



Fall 2016

STANDINGSTRONG

Blackburn Center News



Stronger Than Ever

For nearly 40 years, Blackburn Center has provided services and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Westmoreland County. In that time, as we've seen the prevalence of other types of crime in our communities grow, we have come to realize that the expertise and skills we've developed over four decades of service to victims of gender-based violence could be put to good use for victims of all types of crime. Blackburn Center's expertise in trauma-informed services can – and will – benefit victims of any type of violence or crime.

Today, we stand with every victim who has been touched by violence. Every woman. Every child. Every man. If your life has been impacted by crime or violence in any way, we are here for you.

We understand the pain and the loss that victims of violence and crime experience. Whether it's the result of domestic violence or sexual assault, child abuse or elder abuse, robbery or arson, homicide or kidnapping, DUI or hate crime, stalking or trafficking ... we're here for victims of all types of violence and crime. We will continue to be here until our work is done.

To reflect our expanded focus, we have updated our logo and identity as an organization. We hope that our new theme of "Standing Together To End Violence" will resonate in our community – and will reflect both the work that we do and the services that we provide in Westmoreland County. Blackburn Center will continue to serve women, children and men who have been impacted by domestic and sexual violence. We will remain steadfast in our mission to end these types of violence. We will also provide services to victims of any type of violence or crime – and we will take a stand against ALL violence. As we go through this transition, we invite all in the community who share our vision of a world free from gender-based violence and other types of violence to join us and Stand Together to End Violence.

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 all other crimes; emergency shelter is available to survivors of intimate partner violence and their dependent children. Blackburn Center also provides community education, school student awareness programs, and in-service professional trainings throughout Westmoreland County.

We're here to listen.
Reach out to us 24/7.
No fees. No judgment.
Just help.

We provide services for anyone whose life has been affected by any type of violence or crime.

- 24-hour hotline, providing support, options and community resources
- Counseling and therapy
- Accompaniment at hearings and trials
- Accompaniment at emergency rooms (for victims of domestic and sexual violence)
- Shelter (for victims of domestic violence and their children)

All services are confidential, can be anonymous, and are available to women, children and men.



REMINDERS

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.

2015/2016 Annual Report

To reduce costs and environmental impact, we will be posting Blackburn Center's Annual Report on our website: www.blackburncenter.org. The 2015/2016 report will be available for your review in November. Please let us know if you'd like a hard copy sent to you; call 724.837.9540, x144.

Save the Date!

2017 WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES® SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® has changed how Westmoreland County works collectively to build a community that will not tolerate domestic violence or sexual assault. This event serves two purposes: it provides an opportunity for the community to speak out about ending gender violence, while raising funds to support the services at Blackburn Center that help survivors of this violence find hope and healing. Join us on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at St. Clair Park in Greensburg! Watch our website for more information.



Mourn
Celebrate
Connect

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Privilege Project

Over the years, Blackburn Center has become increasingly devoted to social transformation. We strongly believe that changing our culture is necessary to truly end all forms of gender violence. This year, we are examining the role of privilege in our society, particularly as it relates to domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of gender violence.

Privilege is a complicated concept that can be confusing. What does it actually mean to have privilege? Is having privilege a bad thing? How does privilege relate to gender violence? We will be exploring these topics — and more! — over the course of the next year as part of our Privilege Project. Our first post is already online, explaining the basic concept of privilege — and why it is so important to the work that we are doing. Privilege is most commonly used to describe a group of people whose day to day lives are made more “just” or safe, simply because they belong to a particular social group. These groups can include race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability and religion. Dominant groups in our society are those that control the value system and rewards, or those that have more power than other groups. Examples of privilege can be seen everywhere, including public spaces that do not accommodate people with disabilities, or the reality that more men than women are in positions of power in government. Having privilege does not make a person bad; it is simply a fact of our social structure, and something that we should all acknowledge when talking about the problems that plague our society. When it comes to gender violence, recognizing male privilege can help us get to the root causes of this violence — and reach our ultimate goal of ending gender violence.

Social transformation takes time, and it requires a willingness to critically examine your own beliefs and choices. We ask you to join us on this journey as we explore the topic of privilege over the coming months. You can read along on our website, www.blackburncenter.org, and join the conversation online on Facebook or Twitter. We will be explaining different issues related to privilege, including the role of male privilege in gender violence, and will be featuring a number of guest posts on our blog. If you would like to write for our blog, contact us at ErinP@blackburncenter.org!

