



BlackburnCenter
Standing together to end violence.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 2018

To our community partners and supporters,

On December 6, 2018, Blackburn Center marks its 42nd year of providing client services and education in the Westmoreland County community, with the distinction of being recognized as a leader in this community in two key areas: the provision of trauma-informed services to victims of violence and crime, and the primary prevention of gender-based violence.

In 1975, troubled by stories of rape victims who had no place to turn for support and healing, a group of dedicated individuals joined forces in Westmoreland County. They formed what is now known as Blackburn Center. Our organization was born of the concern of community members, and nourished by the energy and passion of a group of founding mothers who pledged to work until violence and oppression was stopped.

That energy and passion lives on today. More than at any time in our agency's history, we're hopeful about making real change in our communities because of the increased attention on perpetrator and community accountability for gender-based violence. Real conversations about these issues are taking place across Westmoreland County: in business settings, in places of worship, in schools, on our campuses, and in gatherings of family and friends.

Blackburn Center's commitment to provide a full range of services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other types of crime in Westmoreland County also lives on. Our focus is on identifying and meeting the needs of victims of crime as we support them in the aftermath of the trauma that they have experienced.

We've had a busy year and invite you to read on to learn about the important initiatives and services that embody Blackburn Center's mission and vision. Your support and encouragement makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

Sheila Confer

President, Board of Directors

Ann M. Emmerling

Executive Director



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BLACKBURN CENTER SERVICES

24-Hour Hotline: We offer a 24-hour hotline for people whose lives have been impacted by violence or crime. The hotline is available to victims, their family and friends, and professionals who seek information about how they might be better able to meet the needs of their clients who are victims of violence or crime. Hotline counselors provide crisis intervention, safety planning, links to resources in the community, and information about Pennsylvania's Victims Compensation Assistance Program and Victim Rights.

Emergency Shelter: We offer emergency shelter for victims of intimate partner violence and their children, for up to thirty days. We work hard to ensure that our facility is secure so that our residents can feel safe as they work to rebuild their lives. In addition, we can arrange for care and other housing for pets of people seeking shelter services.

Counseling & Therapy, including Support Groups: We are the only organization in Westmoreland County that offers trauma-informed counseling and therapy services for victims of violence and crime, and their significant others. These services incorporate a basic understanding of how trauma affects the life of a survivor, and focuses on core principles of safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment.

Legal Accompaniment: The court process can be overwhelming for victims of violence and crime. We provide legal advocates for victims to accompany them through the legal system, offering them support and encouragement, and helping victims plan for safety.

Medical Accompaniment: Our medical advocates meet victims of domestic or sexual violence at the emergency room of any hospital in Westmoreland County at any time. Advocates provide support during medical examinations, as well as information about resources and options available.

Community Education Programs: We strongly believe that educating the community is critical in helping to end violence. We offer speakers for any organization interested in learning more about issues such as domestic violence, teen dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, human trafficking, elder abuse, and fraud.

Student Awareness Programs: We provide education and awareness programs to students throughout Westmoreland County, from pre-school through twelfth grade. Blackburn Center's Education Specialists provide presentations to students and teachers about domestic/dating violence, sexual assault awareness/prevention, and cyber-bullying/bullying awareness.

Trainings to Professionals: We maintain relationships in key systems across the county that interact with victims of violence, providing training to support an informed and appropriate response by each system to victims.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,912 nights of shelter
- 8,928 hours of counseling/therapy
- 2,174 legal accompaniments
- 194 medical contacts with victims
- Over 14,000 students and teachers participated in 1,551 education programs
- 197 trainings to 5,293 professionals
- Programs on every college campus in the county



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Our next volunteer training course will start in mid-March 2019. Our comprehensive training focuses on development of active listening skills and an understanding of issues commonly raised by victims of domestic and sexual violence. Once the training is completed, typical volunteer assignments may include: taking a shift on our 24-hour hotline, helping at our shelter, responding to a medical advocacy request, or participating in an education or public awareness program.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact our Education Outreach Program Manager at ext. 114.

FINANCIALS

Blackburn Center receives financial support and revenue from a variety of sources, including the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the PA Coalition Against Rape, and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency. A major source of funding is contributions from our local community, including United Way of Southwestern PA, individuals, foundations, businesses, and community organizations. This local support enables us to continue to provide critical services to victims of violence throughout Westmoreland County.

Revenue & Support

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV):	\$447,108
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR):	\$292,922
PCCD - Victims of Crime Act:	\$684,148
STOP Violence Against Women Act:	\$44,013
Other Government Funding:	\$39,065
Contributions:	\$539,907
Other Income:	\$26,567
Total Revenue and Support:	\$2,073,730

Expenses

Program Services:	\$1,644,383
Management & General:	\$304,747
Fundraising:	\$57,767
Total Expenses:	\$2,004,897

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.

