

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 professional trainings throughout Westmoreland County.

Contact Information

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

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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.



United Way
 of Westmoreland County
 Donor Designation 382

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN Working for Community Impact

The United Way campaign began in September. Please give generously. All Westmoreland County United Way agencies need your help, now more than ever. The stronger they are, the stronger we are. Consider directing your contribution to the Community Impact Fund or to the Blackburn Center. The Blackburn Center designation number is 382.

TIRED OF HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

As the holiday season approaches, please keep our needs list in mind if you're looking for an alternative to traditional gift-giving. Making a gift of items from the needs list, or donating the financial resources to purchase those items, is a wonderful way to honor someone special in your life. We'll be happy to send a card acknowledging your gift.



PO Box 398
 Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

Address Service Requested

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

NEEDS LIST Your contributions have a direct impact for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Blackburn Center needs items throughout the year to sustain the shelter program, and to support activities with children and in our support groups for victims. In addition, some of these items are made available to women and children who are establishing their own homes and need support with basic household items. We ask that all items be new.

Please put the items in **bold** at the top of your shopping list.

FOOD

Nonperishable food
 Coffee: regular and decaf
 Coffee creamer
 Drink boxes
 Packaged snacks for lunches
 Spices and condiments
 Sugar-free treats, drinks

CHILDREN'S ITEMS

Toddler car seats
Stroller
 Fabric markers
 Baby wipes
 Disposable diapers (large sizes)
 Diaper rash cream
 Outlet plugs

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD

Cleaning products
 Laundry detergent
Fabric softener sheets
 Mops, brooms
 Paper towels, toilet paper
 Light bulbs (60 watt and three-way)
 Liquid hand soap refills

TOILETRIES

Hotel-size items no longer needed
 Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)
 Hair brushes, hair dryers,
 curling irons
 Hair care and skin care products
 for African-Americans
 Shaving cream
 Denture adhesive
 Benadryl
 Calamine lotion

Cough syrup: adults and children
 Lip balm for chapped lips
 Saline solution
 Deodorant
 Disposable razors

CLOTHING

Sweat suits (women's M, L, XL)
Nightgowns: women's one-size-fits-all
Pajamas: women's one-size-fits most children's all sizes (lighter weight for warmer weather)
Underwear (women's, sizes 5-8)
 White t-shirts: all sizes, for art projects

KITCHEN

Aluminum foil
 Dish drainers, dishpans
 Flatware
 Food storage containers
 Kitchen garbage bags
 Paper products: paper towels, napkins
 Paper towel holders
 Plastic pitchers
 Plastic wrap
 Pots, pans and skillets
 Hand-held can opener
 Small appliances: coffee maker,
 can opener, knife sharpener,
 microwave oven
 Kitchen towel sets with dishcloths
 Wastebaskets
 Zip-lock bags, gallon-size

BATHROOM

Bath mats
 First aid and healthcare supplies
 Heating pads
 Plungers

Shower curtains and rings
 Soap dispensers
 Toilet brushes
 Bath towels, hand towels
 Wash cloths
 Waste baskets with step-on lids

BEDROOM

Alarm clocks
 Bed pillows
 Bed-in-a-bag sets
 Blankets: twin and full
 Crib sheets
Sheet sets: twin and full
 Mattress covers (vinyl, zippered):
 twin and full
 Mattress pads: twin and full
 Pillowcases (white)
 Plastic hangers

MISCELLANEOUS

Phone cards
Gift cards: small denominations
 Wal-Mart, Target, grocery stores
Gasoline cards (\$15, \$20)
Spiral-bound notebooks
 Batteries: AA and 9-volt
 Bottled water
 Bucket
 Bus passes
 Calendars
 Extension cords
 Flashlights and batteries
 Outdoor garbage bags
 Seasonal decorations
 Telephones
 Tool kits
 Umbrellas

PLEASE NOTE: Deliver donations to Blackburn Center's administrative offices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 4:00 pm. Please call if you cannot bring your donation during regular business hours. We can make other arrangements if necessary.



Blackburn Center

AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

MYTHS and FACTS About Domestic Violence

Myths about domestic violence allow us to close our eyes to the epidemic of domestic violence, to minimize the impact on victims and society, and to blame the victim rather than the offender. The three listed below are examples of the misinformation about domestic violence that is pervasive in our communities.

To get more of the facts, visit our website at www.blackburncenter.org

MYTH: Domestic violence does not affect many Americans.

FACT: An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.

MYTH: Battering is only a momentary loss of temper.