Future Advocates of Blackburn (FAB)

FAB is committed to working in the community now and in the future to end gender violence.

WHO? Anyone who is ready to stand up, use their voice and take action in our community to end gender violence.

WHAT? FAB is a young, evolving and member-driven group. FAB changes as we chat over coffee, brainstorm new ideas and respond to what's happening in our community. We offer a little something for everyone — all are welcome to take part at their own pace and comfort level. Here's what we've been up to lately:

- **Stand Out Events** — We attend community events together and share our message.
- **FAB Facebook Group** — Our message board for all things FAB. Members share articles and discuss timely topics related to gender violence.
- **Action Items** — Our weekly, micro e-blast that delivers one quick note on how you can take action right now to help stop gender violence — like sharing a Tweet, commenting on Facebook or a reminder for our next event.

WHERE? Anywhere and everywhere. Attend our events — or rock your fuzzy slippers and join us on social media.

WHY? To end gender violence! A future without gender violence starts today.

Take the first step at blackburncenter.org/fab. Or, contact joelyn@blackburncenter.org with questions.

Men as Allies

Blackburn Center is reaching out to men in the community who support our organization, with an invitation to join a new initiative, Men as Allies. Because gender violence is a complex problem, we need our allies to go beyond their current commitment — making donations, participating in the Walk — to bring our message into their everyday lives at home, at work, and in the community. We are confident that there are many men in Westmoreland County who have what it takes to make that commitment and thus work side-by-side with women to eliminate gender violence. If you'd like to learn more about this, or find out what you can do to be involved, contact Bill at 724.837.9540, x142, or BillM@blackburncenter.org.

What is Crowdfunding?

noun 1. Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or cause by raising money from a large number of people, typically through the Internet.

Giving has never been so easy — and never been so needed! For your convenience, Blackburn Center is fortunate to have three venues to crowdfund this fall!

Day of Giving: A rescheduled online event for Wednesday, September 21, from 8 a.m. until midnight, provided by The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. On September 21, donors can visit www.westmorelandgives.org, and select Blackburn Center to make a minimum \$25 credit card donation online. The May 3 Day of Giving event was disrupted due to national technical problems.



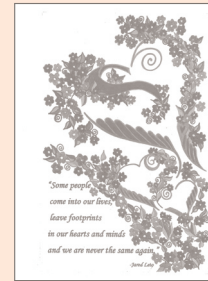
Donor Drive: Blackburn Center's annual campaign to raise funds needed to sustain services. Letters of appeal and reply envelopes will be mailed this fall. Your annual donation may be made via one of the online events mentioned here — or you can go directly to our website to make your contribution: <http://www.blackburncenter.org/#:one-time-donation/c16pc>

Purple Purse: New to Blackburn Center is the Purple Purse Challenge. For the last five years, The Allstate Foundation has conducted its Purple Purse campaign to help more people understand domestic violence, the prevalence of financial abuse and the promise of financial empowerment services to help end abuse. Blackburn Center is one of the 250 organizations selected to benefit from this challenge. Incentives will include a limited-edition leather purple purse designed by actor Kerry Washington. There will be challenges throughout the month to help us win the first place prize of \$100,000 from The Allstate Foundation. This giving event will happen online September 28 - October 25.

Whatever venue you choose to support our organization, we thank you! Watch our website for more information: www.blackburncenter.org.

MANY THANKS

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



In 1853, Esther Howland brought young girls into her Massachusetts home to hand-color valentines. She provided them with shelter and an opportunity to earn a livelihood. In that tradition, this specially created collector's card was designed and colored by a friend of Blackburn Center.