Blackburn Center takes its responsibility to be a good steward of its funds seriously. For each \$1.00 of revenue and support received, \$.82 is spent on program services.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR FOR
APRIL 13, 2019



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

The 9th Annual Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

On Saturday, April 13, 2019, Westmoreland County's ninth annual WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES® event, the International Men's March to End Sexual Assault, Rape and Gender Violence will kick off at St. Clair Park in downtown Greensburg. Men and women, families, community leaders, professionals, survivors, students, and residents from across Westmoreland County will walk one mile to raise awareness about the incidence of domestic and sexual violence. Men are invited to walk in women's high-heeled shoes as they join their voices with women in speaking out against the social norms and attitudes that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence. Last year, over 1,100 participants including nearly 400 brave men in heels, turned out to make the eighth Walk a huge success.

Male community members and leaders will proclaim their solidarity with the movement to end gender-based violence by walking one mile in women's shoes, with women and children walking at their sides. Men who choose to wear their own shoes are welcome as well!

The Walk is scheduled to begin on April 13, 2019 at 10:00 AM, with registration beginning at 9:00 AM at St. Clair Park in downtown Greensburg. Contact Blackburn Center through their website to pre-register (www.blackburncenter.org) or you may call 724-837-9540, X 144. Women's high-heeled shoes will be loaned to male walkers, who are encouraged to register by April 1 to insure proper sizes are available. In addition, walk-on registrants are welcome (though event planners cannot guarantee shoe availability). T-shirts will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Inspired by the saying, "You can't understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes," men will literally walk the talk on April 13. While the event promises to be fun, it is also an important opportunity for the community to commit to action to end gender-based violence.

OUR SERVICES, OUR IMPACT, OUR VISION

Blackburn Center provides a comprehensive range of services to victims of crime in Westmoreland County (see page 2 for a full listing) and education/engagement programs for the community. These services and programs have been developed with three principles in mind: (1) the needs of our community; (2) the impact we hope to have for victims and their families and friends; and (3) our vision of a world free from gender-based violence and other forms of violence. While the core of Blackburn Center's mission has not changed since our start in 1976, the scope, breadth and expertise in how we fulfill our mission has expanded significantly.

Blackburn Center provides expertise in the community in two key areas. First, we offer trauma-informed services to victims of violence and crime. Second, we work to end gender-based violence through primary prevention measures.

- Trauma-informed services address the emotional and physical needs of victims by helping them stabilize their lives after victimization, assisting them in navigating the criminal justice system and medical systems, and providing for supportive services in a safe and secure environment. Through these services, our clients gain increased coping skills and a sense of empowerment. They also see a reduction in symptoms that resulted from the abuse, and learn more about the traumatic impact of victimization.
- Primary prevention of gender-based violence means stopping this violence before it starts. This includes addressing the cultural norms that perpetuate this type of violence, and considering the factors in our communities that may increase the potential for these incidents to occur. These norms and factors include hyper-masculinity, hostility towards women, and adherence to traditional gender norms.

Blackburn Center's work is guided by a strategic plan. The plan is organized into five focus areas:

I. Social Transformation/Primary Prevention: to move the community beyond awareness of gender-based violence to full engagement in Blackburn Center's mission to end this violence.

Addressing two key areas of concern for victims of violence, Blackburn Center has recently added a civil legal services component and is exploring possibilities for expanded housing supports.

In support of the agency's commitment to primary prevention, Blackburn Center works to engage the community on the ways our society accepts and promotes violent behavior. We have moved beyond community awareness to community action in our programming.

This approach has five main components:

- Partner with College Campuses: Blackburn Center is working in partnership with Seton Hill University and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg to address, through class and campus-wide activities, rape culture and attitudes that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence. Faculty, staff, and students are involved in incorporating prevention and culture change into coursework across disciplines. Other campuses in the county are exploring this approach. Blackburn Center is also working with local colleges and universities to strengthen the response to incidents on campus.
- Work with Schools: Blackburn Center provides programming in nearly all Westmoreland County school districts, and has developed curriculum (e.g., media literacy) focused on primary prevention. In addition, the agency offers an eight session curriculum with a primary prevention focus for middle schools.
- Engage the Community: The agency's website and blog, social media strategies (Facebook and Twitter), public engagement events (e.g., Walk a Mile in Her Shoes) and community education (e.g., bystander intervention and sexual harassment prevention) all invite community members to talk about how gender norms and cultural messages promote violence, as well as how concerned individuals can take action. We have expanded outreach to men through the Fearless Advocacy for Men's Engagement (FAME) initiative, and to young men and boys through the Coaching Boys Into Men project.
- Incorporate Prevention into All Services: Blackburn Center finds opportunities to address primary prevention in all aspects of our work. For example, when the agency is training first responders about responding to the needs of victims, we incorporate a primary prevention message.
- Ensure Internal Agency Congruency: Blackburn Center has developed a Position Statement on Social Transformation: Ending Gender-based Violence and has committed to incorporating initiatives in the agency's strategic plan. Through this process, Blackburn Center is examining and updating agency policies and procedures to ensure congruence with this statement.

