



Blackburn Center

AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

April is
Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

SPRING 2013

LAST CALL to ALL Courageous Men of Westmoreland County to...



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

The 3rd Annual Men's March to Stop Rape,
Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

Are YOU man enough to Walk a Mile in Her Shoes?
We invite you to become actively involved in Blackburn Center's mission...
to raise your voice (as you move your feet!) in speaking out against
the social norms that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence.

Saturday, April 20, 2013

Lynch Field, Greensburg

Registration: 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Opening remarks at 9:45 AM, walk begins at 10:00 AM

Registration is \$5 for each participant.
Men, women, and children are welcome.
Includes free event t-shirt (while supplies last).

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.blackburncenter.org

or call 724-837-9540 x104

TO REGISTER ONLINE

www.walkamileblackburn.eventbrite.com

Presented by
 **Blackburn Center**
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Underwritten by
Tuscano
A G E N C Y

Honorary Chairs:

Commissioner Chuck Anderson

Commissioner Tyler Courtney

Commissioner Ted Kopas

MC: Mike Zappone, KDKA TV Sports Producer/Reporter

LIVE UNITED

 **United Way of
Westmoreland County**

Teams are encouraged! Form groups at work or school and walk as a team.
You may carry an identifying banner, but the banner must be pre-approved by Blackburn Center prior to the Walk.
www.walkamileinher shoes.org • Licensed by Frank Baird & Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®, a Venture Humanity, Inc. Project

V-Day's ONE BILLION RISING

is Biggest Global Action Ever To End Violence Against Women and Girls

From a Debate in UK Parliament to a Human Chain in Bangladesh, Dancing in Kabul and Tripoli to rallies in Steubenville, to a Flash Mob and Performances in Greensburg, PA... One Billion Rose in City Halls, Schools, Public Spaces, and More

(excerpted from www.vday.org)

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sex slavery.

In conjunction with its 15th anniversary, V-Day launched its most ambitious campaign to date on February 14, 2013: ONE BILLION RISING. The concept of the campaign is simple. If you take into account the statistic that 1 out of 3 women will experience violence in her lifetime, you are left with the staggering statistic that over 1 billion women on this planet will be impacted by violence. On V-Day's 15th Anniversary, February 14, 2013, we invited ONE BILLION women and those who love them to WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to this violence. V-Day wants the world to see our collective strength, our numbers, our solidarity across borders.

(excerpts from One Billion Rising Press Release)

"We did it! Together on February 14, we expressed our outrage and joy and our firm global call for a world where women are free and safe and cherished and equal," stated V-Day Founder and award winning playwright Eve Ensler. "One Billion Rising brought together coalitions of groups and individuals that have never worked together before and galvanized new supporters and associations and masses of men who were not previously engaged, but now see violence as their issue... One Billion Rising has shown that violence against women is not a national, tribal, ethnic, or religious issue, but a global phenomenon, and that through this worldwide rising and support, survivors can be given the confidence of knowing that violence is not their fault."

Groups worldwide joined the call to action, including marginalized communities such as migrant workers, domestic workers, urban poor, farm workers, the LGBT community, and the disabled. With tens of thousands of events – from the steps of British Parliament to the streets of Mexico City, from the expanse of the Brooklyn Bridge to living rooms in Iran, One Billion Rising was an epic event. The campaign received the support of entities from the Dalai Lama to the United Nations, trended on Twitter, and inspired flash mobs across the globe, uniting people in a spectacular and unprecedented way.

V-Day asks those who rose around the globe to take a simple pledge, to do one thing in the next year to end violence against women. It could be a simple action, or a monumental one; personal, or political; quiet or loud, but these actions – taken together – will create change.

How did Westmoreland County support V-Day and One Billion Rising?

Seton Hill University launched a new student-driven initiative: the One Billion Rising campaign. It included a "flash mob" in the University dining hall during peak hours – students danced and gave statistics about violence against women; and a performance of *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer*, presented by students and staff, with a call to action to end violence against women. Clips of the flash mob are available on Blackburn Center's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/blackburncenterpa).