FACT: Battering is the use of violence and other forms of abuse to establish control and power in a relationship. One in five female victims reports having been battered over and over again by the same person.

MYTH: It is easy for a battered woman to leave her abuser.

FACT: Women who leave their abuser are at 75% greater risk of being killed by the abuser than those who stay. Nationally, 50% of homeless women and children are on the street because of violence in their home.



In the September 2006 edition of this newsletter, Blackburn Center introduced you to a position statement on social change adopted by our Board of Directors. Through this position statement, Blackburn Center took a significant step to re-focus on the fundamental work that is needed to end domestic and sexual violence: challenging the beliefs and actions that perpetuate this violence. We developed strategies to support this work, including the education pieces and “calls to action” that have appeared in this newsletter since last fall.

We have taken time to develop a clear perspective about conditions that need to change. In this newsletter, we introduce a theme line that describes the actions we are encouraging all of you to take as you join us in our mission to end domestic and sexual violence.

CHALLENGE THE POWER. DEMAND CHANGE.

Domestic and sexual violence are rooted in an imbalance of power between men and women. Our society accepts violence against women as normal and inevitable. For Blackburn Center to fulfill its mission to end domestic and sexual violence, we must challenge this imbalance of power that supports the oppression of women.

Blackburn Center has been guided through the development of strategies to support our social change project by a group of individuals from the staff and community. Blackburn Center staff members Ann Emmerling and Cathy Reeves were joined on this committee by the following dedicated individuals from our community who volunteered their time and skills:

Gloria Blint, invited to share her expertise in public relations and marketing (Principal, Red House Communications)

Len Caric, invited to share his perspective in the business community (Owner, McKnight Cylinder), his leadership of the Men Against Sexual Violence (MASV) group in Westmoreland County, and his background as Vice President of Blackburn Center's Board of Directors

Susan Eichenberger, Ph.D., invited to share her expertise in social transformation and the dynamics of oppression/privilege (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Seton Hill University)

Mary Ann Gawelek, Ph.D., invited to share her expertise in the psychology of women and community psychology (Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Seton Hill University), and her perspective as a former Blackburn Center Board member

Jayne H. Huston, invited to share her expertise in public relations and marketing (Director, E-Magnify), and her perspective as a former Blackburn Center Board member

Nikki Kemp, invited to share her perspective as a recent college graduate, activist and feminist

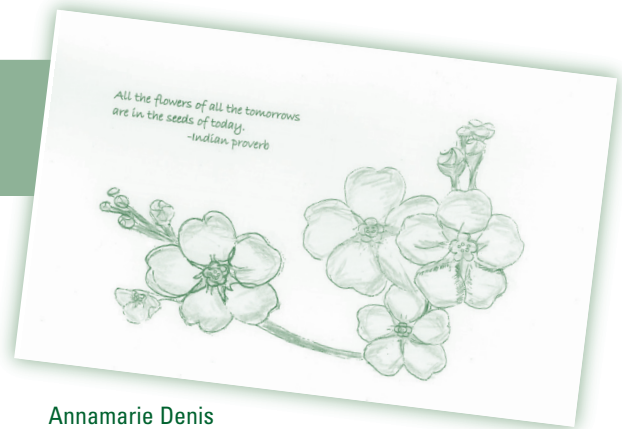
William B. Meekins, Jr., invited to share his perspective as a clergy member (Greensburg District Superintendent, Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church) and his background as a member of Blackburn Center's Board of Directors

Bonnie Rack-Wildner, invited to share her expertise in strategic planning and corporate and marketing communications (Chief Executive Officer, Akoya)

Truly lasting change is only going to happen as new generations of women come of age and demand equal treatment with men in every realm, and new generations of men work with them to reject the sexist attitudes and behaviors of their predecessors. This will take decades, and the outcome is hardly predetermined. But along with tens of thousands of activist women and men who continue to fight the good fight, I believe that it is possible to achieve something much closer to gender equality, and a dramatic reduction in the level of men's violence against women, both here and around the world. And there is a lot at stake. If sexism and violence against women do not subside considerably in the twenty-first century, it will not just be bad news for women. It will also say something truly ugly and tragic about the future of our species.

Katz, J. (2006). *The macho paradox: why some men hurt women and how all men can help*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc. p. 12.

