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 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**

**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

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

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

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. Schrem's
Bill and Cathy Reeves

General
Anonymous
Jeanne Anton
Mr. Eric & Honorable Michele Bononi
Sally Brautigam
Daryn 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 Casemangement and Supports, Inc.
Susan Wintermeyer
Youngwood Lions Club

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. 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)
- Dishtowels
- 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
- 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.

**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 27)
- Sleep shirts (large & extra-large)

**PERSONAL CARE**
- Hotel-size items are no longer needed.
- Body wash (family size)
- Shampoo and conditioner (family size)
- Baby monitors
- Bottled water
- Brooms
- Buckets
- Diapers (Sizes 3, 4, 5, & 6)
- Extension cords
- Flashlights
- Gasoline cards (GetGo & Sheetz)
- Gift cards (Walmart or Target)
- Hand dryers
- Laundry detergent
- Mops
- Nasal aspirators
- Outdoor garbage bags
- Pull-up diapers (larger sizes)
- Sweat suits (all adult sizes)
- Tool kits
- Umbrellas

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- Paper products: toilet paper
- Pliers
- Plungers
- Shower curtains and rings
- Soap dispensers
- Toilet brushes
- Bath towels (durable)
- Wastebaskets

**BATHROOM**
- Bath mats
- Paper products: toilet paper
- Plungers
- Shower curtains and rings
- Soap dispensers
- Toilet brushes
- Bath towels (durable)
- Wastebaskets

**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.

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 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 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.