Seton Hill also coordinated the RED FLAG CAMPAIGN for the second year, a public awareness initiative designed to address dating violence and promote the prevention of dating violence on college campuses. The campaign is created using a "bystander intervention" strategy encouraging friends and other campus community members to "say something" when they see waving signs ("red flags") for dating violence in a friend's relationship.

The program rolls out with red flags being planted all over the University campus to prompt people to ask, "what are these red flags?" A week later, posters reflecting healthy and unhealthy relationships are placed throughout campus reflecting racially and ethnically diverse models, and illustrating both heterosexual and same-gender relationships.

After the flags and posters raised awareness, as well as curiosity, the University launched campus-wide programming and residence hall-specific programming. The programs included dialogue opportunities for women only and men only and a nationally-recognized performance group, "Sex Signals," who presented an interactive program for all students on dating violence.

The Red Flag Campaign, which is part of a broader primary prevention initiative on campus with Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, was spearheaded by Amanda Ries, Assistant Director of Residence Life and Community Development. Ms. Ries was assisted by the University's Residence Life Staff and the Student Life Committee, which worked with Blackburn Center to coordinate the project. The conversation continues on campus today as a few flags and posters remain to reinforce the idea that this should not be only a week-long dialogue.

The Gay-Straight Alliance at the **University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg** presented Eve Ensler's award-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues," February 14 and 15 in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

This is the seventh year that Pitt-Greensburg students have initiated, produced, directed, and performed the play, which is staged to raise awareness in the community and raise funds for local organizations working to end violence against women and girls and to support the V-Day movement. Ninety percent of the proceeds will be used locally to benefit Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence. Ten percent of the proceeds will benefit V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls.

The Pitt-Greensburg "Vagina Monologues" organizers also held a pledge-signing event on campus February 13 and 14 to raise awareness of V-Day's One Billion Rising campaign to end rape. The pledge-signing event was part of the 15th anniversary celebration of the inception of the "Vagina Monologues."

Pitt-Greensburg's production of "The Vagina Monologues" is one of more than 5,800 V-Day benefit events that occurs annually throughout the United States and the world.

The Special Occasion Card: A Greeting with a Purpose

Special Occasion Card from Blackburn Center offers a meaningful way for you to mark important occasions and to honor important people in your life: This year's card features a quote from Princess Grace of Monaco: "When at last I took the time to look into the heart of a flower, it opened up a whole new world; a world where every country walk would be an adventure, where every garden would become an enchanted one."



For each \$25 gift to Blackburn Center, we will send a card to the person you specify and will include your personal message inside the card. For any level of giving, your name and the name of the person or occasion you honor will be included in the fall edition of our newsletter, and your name will appear in Blackburn Center's Annual Report. (If you prefer, we will list you as "anonymous.") We have enclosed a remittance envelope in this newsletter for your convenience.

Please consider this way to touch the lives of thousands of people in our community as you touch the lives of those you honor. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for sharing in our mission.

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 by a Blackburn Center client.

Planting the seeds of promise to nurture a bouquet of hope.

FOLLOW
US ON



Pinterest

New Guidance from EEOC May Protect Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence

Memployment on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, national origin or disability. American workers have two main sources of protection from workplace discrimination: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Title VII prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin, while the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Unfortunately, neither of these laws specifically prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. However, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently issued guidance on how these two laws may apply to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

This guidance doesn't create new law; it interprets existing law through the lens of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. In essence, discriminatory employment treatment that victims of these types of violence experience may now be recognized as workplace discrimination under these laws. The EEOC illustrates this through various examples of potentially illegal employment or hiring situations for both Title VII and the ADA.

Because Title VII prohibits unequal treatment based on gender, certain employer actions may violate the law by treating employees differently based on sex-based stereotypes. These actions may include terminating an employee on the belief that battered women bring instability to the workplace, or refusing to hire a male victim of domestic violence because an employer believes that men should be able to protect themselves. Sexual harassment may also be interpreted to violate Title VII if it is

or if it results in a negative employment action for the victim (such as demotion, firing, or refusing to hire or promote). Significantly, Title VII prohibits retaliation for such as complaining about discrimination or requesting accommodation under the law.

