The work that we do at Blackburn Center can be incredibly challenging. We provide services to thousands of people each year through victim services and community education and training. At the same time, we strive to address the root causes of gender-based violence, with a goal of stopping it entirely. We are fortunate to have incredible staff, who work tirelessly to run our emergency shelter, provide therapy and counseling, run education and training programs, and take care of all of the financial and administrative details that make our work possible. Our team is further supported by volunteers, who make it possible to provide such a high level of service to people throughout Westmoreland County.

Our volunteers give selflessly of their own time to answer calls on the 24-hour hotline, hand out literature at health fairs, staff events like Walk a Mile, serve on committees and our Board of Directors, and more. They undergo extensive training to develop active listening and empowerment counseling skills, and to better understand the issues commonly faced by victims and survivors of violence.

Blackburn Center was founded by volunteers, and they remain a core part of our mission. Without their countless hours of service each year, we would not be able to reach so many people in Westmoreland County through education and training programs, and direct victim services.

To all who volunteer for Blackburn Center: thank you. Your decision to give back to the community strengthens our organization and ensures that we can keep striving to fulfill our mission. We could not do the work that we do without your active, ongoing support. Because of you, we have been able to help and reach many more people than we could have on our own.

We truly appreciate all that YOU do for our agency and people throughout Westmoreland County.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?  
Here’s What You Can Do to Help

Volunteers are a vital part of our work at Blackburn Center. We offer a variety of opportunities for individuals to volunteer, from answering hotline calls to handing out literature at fairs.

You don’t have to have particular experience or education to volunteer for our agency. Instead, you just have to care about making a difference in our community. Over the past 40 years, we have had volunteers from all walks of life, including teachers, business professionals, nurses, students, stay-at-home parents, and retirees.

We encourage everyone to volunteer for Blackburn Center — including men. By taking an active part in our organization, you can demonstrate a commitment to supporting victims and survivors and ending gender-based violence.

All volunteers must submit an application, which is accessible via our website (www.blackburncenter.org/volunteer). We can also provide you with a physical copy of our application form if needed. Once we have received your application, we will schedule an interview with our Education/Outreach Program Manager. If you will volunteer...
in a position with direct client contact, you will be required to complete Crisis Intervention Counselor Training.

We have many potential roles that volunteers can fulfill, including:

• 24-Hour Hotline: counselors take shifts answering our hotline, talking callers through difficult situations and empowering them using crisis-counseling techniques. Crisis Intervention Counselor Training is required.

• Shelter Support: our emergency shelter provides temporary housing for victims of intimate partner violence and their children. Volunteers may help organize donations, assist with children’s activities during support group meetings, or take on other tasks. Crisis Intervention Counselor Training is required.

• Legal Accompaniment: legal advocates meet victims and their loved ones in courts throughout Westmoreland County. They may assist with filing for protective orders, provide support through legal proceedings, and offer information about available resources. Crisis Intervention Counselor Training and additional training are required.

• Medical Accompaniment: medical advocates offer support to victims of domestic and sexual violence during medical examinations at hospitals. They also provide information and resources on options. Crisis Intervention Counselor Training and additional training are required.

• Education and Training Programs: volunteers assist with education and training programs across Westmoreland County to deepen community understanding of the dynamics of gender-based violence and the availability of services. This may include anything from distributing literature to giving brief talks as part of our Speaker’s Bureau. Additional training may be required.

• Other Roles: individuals who are not ready to commit to a formal volunteer assignment can still support Blackburn Center’s mission. They may host a fundraiser drive, donate to Blackburn Center, volunteer at special events like our annual Walk a Mile, or join a committee or program like Fearless Advocates for Men’s Engagement (FAME).

We strive to offer volunteer opportunities that meet the abilities of each individual. If you have questions or would like to learn more about volunteering for Blackburn Center, scan the QR Code to visit our website or call 724-837-9540, x114.

Please join us in thanking these sponsors for their generous support of our 2022 Walk a Mile in Their HER His Our Shoes event. For a full list of sponsors, visit our website at www.blackburncenter.org.

UNDERWRITING SPONSOR ($10,000)
W.N. Tuscano Agency Inc.