II. Excellence in Services to Victims: to provide a best practice continuum of services that responds to the needs of victims of all types of crime and violence in the community, reflects Blackburn Center's mission, and is accessible throughout Westmoreland County.

Blackburn Center's service delivery model is built on the concept of advocacy: a core philosophy that places the victim's needs above those of the system, and positions the agency as a voice for victims – either collectively or individually. Blackburn Center, in our role as advocate, provides two assurances that may not be

available from another provider: confidential communication that is protected by statute, and sole allegiance to the victim.

In services to victims of crime, Blackburn Center focuses on the impact and outcomes of these services, identifies gaps and barriers to services, and plans for outreach to underserved populations.

In 2016, Blackburn Center launched an expanded outreach program that now provides counseling services at more than 40 safe sites around the county to improve access to the agency's services. With this expanded outreach program, we have initially focused on victims who are 65 years of age and older; victims who have a disability; victims of human trafficking; victims of crime who live in outlying parts of Westmoreland County; and victims of crime in the LGBTQ community, with a specific focus on individuals who are transgender.

Addressing two key areas of concern for victims of violence, Blackburn Center has recently added a civil legal services component and is exploring possibilities for expanded housing supports.

III. Excellence in Services in Education and Outreach: to implement an education and outreach program which ensures that all segments of the community know about Blackburn Center's services and mission, and provides comprehensive educational programming to students, community members, and professionals.

Blackburn Center's education team presents programs in nearly all of the public school districts in the county; in many private schools, Head Start programs and pre-schools, and at local colleges and universities. These programs are provided to children from pre-school through college. Our education team has developed curriculum that is age appropriate and interactive. Our educational programs draw on the strengths of videos and other materials purchased by the agency.

Blackburn Center also provides programs to community groups each year. This type of community contact is an important way for us to reach a large group of residents with pertinent information, and also to expand the network and growth of new programs. Topics can be tailored to the group's interest or selected from the following list:

- Blackburn Center's Mission and Service Focus
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Elder Abuse
- Human Trafficking
- Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Other Crimes
- How Can I Support Blackburn's Mission?
- Bystander Approach: A Community Model
- Involving Men in Ending Gender-based Violence
- The Impact of Our Words
- Navigating Social Media
- Media Literacy

- Helping a Friend who is a Victim of Dating, Domestic or Sexual Violence

Each year, Blackburn Center staff provide hundreds of skills-based trainings to professionals, schools, businesses, and community organizations on identifying, asking, and responding to gender-based violence and other types of violence and crime. Available training topics include, but are not limited to:

- Creating Safe and Thriving Workplaces: A Comprehensive Approach to Harassment Prevention
- Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse
- Responding to Intimate Partner Violence in the Workplace
- Response to Trauma for Religious Leaders
- Understanding Trauma and How that Impacts Your Work in the Community
- A Trauma-Informed Approach in Your School or Business
- Title IX Training for High School and Higher Education Students, Staff and Faculty: options for students impacted by violence in the school or campus setting

IV. Public Policy and Systems Change: to strengthen Blackburn Center's ability to affect systems and public policy change.

Blackburn Center has engaged in public policy and systems change work since we opened our doors. We are committed now to formalizing and expanding this work through a committee of our Board of Directors. This committee will reach out to community members who can be allies in this work and will lead the Board and staff in focused efforts in public policy advocacy.

V. Sustainability and Infrastructure: to ensure that Blackburn Center has the resources (financial, human, community goodwill) and internal capacity to support our commitment to excellence in services, education, and primary prevention initiatives.

Blackburn Center continually assesses opportunities in the community to expand volunteer and financial support of our services. In addition, we focus resources on training for staff, volunteers, and Board members; exploring enhancements to services through technology advancements; and evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of our work on a regular basis.