The ADA also prohibits employers from discriminating against employees with an impairment or disability. If an employee has an impairment or disability from injuries sustained as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, he or she may be protected under the law. For example, if an employer decides not to hire someone because he learns that she was raped and has received counseling as a result, that action would violate the ADA. Reasonable accommodations may also be required under the ADA for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking if they have a disability resulting from these issues. A reasonable accommodation may include allowing an employee to take leave for medical treatment or counseling. Importantly, the ADA prohibits the disclosure of confidential medical information and retaliation against employees for exercising his or her rights under the law.

Other laws may be implicated where employees are discriminated against for these reasons, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act or state laws that specifically protect victims of domestic or sexual violence. Combined with this new guidance from the EEOC, these laws may help to clear a barrier to employment for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

For more information on the EEOC guidance, please visit:
http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/qa_domestic_violence.cfm

Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides 24-hour hotline services, counseling, advocacy and support groups to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, incest, child sexual abuse, and sexual harassment; emergency shelter is available to survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children. Blackburn Center also provides community education, school student awareness programs, and in-service trainings to professionals throughout Westmoreland County.

Contact Information

Office 724-837-9540
 Fax 724-837-3676
 Hotline 724-836-1122
 Toll Free Hotline 1-888-832-2272
 Website www.blackburncenter.org

Board of Directors

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Blackburn Center is funded in part by United Way of Westmoreland County, 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.



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 women and children. In addition, 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 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 to 4 PM. Please call if you cannot bring your donation during regular business hours. We can make other arrangements if necessary.



PO Box 398
 Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

Address Service Requested

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

Blackburn’s E-Newsletter Option • We are moving towards paperless communication with our newsletter. This has multiple benefits: (1) we will reduce costs for Blackburn Center (allowing more of our resources to be invested in services to clients and the community); (2) we will lessen our impact on the environment; and (3) you will get important information about Blackburn Center’s services and projects faster.

Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity! To subscribe to our e-newsletter and other news and alerts from Blackburn Center please e-mail Laura at lauras@blackburncenter.org. Include your regular mailing address so that we can remove you from the newsletter mailing list. You may still occasionally receive other paper mail from Blackburn Center, but our goal is to move towards entirely paperless communication. As always, your privacy is important to us; we will never sell your information to a third party.

KITCHEN

Baking pans: 9” x 13,” aluminum
 Can openers (hand-held)
 Coffee (regular)
 Coffee creamer
 Cooking oil
 Dish drainers
 Dishes: service for 4
 Dishpans
 Dishwasher detergent
 Drink boxes

Flatware

Food items: any canned food, other non-perishables, etc.*

Clear plastic storage boxes with lids

Tall kitchen garbage bags
 Packaged snacks for lunches
 Paper products: paper towels
 Paper towel holders
 Skillets

Small appliances: coffee maker, can opener, knife sharpener, toaster, mixer

Spices and condiments
 Zip-lock bags (gallon size)

BATHROOM

Bath mats
 Paper products: toilet paper
 Plungers
 Shower curtains and rings
 Soap dispensers
 Toilet brushes
 Bath Towels: durable
 Wastebaskets

BEDROOM

Alarm clocks

Bed pillows
 Bed-in-a-bag sets

Nightgowns: women’s one-size-fits-all

Pajamas: women’s one-size-fits-most & extra-large sizes, teen boys. We do not need children’s pajamas at this time.

Sleep shirts: large & extra-large
Slippers with gripper soles

Wastebaskets

MISCELLANEOUS

Baby monitors
Baby wipes

Bottled water

Brooms
 Buckets

Canvas storage cubes:
 10.5”W x9”H x7”D

Diapers: Sizes 3, 4, 5, & 6
 Extension cords

Flashlights

Gasoline cards (GetGo & Sheetz)
Gift cards (Walmart or Target)

Hair dryers

Laundry detergent
 Mops

Nasal aspirators
 Outdoor garbage bags

Phone cards

Pull-up diapers: larger sizes

Sweat suits: all adult sizes

Telephones

Tool kits

Umbrellas

Underpants: women’s & teen boy sizes

Personal Care

Hotel-size items no longer needed.

***Food items we especially need include: all kinds of soups, condiments (mayonnaise, mustard and catsup), jelly, cake and brownie mixes, canned tuna, canned chicken and other meats, canned or bottled juices.**