



## Lethality Assessment: A New Tool to Reduce Domestic Violence Homicides in Pennsylvania

**1,700** Pennsylvanians died as a result of domestic violence between 2001 and 2011. The victims were mainly women, but also included police officers, children, co-workers and bystanders. These shocking numbers have prompted the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) to take action to reduce domestic violence homicides. In 2012, PCADV implemented the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in 12 counties across Pennsylvania. The goal is to expand LAP to all 67 counties.

The program started in Maryland, and is based on studies that show that only 4% of domestic violence murder victims had ever utilized domestic violence program services, and that in 50% of domestic violence homicides, police had previously responded to a call at the home. It works by putting victims who are at high risk of further abuse into contact with local services that can support them as they explore ways to safely leave the abusive relationship. LAP is used by first

responders in a two prong intervention. First, victims of domestic violence are asked eleven questions to determine the level of risk for further violence. Second, if the level of risk is high, the first responder connects the victim with the local domestic violence hotline. The hotline counselor can then inform the victim of her options and arrange for additional services. Maryland has seen a 41% reduction in homicides since its universal implementation of LAP.

A number of states, including Pennsylvania, have implemented LAP. Other states have different plans in place, such as Massachusetts' Domestic Violence High Risk Team. The Massachusetts team relies on similar screening tools to determine which cases of domestic violence are at high risk for lethality. The courts then mandate heightened monitoring for offenders and extra resources for victims. Heightened monitoring may include GPS tracking or supervised-only visitation with children. Since this program started in



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Massachusetts in 2005, not a single case in the program has ended in murder.

These innovative methods of assessing risk and providing services to victims are an important step in combating the devastation of domestic violence homicide. By joining other states that have developed innovative responses to this crime, Pennsylvania will be making a life-saving difference for communities across the state.

## Westmoreland Gives through the Day of Giving

**MARK  
THE  
DATE**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013**

Again this year, you have an opportunity to enhance a gift to Blackburn Center through the *Day of Giving* of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County.

The *Day of Giving* provides Blackburn Center with an opportunity to receive online credit card donations via the Westmoreland Gives website AND receive a percentage of a match pool for each donation our organization receives.

**Please note:**

- your gift **MUST** be made on Thursday, October 3, 2013
- your gift **MUST** be made through the Westmoreland Gives site:

**[www.westmorelandgives.org](http://www.westmorelandgives.org)**

**THANK YOU for stretching your gift to Blackburn Center by utilizing the Day of Giving!**



# Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

## The International Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

*In Westmoreland County, presented by Blackburn Center*

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® — Westmoreland County's third annual men's march to stop rape, sexual assault, and all forms of gender violence — took place on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Greensburg's Lynch Field. In spite of the winter-like weather, more than 650 participants gathered that morning to speak out against the social norms that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence.

The crowd included men, women, children, and babies in strollers. The men who opted to wear women's heels took an extra step in understanding what women experience every day: walking in high heel shoes is symbolic of the difficulties and challenges women face every day — being on guard against the possibility of a sexual assault or of violence in their home, and for some, walking the path of healing following an assault.

Blackburn Center's mission cannot and will not end until women are safe in their own homes, safe in parking lots alone at night, safe at parties and bars, safe wherever they choose to be. The agency will not stop until women are safe in all aspects of their lives. The men who participated in *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* share this vision. The agency applauds them as Blackburn Center's courageous partners in working to make this world a safer place.

Blackburn Center added an important element to this year's event: an opportunity for men who attended to not only *walk the walk*, but also to *talk the talk* by signing a pledge (right). This ten point pledge states a commitment to take important steps in ending domestic and sexual violence.

Many participants this year chose to come as a team — with more than 30 teams on the track, to show their school, business, agency or family support of this event. Some of the teams were walking in memory of a loved one whose life was tragically cut short by an abusive partner.

