



**BlackburnCenter**  
Standing together to end violence.

Fall 2019

# STANDINGSTRONG

Blackburn Center News

## RED SAND PROJECT

Recently, there has been a great deal of attention focused on the issue of human trafficking. Many people understand that this happens in other parts of the world, and even other parts of this country, but do not realize that human trafficking happens here in Westmoreland County. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Conservative estimates state that human trafficking enslaves an average of 21 million people each year worldwide. The exploitation of people for both sex and labor is prevalent throughout Western Pennsylvania, and can affect anyone.

Blackburn Center, as the lead agency for the Westmoreland County Human Trafficking Task Force, identified the Red Sand Project in 2017 as a perfect opportunity to inform the community about the issue of human trafficking. The Red Sand Project is an art installation, created by artist Molly Gochman, which seeks to raise awareness about human trafficking by asking volunteers across the world to place red sand in the cracks of sidewalks. The grains of sand represent the millions of victims of human trafficking who slip through the “cracks” of our society and go unnoticed.

During the month of September, the Red Sand Project was displayed at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Twin Lakes Park Extension, and Westmoreland, Latrobe and Frick Hospitals. In addition to the annual sidewalk installation, Seton Hill University partners with Blackburn Center to display mason jars filled with red sand on their campus to educate students and bring awareness about human trafficking.

Victims of human trafficking fall through the cracks of the system when service providers and the justice system do not recognize the experiences of these victims. Many victims of human trafficking end up jailed or returning

to their traffickers. The Red Sand Project provides an opportunity for county residents to stand together and shine a light on this hidden crime.

This is the third year Westmoreland County exhibited the Red Sand Project, and it was a huge success! Over one hundred individuals, families, community leaders, professionals, survivors, students and residents from across Westmoreland County volunteered to show support for this cause. The growth of this project, with more agencies and community members participating each year, brings us closer to achieving the mission of the Red Sand Project.

If you are interested in raising awareness or learning more about how you can lend a hand in the anti-trafficking movement, give us a call at 724-837-9540, X 103.



**If you, or someone you know, needs Blackburn Center's services, call the 24/7 Hotline: 724.836.1122 or 1.888.832.2272.**

**All of our services are CONFIDENTIAL, can be ANONYMOUS and are offered at no charge to clients.**

- 24/7 Hotline
- Shelter for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence
- Counseling and Therapy
- Medical and Legal Advocacy/ Accompaniment
- Support Groups
- Education and Prevention Programs

## Blackburn Center gives thanks to QuatriniRafferty for their 43 years of support . . . and so we asked them what that meant to them!

The attorneys of QuatriniRafferty recognize that it is a privilege to practice law. Our obligation transcends the immediate legal need we are handling for the client. We know that our clients are juggling many stressors that come with having a life turned upside down, suddenly, by injury and disability – loss of income, loss of self-esteem, missing out on family events, continuous medical appointments, and tremendous strain on a spouse or significant other. Consequently, our attorneys and staff focus on ways to ease these stressors by involving our clients in community events and service organizations, and we commit to supporting the services that provide the safety net that our clients need. Our attorneys sit on numerous charitable boards and the firm contributes

to many community organizations. This devotion to community goes back more than 40 years, with the firm acting as a founding supporter of Blackburn Center. QuatriniRafferty attorney Joyce Novotny-Prettiman currently serves as pro-bono legal counsel for the agency. Vince Quatrini served as a member of the agency's Board of Directors for many years, and was part of charting the course for the agency. We participate in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, and we frequently contribute items to Blackburn Center's shelter. The attorneys of QuatriniRafferty are proud to have been on the entire 43-year journey with this first-class organization.

**QUATRINIRAFFERTY**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
GREENSBURG | PITTSBURGH | LATROBE | ALTOONA

## 2019 ALL OCCASION CARD

*For 20 years, Blackburn Center has offered a meaningful way to mark important occasions and celebrate special people in your life through our Special Occasion Card.*

*For each \$25 gift to Blackburn Center, a card was sent to the person specified with a personal message. Please consider this way to touch the lives of thousands of people in our community as you touch the lives of those you honor.*

### In MEMORY of

Viola L. Cote´  
Barbara J. Dorundo  
Lillian H. Geiger  
Mary Gercher  
Della Hauger  
Clara Hoffman  
Catherine Lekawa  
Jane Marchand  
Edna McAllister  
James McKenna, Sr.  
Rosalie Panebianco  
Catherine Reeves  
Russ Wallis

