

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

Board of Directors

President Len Caric

Vice President Rhonda Anderson Marks

Secretary Linda Polinsky

Treasurer Thomas Daughenbaugh

Members Rob Hohn

Nikki Kemp

Jamie Martin

William Meekins

Yolanda Pavloff

Kathleen Sarniak

Executive Director Ann Emmerling

Solicitor QuatriniRafferty, PC

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 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 Blackburn Center. Blackburn Center's donor designation number is 382.



The Holiday Gift That Keeps on Giving

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.



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

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

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 women and children. In addition, 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 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.

KITCHEN

Can openers (hand-held)
Coffee (regular)
Coffee creamer
Dish drainers
Dishpans
Drink boxes
Flatware
Food items: any canned food,
other non-perishables, etc.
Food storage containers
Kitchen garbage bags
Packaged snacks for lunches
Paper products:
paper towels, napkins
Plastic pitchers with lids
Pots, pans and skillets
Small appliances:
coffee maker, can opener,
knife sharpener,
microwave oven
Tall kitchen garbage cans
with step-on lid openers
Wastebaskets

BATHROOM

Bath mats
Heating pads

Liquid soap refills and
liquid soap dispensers
Plungers
Shower curtains and rings
Toilet brushes
Toilet paper
Towel sets
Waste baskets

BEDROOM

Alarm clocks
Bed pillows
Bed-in-a-bag sets
Blankets: twin & full
Nightgowns:
women's one-size fits all
Pajamas: women's one-size-
fits most & children's all
sizes
Sheet sets: twin & full
Mattress covers
(vinyl, zippered): twin & full

CHILDREN

Baby swing
ExerSaucer Deluxe (EvenFlo)
Play Doh
Stroller (double)

MISCELLANEOUS

Batteries: AA and 9-volt
Bottled water
Brooms
Buckets
DVD player
Fabric markers
Fabric softener sheets
Flashlights
Gasoline cards
Gift cards
(Wal-Mart or Target)
Laundry detergent
Light bulbs: 60-watt & 3-way
Mops
Outdoor garbage bags
Phone cards
Sweat suits: all sizes
Telephones
Tool kits
Umbrellas
Underpants: women's sizes

PERSONAL CARE

*Hotel-size items are no longer
needed.*
Deodorant
Disposable razors

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.

Fitness club shooting symbolizes culture of violence against women

It's tempting to label the murder of three women and the wounding of nine others at the LA Fitness center in Collier Township as the isolated, tragic actions of one disturbed man. How else can we make sense of the misdeeds of George Sodini—a mass murderer who targeted his victims based not only on their gender, but also on his belief that all women must pay for his past failed relationships?

This horrific crime demands an acknowledgment of the role that violence against women plays in not only the fitness club shootings, but in other crimes. After all, Mr. Sodini didn't just go into a health club and randomly shoot members before killing himself; he pre-selected an August 4th class he knew to be all women. Consider these incidents in the last three years alone:

- Robert Stewart opened fire at the Pinelake Health and Rehabilitation Center in March 2009 in Carthage, North Carolina, killing eight people and wounding three. His estranged wife, a nurse at the center, was the alleged target of the shooting.
- Bruce Jeffrey Pardo killed nine people, including his ex-wife and her parents, at a Christmas party last year at his former in-laws' home in Covina, California.
- Charles Carl Roberts IV fatally shot five girls in an Amish one-room schoolhouse in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in October 2006. He had separated the female students from the male students before the shooting.
- Duane Roger Morrison held six female students hostage and sexually assaulted them at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado in September 2006 before he killed one of the students.

Beyond these crimes that receive widespread media attention, there are countless acts of violence that rarely make the news. Last year alone, Blackburn Center Against Domestic &

Sexual Violence in Westmoreland County, provided services to 2,833 victims of domestic and sexual violence and answered 3,466 calls on its hotline. This region is a snapshot of the nation: one in every four women in the United States will experience domestic violence in her lifetime; one in five women has experienced an attempted or completed rape. Being female is the number one risk factor for being sexually assaulted or assaulted by an intimate partner.