Westmoreland County Commissioners Chuck Anderson, Ted Kopas, and Tyler Courtney, serving as Honorary Chairpersons, led the walk again this year. Mike Zappone, KDKA TV Sports Producer/Reporter served as MC.

- **Mark your calendar NOW for this event next year: April 12, 2014.**
- **Tell friends, family, colleagues and neighbors about this important – and FUN – event.**
- **Gather a team to join the more than thirty teams that walked this past year.**

**FOR INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION, AND DETAILS  
ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CALL 724-837-9540, X115.**

### 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](mailto: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.

## THE PLEDGE

I join Blackburn Center's mission to end gender violence by pledging to...

■ Approach gender violence as a MEN'S issue involving men of all ages, socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

■ Not look the other way if another man is abusing his partner or is disrespectful or abusive to women and girls in general. I will urge him to seek help. If I am not sure what to say, I will consult a friend, parent, professor or counselor. I WILL NOT REMAIN SILENT.

■ Have the courage to look inward. I will question my own attitudes and try hard to understand how my own attitudes and actions might inadvertently perpetrate sexism and violence and work hard toward changing them.

■ Gently ask if I can help if I think that a woman close to me is being abused or has been sexually assaulted.

■ Seek professional help NOW if I am or have ever been emotionally, psychologically, physically or sexually abusive to women.

■ Be an ally to women who are working to end all forms of gender violence.

■ Recognize and speak out against homophobia. Discrimination and violence against lesbians and gays are wrong in and of themselves. This abuse has direct links to sexism.

■ Educate myself and others about gender inequality, the root causes of gender violence and how larger social forces affect the conflicts between individual men and women.

■ Protest sexism in the media. I will refuse to purchase magazines, films or music that portrays women in a sexually degrading or abusive manner.

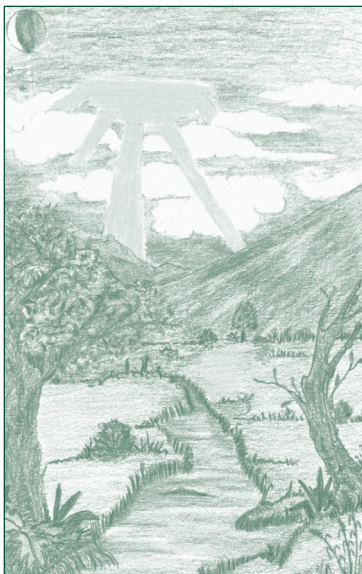
■ Mentor and teach young boys about how to be men in ways that don't involve degrading or abusing girls and women. I will lead by example.

Adapted from "10 Things Men Can Do To Prevent Gender Violence" by Dr. Jackson Katz, 1999.

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### In Memory

*Nancy J. Bittner*  
Dr. Angelo & Pam DeMezza

*Nancy J. Bittner*  
Deanna DeMezza

*Barbara J. Dorundo*  
Georgine Dorundo

*Bea Frederickson*  
Darlene Frederickson

*Julia Hinger*  
Barbara Nakles

*Clara Hoffman*  
Jim and Jackie Timko

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

*Peg Jackson*  
Lynn Hope Hails

*Marie Lawrence*  
Jim and Jackie Timko

*Mother*  
Shirley Clements

*Mary B. Potocnik*  
Mary Catherine Motchar

*Alice Rush Woodburn*  
Mr. and Mrs. Angelo DeLaini

*Mary Louise Truxal*  
Mr. and Mrs. Angelo DeLaini

### In Honor

*Mary Barkalou*  
Heather Lund

*Book Discussion Club*  
Bernadine Brazill

*Becky Campbell*  
Patti Benton

*Raymond Dorundo, Sr.*  
Georgine Dorundo

*Julie Ebersole*  
Berny and Betsy Borza

*Ann Emmerling*  
Rebecca Gardner

*Ann Emmerling*  
Irene Rothschild

*Family*  
David and Susan Pohland

*Jean McKenna*  
Ann, Ernie, Sam and Jake Emmerling

*Carmella Neil*  
Calli-Marie and Alessandra

*Patricia Relosky*  
Heather Lund

*Irene Rothschild*  
Rebecca Gardner

*Geraldine Satterly*  
Merrie Ellie Tilton

*Father David Schorr*  
Sharon Bartolotta

*Ann M. Schrems*  
Bill and Cathy Reeves

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Mr. Eric & Honorable Michele Bononi  
Sally Brautigam