### BY

Anonymous  
Georgine Dorundo  
John and Sandra Stutz  
Anonymous  
Patricia Bogdan  
Jacqueline Timko  
Nancy Smith  
Joan Vernail  
John and Sandra Stutz  
Jean McKenna  
Ellen Panebianco  
Jessica Clark  
Anonymous



### In HONOR of

Nancy Anderson  
Cindy Arcuri  
Jackie Bevilacqua  
Donna Clay  
Raymond Dorundo, Sr.  
Julie Ebersole  
Melinda Forry  
Stephanie Hricenak  
Leora Kurtyka  
Cathy Latuch  
Taska Smola

### BY

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Denise Bevilacqua  
Valerie Bradley  
Georgine Dorundo  
Bernie and Betsy Borza  
Yvonne Stack  
Kitty Hricenak  
Kitty Hricenak  
John Kling  
Ronald and Linda Walrath

### GENERAL

Anonymous  
Amvets Post 85  
Kathleen Bacha  
Bahu Bali Hospitality  
William and Lorraine Burke  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Helen Craig  
Michael and Maureen Crevak  
Ernie and Ann Emmerling  
Melissa Fassio  
First Presbyterian Church of Avonmore -  
Women's Association  
Mary Beth Girardi  
Teresa Gross  
Rebecca Henry  
Eileen E. Katter  
JoAnne Kaylor  
Kiwanis Club of Greensburg  
Dr. Herbert Kramer  
Linda Landers  
Joseph and Pauline Moyer  
New Hope Presbyterian Church -  
Mission and Outreach  
Joan Newill  
Edward and Victoria Oles  
Mary Parker  
Karen Ruddon  
Gloria Jean Smith  
Jeanne S. Smith  
Karen Smith  
The Church of Saint Demetrius -  
Ukrainian Catholic  
Alan and Cheryl Tennant  
Diane Thomas  
Flo Wampler  
Westmoreland City Primitive Methodist  
Church

# FEARLESS ADVOCACY FOR MEN'S ENGAGEMENT (FAME)

Men who are willing to be involved in attempting to end gender-based violence in Westmoreland County – we would love to have you join the FAME group! This group is committed to the four phases of being an advocate: awareness, education, skill building, and action. If you would like to learn more about what these phases of advocacy look like and are interested in getting involved, please contact Cassie at 724-837-9540, X137 or [cassiee@blackburncenter.org](mailto:cassiee@blackburncenter.org).

*"Being a member of FAME means having a voice in the conversation about gender-based violence that many men shy away from. Gender-based violence is not simply a women's issue but is often easily dismissed by men. Men are most often the perpetrators of that violence, and men need to have a voice in prevention and intervention efforts to end it."*

– Tim H., member of FAME

## 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. Donating items helps to sustain the shelter program, and maintain the support groups the agency provides for women and children. Some of these items are made available to women and

their children who are establishing their own homes and need support with basic household items.

Please put the items in **BOLD** at the top of your shopping list, and help Blackburn Center manage donations by bringing only 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.

For more information about donation opportunities, contact:  
Blackburn Center  
PO Box 398, Greensburg, PA 15601  
724.837.9540  
[www.blackburncenter.org](http://www.blackburncenter.org)

## BLACKBURN CENTER NEEDS LIST

Items needed throughout the year for Blackburn Center's clients/shelter residents:

### KITCHEN

Coffee creamer  
**Dish drying racks**  
Dish sets - plates & bowls  
(service of 4)  
**Drinking glasses & cups**  
Food items: any canned food,  
other non-perishables, etc.\*  
**Glass baking dishes**  
**Kitchen utensils**  
**Oils – coconut and olive**  
**Paper towels**  
Paper towel holders  
Plastic pitchers  
Pots & saucepans  
Silverware (service of 4)  
Skillets  
**Small appliances: electric can  
openers, coffee makers, toasters,  
mixers, blenders, etc.**  
**Zip-lock bags - 2 gallon, 2.5 gallon &  
quart-size**

\* Food items we especially need include: all kinds of soups, jelly, salad dressing, mayonnaise, ketchup, canned or bottled juices.

### BATHROOM

**Deodorant**  
**Facial tissues**  
Hair brushes  
**Hair care products for women of  
color, esp. serums**  
**Hair dryers**  
**Nail clippers**  
**Shower caddies**  
**Shower curtains & liners**  
Toilet paper  
**Towels – bath & hand**  
**Tweezers**  
Not needed at this time: travel-size  
toiletries & adult toothpaste.