To end these kinds of incidents in our communities, we must address the marginalization and objectification of women that ultimately results in traumatic

women have the responsibility to control. Without a fundamental shift in cultural norms, women who are victims of domestic and sexual violence will continue to be held accountable for someone else's behavior. Until we stop asking "Why did she stay?" or "Why was she out alone at night?" and until society instead shines the spotlight on the behavior of perpetrators and declares violence against women unacceptable, incidents like the LA Fitness shooting will continue.

Along with providing victim services, Blackburn Center works to transform current thinking and practices that result in the inequity and oppression of women in our communities. Advocates for this kind of change know that this work involves some risk—challenging the status quo can result in discomfort and loss of support. But it is time to take

this risk and this step. Without it, there will never be enough battered women's shelters or rape crisis counselors, and the tragedies will continue.

Further investigation may find a number of critical junctures where the system failed to help Mr. Sodini and to protect the public. However, it would compound this tragedy to avoid the uncomfortable but necessary discussion of violence against women; the toll it takes on individuals, families and communities; and the responsibility and accountability that we all share to put an end to it. ■

This article, submitted by Blackburn Center, first appeared in the August 24, 2009 edition of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, on the Perspectives page.

When society permits the marginalization of women and does not address its consequences, women will continue to be demeaned and targeted.

injury, loss of life and loss of community. Violence against women ranges from demeaning images of women and girls in the media to violence in relationships to the extreme of a mass murderer who targets his intended victims based on their gender, his belief in entitlement to a relationship and the right to make all women pay for his rejection.

Gender biases and inequities are complex and deeply rooted in our culture. When society permits the marginalization of women and does not address its consequences, women will continue to be demeaned and targeted. The change needed to end this violence requires both personal and systemic transformation that challenges the existing status quo.

Historically, society has viewed violence against women as something

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.

In all things of nature there is
something of the marvelous.
-ALEXANDER



MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED Blackburn Center through the Not-Just-For-Mother's Day cards

IN MEMORY

Ella Beveridge
The Seibert Family
Louise Barton
The Seibert Family
Mariann Clark
Edward J. Clark
Viola Cote
Mr. & Mrs. John Gercher
Audrey Courtley
Linda Gabersek
Barbara J. Dorundo
Georgine Dorundo
Mary Alice Emmerling Follmer
Ann, Ernie, Sam & Jake
Emmerling
Mary Gercher
Mr. & Mrs. John Gercher
Lenore Hoffer
The Seibert Family
Wendy Maurer
Maura, Mariah & Mason
Helen Michael
Samuel & Judith Lawson

Linda Mino
Jeanine Simithraaratchy
Mother
Jacinta Mann
Mother
Karen Fairgrieve
Mary Lynn Oblak
Lena Oblak
Concetta Saienni
Domenica Hayes
Janet Vince
Carol Shamey
Florence Wood Snodgrass
Reta S. Kuyat
Robert J. Soles
Nicole Gorman
Jane Marchand Thornton
Joan M. Vernail
June & Harry Ziff
Andee & Jack Millstein

IN HONOR

Charlotte Barnard Longsdorf
Janet Howell-Nigrelli
Marilyn & Jim Davis
Andee & Jack Millstein
John Wesley Joseph Della Vedova
Deanna Della Vedova
Dorothy DeMatteo
Lucy Anna Conrad
Julie Ebersole
Berny & Betsy Borza

Ann Emmerling
Sally E. Brautigam
Sally Hall
Patti Benton
Myrtle Johnson
United Methodist Women
Circles I & II
Annabell Lyle
United Methodist Women
Circles I & II
Christine Marquis & Aubrey,
Grayce & Rory
Georgia Crawford
Jean McKenna
Ann, Ernie, Sam & Jake
Emmerling
Carmella Neil
Calli-Marie & Alasandra Neil
Esther Yant
Patti Benton

GENERAL

Anonymous
Jeanne J. Anton
Donna Balewick
Jan Barone
James & Kathleen Bendel
Michael Bove
Joellen Bruno
Buchanan Church of God
Gina B. Burkett
R.F. Chick