Daryln Brewer Hoffstot  
Gina Burkett

Gail Bush  
Calvin United Presbyterian Church

Deacons  
Barbara Coppula

Connie Craig

Rich and Roz Douds  
Edward Duncan

East Huntingdon Lioness Club  
John and Lorraine Enlow

First United Church of Christ -  
Irwin

Vern R. Flack  
Fraternal Order of Eagles 1612

Free Methodist Church -  
Greensburg

JoAnne Kaylor  
Mr. and Mrs. David Kelly

Norman Alan Co., LLC  
Nick Pavlakovic

Dona Marie Ray  
Rita M. Reese

Thomas and Diana Roberts  
Mary Ann Salotti

Cynthia Sexton Pilewski  
Ed and Jean Smith

Donald J. Snyder, Jr.  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Sunday School  
Reno and Christine Vitale

Westmoreland Casemanagement  
and Supports, Inc.

Susan Wintermeyer  
Youngwood Lions Club

## REMINDERS...

### ■ 2013 Annual Report

Again this year, to reduce costs and environmental impact, we will be posting Blackburn Center's Annual Report on our website: [www.blackburncenter.org](http://www.blackburncenter.org). Watch for the 2012/2013 report in December 2013. And, please let us know if you'd like a hard copy sent to you; call **724-837-9540, x104**.

### ■ Are Taxes on Your Mind?

As the tax year draws to a close, here's something to remember: you can donate your car, motorcycle, truck or boat to Blackburn Center and receive a tax deduction. For more information, call us at **724-837-9540** and ask for someone on the Administrative Team.

### ■ United Way Campaign

All Westmoreland County United Way agencies need your help, now more than ever. The stronger they are, the stronger we are. Please consider directing your contribution to the Community Impact Fund or to Blackburn Center. Blackburn Center's donor designation number is 382.

## 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.



VISIT US ON FACEBOOK | <https://www.facebook.com/blackburncenterpa>



# NEEDS LIST

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

## ■ 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: mixer, coffee maker, toaster, knife sharpener  
Spices and condiments  
Zip-lock bags  
(1 and 2 gallon sizes)

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

## ■ 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** (summer-weight women's one-size-fits-most & extra-large sizes; children's sizes infant to 2T)  
**Sleep shirts** (large & extra-large)  
Wastebaskets

## ■ PERSONAL CARE

Hotel-size items are no longer needed.  
Body wash (family size)  
Shampoo and conditioner (family size)

## ■ MISCELLANEOUS

**Baby monitors**  
Bottled water  
Brooms  
Buckets  
**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  
**Pull-up diapers** (larger sizes)  
**Sweat suits** (all adult sizes)  
Telephones  
Tool kits  
**Umbrellas**  
Underpants (women's, teen boy and under size 12 boy)

## THE HOLIDAY GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING...



As the holiday season approaches, please keep our needs list (LEFT) 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. 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 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.



**Blackburn Center**  
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

PO Box 398  
Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

Address Service Requested

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

**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

Office 724-837-9540  
Fax 724-837-3676  
Hotline 724-836-1122  
Toll Free Hotline 1-888-832-2272  
Website [www.blackburncenter.org](http://www.blackburncenter.org)

**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.

### Board of Directors

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Jerry Supko

Executive Director Ann Emmerling  
Solicitor QuatriniRafferty, PC

### LIVE UNITED



United Way of  
Westmoreland County

**Donor Designation 382**

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