### BEDROOM

Air mattresses - any size  
**Baby monitors**  
Bed-in-a-bag sets - twin & full  
**Comforters - twin & full**  
**Sports bras – all sizes**  
**Pajamas: women's 2-pc sets -  
S, M, L, XL, 1X**  
(no nightgowns, please)  
**Pillows**  
**Underwear: women's sizes 9-12**

### BABY & CHILD ITEMS

Bottles  
**Children's haircare products**  
Diapers – size 4 only  
**Infant formula**  
**Pajamas: children's – all sizes**  
Sippy cups  
**Teething rings**  
**Umbrella strollers**

### MISCELLANEOUS

Adult coloring books  
**Brooms & Dust Pans**  
Duffel bags  
Extension cords  
Flashlights  
**Gasoline cards** (Sunoco)  
**Gift cards** (Giant Eagle, Walmart,  
Shop 'N Save & Target)  
**Long distance calling cards**  
**Mops**  
Mr. Clean Magic Erasers  
Square Sterilite laundry baskets  
**Tool kits**  
**TracFones & Cards**



# BlackburnCenter

Standing together to end violence.

PO Box 398  
Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

## Board of Directors

Sheila Confer, President  
Anne-Marie Welty, Vice President  
Melissa Lehman, Secretary  
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Greensburg, PA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR APRIL 18, 2020

## Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

**The 10th Annual Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence**

Westmoreland County's WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES® event, sponsored annually by Blackburn Center, has become a signature opportunity for this community to raise our voices and challenge the culture of violence that fuels the incidence of domestic and sexual abuse.

Tell your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors about this important – and FUN – event at St. Clair Park, Greensburg. For individual and team registration information, and details about sponsorship opportunities, call 724-837-9540 X144, or visit our website to learn more: [www.blackburncenter.org](http://www.blackburncenter.org). And please thank our 2019 Walk sponsors listed in the inserted page!

## REMINDERS...

### Volunteer Opportunities

Blackburn Center has volunteer positions available. To learn about these opportunities, call our office: 724-837-9540, x114.

### Trainings Available for the Community

- *Creating Safe and Thriving Workplaces: A Comprehensive Approach to Preventing Harassment*
- *Bystander Intervention: A Community Model for Interrupting and Preventing Violence*

To schedule either of these trainings, please contact Kristin at 724-837-9540, x114 or [kristinm@blackburncenter.org](mailto:kristinm@blackburncenter.org).

## 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 root causes and providing for the well-being and safety of survivors/victims.

# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2019 “WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES” SPONSORS

## UNDERWRITING SPONSOR \$10,000

W.N. Tuscano Agency Inc.

## FINISH LINE SPONSORS \$7,500

103.1 KVE and 103.9 KHB

## BIG STRIDE SPONSORS \$5,000

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Blue Sky Sign Co.  
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Janice O. Garlock  
Remembering the True Victims –  
Warren & Pat Lupson  
Toyota of Greensburg  
UPS

## GO THE DISTANCE SPONSORS \$1,000+

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First Commonwealth Bank  
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Kleshinski  
Jim and Beth Hergenroeder Family  
Legacy  
Carolyn & Monte Holland  
Seton Hill University  
Westmoreland Hospital –  
Excela Health  
The Wexford Health EEC – Joe Ebbitt

## PACESETTER SPONSORS \$500

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Maher Duessel CPA's  
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Sam's Club Greensburg  
Schaab Memorial Tournament  
Somerset Trust Company  
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Products, Inc  
Uncle Charley's Sausage  
University of Pittsburgh at  
Greensburg  
University of Pittsburgh at  
Greensburg Academic Village  
Senate & La Femme  
Westmoreland Cultural Trust

## STEPPING UP SPONSORS \$250

The Ankrum Family  
Arts for Community Change Class –  
Seton Hill University  
Beeghly & Company Jewelers  
Jim & Kathy Bendel  
Big Ed's Jerky  
Judy & Len Caric  
City of Greensburg  
Conte Design

Marilyn Davis, Berkshire Hathaway  
Home Services  
The DeMezza Family  
Dr. Terrance E. DePasquale  
Doug and Lauren Farrell  
Barbara Ferrier  
Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley  
Regional Chamber of  
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Jean McKenna  
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Quadrant Engineering Plastic  
Products  
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Club  
Westmoreland Case Management  
and Supports, Inc.  
Westmoreland LGBT Community:  
PFLAG Greensburg and the  
Westmoreland Interfaith Network  
Westmoreland County Chamber of  
Commerce  
1st Summit Bank



# Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®