

Spring 2026

STANDING STRONG

Blackburn Center News

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes 2026

Empowering Change: 15 Years of Connection. 50 Years of Impact.

Westmoreland County's 15th Annual International March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault, and Gender-based Violence

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

ST. CLAIR PARK, GREENSBURG

CHECK-IN: 8:30 AM

TEAM PHOTOS: 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM

WALK: 10:00 AM



Registration is \$10/participant (\$5/student).

Children 10 and under are free.

Family-friendly Event!

Furry friends on a leash are welcome!

T-Shirts available while supplies last \$10 each.

Prize goes to the most festive shoes!

REGISTER ONLINE at

www.blackburncenter.org

or

SCAN HERE



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Create teams with your family, friends, co-workers, school or neighbors to support Blackburn Center's services to survivors/victims of violence and crime.

Why We Walk: Then, Now, and What Comes Next

In 2011, Blackburn Center hosted its first Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. Over the years, Westmoreland County's Walk has grown, evolved, and even adapted to challenges along the way – including a pause in 2020 when the world slowed down during the COVID-19 pandemic. From our first gathering at Lynch Field Park, to Offutt Field, and now at St. Clair Park, our annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event has taken on new forms while keeping the spirit alive. Even as the Walk has grown and changed, its message remains clear - Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is both a challenge and a call to action.

Fifteen years later, the Walk continues to matter because the issues it confronts – sexual violence, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence – are still present. The need for awareness, prevention, and support hasn't gone away.

The Walk continues to matter for so many important reasons:

- It sparks **conversations** that might not otherwise happen. Violence thrives in silence. One of the most powerful aspects of Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is its visibility. When participants walk through downtown Greensburg in their high heels or sneakers, people notice. They ask questions. They start conversations.
- It **engages** men as allies. Gender-based violence is not a “women’s issue.” While women are most often affected, other marginalized communities are also impacted, and it remains a community-wide issue. We believe everyone can and should stand with survivors and victims. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes challenges men to step forward as visible allies in prevention efforts. By participating, men and boys demonstrate their support for survivors and their commitment to challenging behaviors that contribute to violence. This show of public commitment matters.
- It supports **critical** services for survivors and victims. While Walk a Mile in Her Shoes raises awareness, it also raises essential funds. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser directly support survivors/victims by helping to sustain services, such as our 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, counseling/therapy, support groups, support during emergency room visits and legal proceedings specific to type of victimization, community education programs, student awareness programs, and in-service trainings for professionals. These services make a profound difference for survivors, and in critical cases, they are lifesaving.
- It reinforces **community** responsibility. Ending violence requires more than individual action. It demands a community-wide commitment. Our event brings together schools, businesses, faith communities, civic leaders, teams, friends, and families. In doing so, it creates a visible demonstration of shared responsibility. When hundreds of people gather in solidarity, it communicates something powerful: We are not indifferent. We are not divided. We are standing together to end this violence.
- It **honors** survivors. For many survivors, attending or witnessing the Walk can be deeply meaningful. Seeing others publicly take a stand against violence can counter feelings of isolation and shame, sending a powerful message that their experiences are believed and that their community cares.
- It reminds us that **prevention** is ongoing work. Some people may ask: after so many years, is the Walk still necessary? The answer is yes. While progress in some areas has been made in raising awareness, rates of domestic and sexual violence remain high. Prevention isn't a one-time effort – it's continuous work that requires education, engagement, and visibility.

We hope that you will join us on April 18th to celebrate the 15th year of Walk a Mile in Her Shoes – a day to honor survivors/victims, raise awareness, and come together as a community.

Pictures from Walk A Mile
in Her Shoes 2025

Thank
you!

SkySight Photography!



Walking through the years - Celebrating the Past and the Future

Our first Walk in 2011 had 275 participants.
Not bad for our first year!



Over the years we have watched the number of walkers grow. Last year we had almost 1,000 walkers strutting down Maple Avenue in downtown Greensburg!

The Walk has called several locations home over the years, including Lynch Field, Offutt Field, and St. Clair Park.



While each space has helped bring the community together, we especially love the visibility at St. Clair Park and the chance to walk through downtown Greensburg!

In 2022, the Walk introduced the



Empathy Museum, an interactive experience that centered survivor voices through artwork created by survivors and local high school students, alongside recorded survivor stories.

Over the years, the Walk has featured a variety of meaningful displays that bring our community together in support of survivors and victims.



Last year, inspired by the Stone Soup fable, participants added affirmations for survivors to a shared pot - symbolizing the power of collective care.

This year, we will continue the tradition by inviting participants to "Follow the Red Brick Road", as we highlight moments from the past 15 years of the Walk.

Skills That Empower

Blackburn Center offers trainings that cover a variety of topics:

- Human Trafficking
- Sexual Assault/Harassment
- Bully/Cyberbullying
- Bystander Intervention: A Community Model
- Mandated Reporter

To schedule a training or for more information, contact us at 724-837-9540 x 114.

JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB

Turning Pages Book Club will feature a book in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month to raise awareness.

Scan here for more details!



Looking to Make a Difference?



Blackburn Center has volunteer positions available.

To learn more, contact our Education/Outreach Program Manager at 724-837-9540 x 114.

Board of Directors 2025-2026

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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.

Help Us Help Others!

Your donations throughout the year strengthen Blackburn Center's services. The items on our needs list help make the shelter feel more like home for residents. These donations provide essential household supplies for survivors/victims of domestic violence as they create a safe new home for themselves and their children, while also supporting counseling and therapy clients with much-needed essentials.



Scan here to access
the needs list

24-Hour Hotline

1-888-832-2272 or 724-836-1122

Deaf and hard-of-hearing may use VRS to call hotline.

Speak with a counselor any time.

All client services are FREE of charge.



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