MANY THANKS to those who supported Blackburn Center through the Not-Just-For-Mother's Day cards



MEMORY

Mariann Clark
Ed Clark
Mariann Clark
Karen Ruddon
Barbara J. Dorundo
Georgine A. Dorundo
Julia Hinger
Barbara Nakles
Margaret Kuchel
Ruth Fowler
Mary Lynn Oblak
Lena Oblak
Mother
Naomi Rymer
Anna A. Peduzzi
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Florence Wood Snodgrass
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Mary Ann Gawelek

Mother

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George Shaner
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Anonymous
Eleanor Schwalm
Patti Benton
Polly Sherman
Patti Benton

GENERAL

Anonymous
Sally E. Brautigam
Catholic Daughters of
America, Greensburg
Paula Daily
Rebecca Davidson

Annamarie Denis
East Huntingdon
Lioness Club
Jim & Diane Fields
Barbara Fink
First United Church of Christ
Women's Fellowship,
Irwin
Charlene George
Richard Harrold
Jacquelyn B. Hebrank
Donna Hosmer, MD
Timothy & Diane Johnson
Arlene Kendra
Treasure J. Keys
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Dr. Jacinta Mann
Jean McKenna
Vincent & Gilda Mirigliano

New Hope Presbyterian
Church
Tom & Lani Piatt
Dennis & Kathleen
Prisbylla
Thomas Quindlen
Barbara Reiner
Thomas & Diana Roberts
Kenneth P. Rutter
Mary Ann Salotti
Joyce Somers
Frank & Mary Stillman
Marilyn Tallant
Dee Thomas
Carrie Veronesi
Christine Zumbro –
The Sun Parlor

Internationally Recognized Speaker on Gender Violence Comes to Westmoreland County

Jackson Katz is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work on gender violence prevention with men and boys, particularly in the sports culture and the military. He is cofounder of the multiracial, mixed-gender Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. Katz also directs the first worldwide gender violence prevention program in the history of the United States Marine Corps. His award-winning educational video *Tough Guise*, his featured appearances in the films *Wrestling with Manhood* and *Spin the Bottle*, and his nationwide lectures have brought his insights into masculinity and gender violence to millions of college and high school students.

The Men Against Sexual Violence (MASV) Taskforce of Westmoreland County, a project of Blackburn Center, welcomed Jackson Katz to Westmoreland County on Thursday, September 6, 2007 for two events: a workshop specifically for men and a multi-media lecture that was open to the public. These events were held on the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg campus.

The men's workshop – Men's Leadership in Gender Violence Prevention – combined lecture, written and oral exercises, and interactive discussion to engage the men present in a discussion about ending violence against women. Katz shared a series of strategies for inspiring men to work in collaboration with women to change the social norms that tolerate or condone some men's sexist, homophobic and abusive behaviors. This workshop supports outreach efforts by MASV with men in leadership roles across the county, including coaches, teachers and business owners.

In his multimedia lecture – The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help – Katz explored

some of the ways that male culture contributes to sexual and domestic violence and suggested strategies to enlist men in the fight against all forms of men's violence toward women. Topics included male peer culture in schools and colleges, men's use of pornography and prostitution, sexism in the sports culture and the U.S. military, and the many intersections between racism, sexism and homophobia in all-male groups. The lecture inspired some of the 90 community members in attendance to request more programs in this topic, and will serve as a springboard for upcoming MASV activities.

Future projects for the MASV Taskforce include winter pledge signing events at local college campuses and the initiation of a *Men's Group* at Seton Hill University. The *Men's Group* is a six to eight week education and training program for male students to help prevent men's violence against women.

For more information about upcoming events or to schedule a speaker or trainer for your organization, please contact Dottie Craig by phone at 724-837-9540, ext. 114 or via e-mail at DottieC@blackburncenter.org.





Una Sera del Dare

AN EVENING OF GIVING



Rizzo's Malabar Inn

September 24, 2007

For a recap of Una Sera del Dare, we can't say it better than the *Tribune Review* did in their review of the event on Monday, October 1, 2007:

"Una Sera del Dare, or A Night of Giving, was the perfect name for an event where guests got so much in return for their generosity. Blackburn Center called upon the talents of the chefs at Rizzo's Malabar Inn, and they weren't disappointed. A huge selection of hors d'oeuvres and desserts was the centerpiece to an evening that wowed the crowd of more than 200."

Many thanks to our generous sponsors, guests, and outstanding event committee who helped us exceed our goal of \$25,000. These funds will make a significant difference in Blackburn Center's ability to meet the needs of victims of domestic or sexual violence.

We'll see you at next year's event!

Una Sera del Dare Committee:

David Volpe, Chair
Linda Austin
Michele Bononi
Mary Catherine Motchar
Michael Philopena
George Shaner
Becky Thorne

THANKS TO . . .

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