Tributes

IN MEMORY OF

Barbara J. Dorundo by Georgine Dorundo
Mary Gercher by Mr. and Mrs. J. Gercher
Jean Glasstetter by J. A. Glasstetter
Clara Hoffman by Jackie Timko
Husband by Connie Hughes
E. Jane Marchand by Joan M. Vernail
Viola Markus Cote' by Mr. and Mrs. J. Gercher
Nick Oswald by Georgine Dorundo
Frank and Lucille Scurci by Reno and Christine Vitale
Frances M. Stanko by Dr. and Mrs. William Aukerman

IN HONOR OF

All brave women, children and men,
by Anonymous
Yolanda Botti by Anthony Botti, Jr.
Peg Carpenter by Valerie Carpenter
Grace Craig by 1st Baptist Esther Circle
Raymond Dorundo, Sr. by Georgine Dorundo
Julie Ebersole by Benny and Betsy Borza
Jean McKenna by Ernie and Ann Emmerling
Ann M. Schrems by Bill and Cathy Reeves
Chris Shtur by Linda Eckel Gall
Suzi Valentine by Patricia Benton

GENERAL

Anonymous
Beth Alwine
Jeanne Anton
Isabel Blackburn
Sally Brautigam
Imperia Betty Campitelli
Dr. Kathleen Catalano
Chestnut Ridge Lions Club
Shirley Clements
Jolene Dames
Honorable and Mrs. Joseph DeMarchis
Derry 1st United Methodist Church Women
Electro-Glass Products
First United Church of Christ
Women's Fellowship, Irwin
Girl Scout Troop #26808
Richard M. Harrold
Eileen Katter
Mary Alice Korona
Ruth E. McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moyar
Never Enough! Boutique
Anna Polsinelli
William and Barbara Reis
Jay Shaffer
Nancy J. Wallis
Westmoreland City Primitive
Methodist Church
Brian and Sharon Winters



BlackburnCenter

Standing together to end violence.

PO Box 398
Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

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

Go Paperless

This reduces our costs, lessens our impact on the environment and gives you information faster. To subscribe to our e-newsletter, e-mail Laura at laura@blackburncenter.org. Include your regular mailing address so that we can remove you from the newsletter mailing list.

KITCHEN

Can openers - handheld
Coffee (regular)
Coffee creamer
Cookie sheets
Cooking oil
Canned food & non-perishables, including: soups, condiments (mayonnaise, mustard & catsup), jelly, cake & brownie mixes, canned tuna, chicken and other meats, canned or bottled juices.
Glass baking dishes
Tall kitchen garbage bags
Paper towels & paper towel holders
Pots & pan sets, skillets
Small appliances: electric can openers, coffee makers, toasters, mixers, etc.
Zip-lock bags: 2 gallon sizes

BATHROOM

Bath mats
Garbage bags - 8 gallon size
Toilet paper
Towels: durable, bath and hand towels and washcloths

BEDROOM

Bed pillows - machine washable & durable
Bed-in-a-bag sets
Garbage bags - 8 gallon size
Pajamas: summer-weight
Women's: S, M, L, 3X, 4X & 5X
Girls: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
Boys: 2, 3, 5, 10 & 12
Razors - disposable

MISCELLANEOUS

Bras - all sizes
Brooms
Clear plastic bins (approx. 23 3/4" L x 16 3/8" W x 12 3/8" H - 66 qts.)
Diapers: Sizes 3, 4, 5, 6+
Fabric softener sheets
Flashlights
Gasoline cards: GetGo & Sheetz
Gift cards: Giant Eagle & Walmart
Laundry detergent
Laundry baskets
Markers - washable
Mops
Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
Notebooks - spiral bound
Outdoor garbage bags
Phone cards
Pocket folders - plain
Sweat suits: all adult sizes
Telephones
Tool kits
Underpants: boy & girl - all sizes; women's - sizes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Items no longer needed at this time: Bars of Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes & Hotel-size items

PLEASE NOTE:

Deliver donations to Blackburn Center's administrative offices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please call if you cannot bring your donation during regular business hours. We can make other arrangements if necessary.

NEEDS LIST

A donation of items from the needs list throughout the year helps Blackburn Center sustain the shelter program, and helps to maintain the support groups the agency provides for victims of crime. In addition, some of these items are made available to clients - and their children - who are establishing their own homes and need support with basic household items.

Please put the items that are 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.

For more information about donation opportunities, contact: Blackburn Center, P.O. Box 398, Greensburg, PA 15601, 724.837.9540, www.blackburncenter.org

Look at our List, and Check it Twice...

As the holiday season approaches, please make our needs list part of your holiday 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 individuals and families staying at our shelter. It is also a unique and wonderful way to honor someone special on your holiday list. Once you make your donation, we'll be happy to send a card acknowledging your gift on their behalf.

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.



United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Donor Designation 382