FINISH LINE SPONSOR ($7,500)
103.1 KVE and 103.9 KHB

BIG STRIDE SPONSORS ($5,000)
Anonymous
Janice Garlock

THE EXTRA MILE SPONSORS ($2,500)
Capture Avenue Productions
The Ray & Kate Charley Fund on Behalf of Mike and Emily Charley & Family
Sendell Motors

GO THE DISTANCE SPONSORS ($1,000+)
Anonymous
Blackburn Center Board of Directors
Blue Sky Sign Company
Elegant Catering
First National Bank of Pennsylvania
First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg
Frank Kleshinski & Mary Ann Gawelek
Jean McKenna
Kepple-Graft Funeral Home
PJ Dick-Trumbull-Lindy Group
Seton Hill University
SkySight Photography
Starbucks - Greensburg
The Markosky Engineering Group, Inc.
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Are you ready to #WalkBlackburn? Save the date — April 15, 2023 — for an important (and fun!) day in the community. Our annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event will return to St. Clair Park in Greensburg for 2023.

For registration information and details about sponsorship opportunities, call us at 724.837.9540 x114, or visit our website.
2022 ALL OCCASION CARDS

For more than 20 years, Blackburn Center has offered a meaningful way to mark important occasions and celebrate special people in your life through our Special Occasion Cards. For each $25 donation to Blackburn Center, a card is sent to the person specified with a personal message. Donations this year include:

In MEMORY of
Catherine Ann August
Lillian Geiger
Clara Hoffman
Phyllis Jones
Dolores Kelly
Edna McAllister
Jim McKenna, Father and Son
John and Margaret Opitsnick
Arlene Pasulka
Paul Schmitke
Polly Sherman
Helen T. Skwirut
Mary Stenson
Russ Wallis

In HONOR of
Alice Bones
Ann Emmerling
Ann Emmerling
Ann Emmerling
Karen Jurkovic
Helen Meehan
Stephanie Sonafelt

BY
Sherry and Jim Brown
John and Sandra Stutz
Jackie Timko
Phyllis J. O’Hara
Jeff and Renee Modra
John and Sandra Stutz
Jean McKenna
Bryan and Patricia Bogdan
Ron and Linda Walrath
Patricia Benton
Anita M. Arndt
Cathy Sotak
Nancy J. Wallis

GENERAL
Anonymous
Bacha Funeral Home, Inc.
Andrew Benedict
Theresa Bishop
Valerie Bradley
Robert and Kathy Cartia
Charnesky Vaccare
American Legion
Jamie and Matthew Coates
Derry’s First United
Methodist Women
Orlie Ferretti
Robert Gelman
Ann Giacobbi
Raymond and Diane Hartland
Martha Henninger
Charles and Lynne Henry
George and Pat Jones
Eileen E. Katter
Herbert Kramer

Robert Lamers
Christine Lee
Lawrence and Nancy Maricondi
Barbara Martinelli
Debra Miskimmin
Harry and Donna Morrison
Alecia Moss
Keith Neill
Edward and Victoria Oles
Pheple Federal Credit Union
Laurie Rosko
Betty Rushbrook
Barbara Scozio
Joyce Somers
The Community Church of Hecla
Kathleen Varnise
Michelle Wiltrout
Women of the ELCA-Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
John and Linda Wright

Please consider this way to touch the lives of thousands of people in our community requiring our services, as you touch the lives of those you honor and remember. Visit our website at www.blackburncenter.org/greetingcards to make your choice from several delightful options.

Look at Our List, and Check It Twice

As the holiday season approaches please make our Needs List, located on our website, part of your 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 our clients. Your donations throughout the year enhance Blackburn Center’s services and make the stay more comfortable for shelter residents. They can also provide a victim of domestic violence with basic household items and groceries as they establish a safe home for themselves and their children. A donation is also a unique and wonderful way to honor someone special on your holiday list. You make your donation in their honor; we will send a card acknowledging your gift on their behalf.

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

For more information about donation opportunities, contact Blackburn Center
P.O. Box 398, Greensburg, PA 15601
724.837.9540 • www.blackburncenter.org
For Blackburn Center’s services, call the 24/7 Hotline:
724.836.1122 or 1.888.832.2272
Board of Directors
Dr. Julie Ankrum, President
Dr. Terrance E. DePasquale, Vice President/Secretary
Elmer Knopf, Treasurer
Melissa Lehman
Lyzona Marshall
Hilary Bacha Senerius
William Stankay

Renee Reitz, Executive Director
Quatrini Rafferty, Solicitor

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.

Blackburn Center 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.

Blackburn Center 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, sexual harassment and other forms of violence; and emergency shelter available to survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children. Blackburn Center also provides community education, school student awareness programs, and in-service professional trainings throughout Westmoreland County.