please make our needs list part of your holiday gift giving. Making a gift of items from the needs list, or donating the financial resources to purchase those items, helps us provide for the basic needs of individuals and families staying at our shelter. It is also a unique and wonderful way to honor someone special on your holiday list. Once you make your donation, we'll be happy to send a card acknowledging your gift on their behalf.

SAVE THE DATE! NEW LOCATION!

2018 WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES®

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 • OFFUTT FIELD AND STADIUM

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® has changed how Westmoreland County works collectively to build a community that will not tolerate domestic violence or sexual assault. This event serves two purposes: it provides an opportunity for the community to speak out about ending gender-based violence, while raising funds to support the services at Blackburn Center that help survivors of this violence find hope and healing. Join us on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at OFFUTT FIELD AND STADIUM in Greensburg! Watch our website for more information.

WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!

In an effort to conserve resources, the list of donors for the 2016-2017 fiscal year have been listed on our website: blackburncenter.org. Blackburn Center has endeavored to include everyone who supported our agency; we apologize if we have made an error. Please telephone the administrative office at 724.837.9540, x144 if a correction is necessary or if you would like a hard copy.