Rich & Roz Douds
Edward Duncan
Mary Grotzinger
Jan Grant
Mary Beth Gropp
Richard M. Harrold
Jacquelyn B. Hebrank
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
WELCA
JoAnne Kaylor
Treasure J. Keys
Ruth McDonald
Rhonda Pegg
A. T. Quindlen
Dona M. Ray
Priscilla Richardson
Ray & Karen Richter
Thomas & Diana Roberts
Laurie Rosko
Michael Ruane
Joyce Somers
Stewart, McArdle, Sorice, Whalen,
Farrell, Finoli & Cavanaugh LLC
Francis D. & Mary H. Stillman
Wednesday Night Ladies Golf
League
Susan Wintermeyer
Youngwood Lions Club
Linda Zimmerman

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 2008/2009 report in December 2009. And please let us know if you'd like a hard copy sent to you; call 724-837-9540, x104.

Something to remember as the tax year draws to a close

You can donate your car, motorcycle, van, truck or boat to Blackburn Center and receive a tax deduction.

Call us at 724-837-9540 and ask for the Administrative Team.



To learn more about domestic violence and what you can do to end the violence,

Visit

www.blackburncenter.org
www.pcadv.org
www.ncadv.org

STEP IN, STOP ABUSE. BE A HERO TODAY. Visit www.hero-project.org

Una Sera del Dare

AN EVENING OF GIVING



Blackburn Center
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*One evening ...
a difference in 2,813 lives.*

Many thanks to the generous sponsors, guests, donors and exceptional event committee who helped Blackburn Center raise \$30,000 on September 21, 2009 at what was truly An Evening of Giving. The success of this event will have a lasting impact on the services Blackburn Center provides to the 2,813 individuals who reach out to us for help each year.

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

Design of logo and invitation package courtesy of
George Fetkovich, Apollo Design Group, Latrobe

Printing of invitation envelopes courtesy of
Allegheny Energy

Printing of signs courtesy of
Alpha Business Forms, Inc

Decorations courtesy of
Greensburg Floral,
George Shaner & Michael Philopena

A to Z Promotions
Chuck & Nancy Anderson
James R. & Susan M. Antoniano
Arbor Industrial Supplies Inc.
David & Linda Assard
Dr. George & Linda Austin
Bononi & Bononi, P.C., Attorneys at Law
Kathleen Zornan Caliendo
Judy & Len Caric
Carlow University Greensburg
Peg Carpenter
Marilyn Davis/Prudential Preferred Realty

THANKS TO...

UNDERWRITER



akoya

creating value from within

GOLD SPONSORS

Blackburn Center Board of Directors
Enscoe Long Insurance Group, LLC
First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg
Larry & Jan Garlock
New Image Hair Clinic, Frank & Lori Petrosky
Philips Respironics
The Thorne Group, Inc. Home Health Services
UPS
Walmart Latrobe

SILVER SPONSORS

AmeriGas
Barbara Ferrier
Terry & Jeanne Graft, Kepple-Graft Funeral Home
Dr. Robert G. Myers
Ted & Kathleen Sarniak

BRONZE SPONSORS

Meagan Bilik DeFazio for Judge
Dr. Angelo & Pamela DeMezza
Dollar Bank
Ann & Ernie Emmerling
Bob & Kathy Faye
Karen L. Ferri, Esq.
Jayne H. Huston & Larry V. Sedlemeyer
Kattan-Ferretti Insurance
The Norman Alan Company, LLC
Pantalone Funeral Home, Inc.
S & T Bank
Seton Hill University/Blackburn Center
Collaborative Project

Smail Auto Group
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Stewart
Michelle & George Toohey
Tucker, Johnson & Smelzer, Inc.
Vacation Station Travel
George Shaner & Michael Philopena
Ronald W. Virag
David Volpe & Shawn Spadaro
Senator Kim Ward
Westmoreland County Community College
Westmoreland Dermatology Associates, LLC
Westmoreland Paralegal Services