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DONORS

The levels of giving represent the total of gifts from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

BUSINESSES

Anonymous
1st Summit Bank
Akoya
All Gel, Inc.
Amazon Smile
Amcom Office Systems
Art & Frame Gallery
AssetGenie, Inc.
Baltimore Life Insurance Co.
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Big Ed's Jerky, Inc.
BRW Consulting, LLC
Carol Harris Staffing, LLC
Carpenter Construction, Inc.
Collections by Marty
Commercial Bank & Trust of PA
Drew Pullion Flooring
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group
Enscoe Long Insurance Group, LLC
Erie Insurance Group
Excelsa Health Community Relations
Excelsa Health Latrobe - EPIC Rehab Unit
Excelsa Health - Westmoreland 2D PCU
Express Scripts
First National Bank
Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co, Inc.
Greater Latrobe-Laurel Valley
Regional Chamber of Commerce
Kattan-Ferretti Insurance
Kepple-Graft Funeral Home, Inc.
KLA Construction, Inc.
Latrobe Specialty Metals
Loyalhanna Realty
Maher Duessel
Markosky Engineering Group
Michael T. Blissman CPA, & Company, LLC
Mullen Refrigeration Service, Inc.
Nature's Way Food Market
Network for Good
Norman Alan Company, LLC
Pace Industries, Airo Division
PNC Wealth Management
Quadrant Engineering Plastic Products, Inc.
QuatriniRafferty, P.C.
QuatriniRafferty Staff
Ramada Greensburg Hotel and
Conference Center
Rich's Parkside Den, Inc.
Sendell Motors, Inc.
Sensational Showstoppers
Sharp Image Hair Design & Day Spa, Inc.
Smail Auto Group
Somerset Trust Company
Standard Bank of Greensburg

Stewart, McArdle, Sorice, et al
Toyota of Greensburg
Tuscano - Maher Roofing
Tuscano Agency
Wes-Mel, Inc.
Westmoreland Case Management
& Supports, Inc.
Westmoreland Community Action
Westmoreland Community Federal Credit Union
Westmoreland County Assistance Office Staff
Westmoreland County Housing Authority Staff
Westmoreland County Treasurer
Westmoreland Cultural Trust
Westmoreland Federal Savings

ORGANIZATIONS

Anonymous
Adelphoi USA
American Slovak Society of Bradenville
Amvets Post 85 - Ladies Auxiliary
Arona United Methodist Church
Artisans of Hands and Hearts
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
BPW of Latrobe
BPW of Ligonier Valley
Bushy Run Lions Club
Calvary Lutheran Church -
Evangelism Committee
Calvary United Methodist Church -
Mission Committee
Calvin United Presbyterian Church -
Deacon's Fund
Calvin United Presbyterian Church -
Women's Association
Caring & Sharing - Greater Greensburg
Area Facebook Group
Charter Oak United Methodist Women
Chestnut Ridge Lions Club
Christ United Church of Christ
Christ's Church - Ladies' Bible Study
Church of St Anne - Holy Name Society
Community United Methodist Church
Community United Presbyterian Church -
Women's Association
Community Women's Club of Level Green
Congruity Presbyterian Church
Crisis Text Line Counselors
Denmark Manor United Church of Christ
Derry First United Methodist Church Women
Early Learners, LLC
East Huntingdon Lioness Club
East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church
Excelsa Health - Evening with the
Stars Committee
Faith United Methodist Church - Tabitha Circle
Faith United Methodist Church -
Women's Group
First Baptist Church of Greensburg
First Church of the Brethren of Ligonier
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg

First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville
First Presbyterian Church Women of Irwin
First Presbyterian Church -
Women's Association
First Trinity United Church Of Christ -
Fellowship Club
First United Church of Christ
First United Methodist Church
Fraternal Order Of Eagles - AERIE #1612
GFWC Murrysville Woman's Club
GFWC Town and Country Woman's Club
Girl Scout Troop 36801
Graff Daycare Home
Greater Latrobe Education Association
Greek Catholic Union of USA - District 4
Greensburg Area Singles
Greensburg-East Hempfield Lions Club
Harrison City Area Woman's Club
Harrold Middle School
Harrold Zion Lutheran Church - Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Harrold Zion Lutheran Church
Hempfield Area HS Student Council
Hempfield Garden Club
Heritage United Methodist Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Jeannette Business Association
Kiwanis Club of Greensburg
Knights of Columbus No. 2648
Latrobe Elementary School Faculty & Staff
Latrobe Elks No. 907 BPO Elks
Latrobe Presbyterian Church
Latrobe United Presbyterian Church
Latrobe Veterans Home Association
Madison United Methodist Church
Manor Presbyterian Church -
Women's Association
Maplewood United Presbyterian Church
Mental Health America of
Westmoreland County
Middle Presbyterian Church
Murrysville Christian Concern, Inc.
Murrysville Women's Club
New Hope Presbyterian Church
Norwin Christian Church
Norwin Lions Club
PA Department of Human Services
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
Private Industry Council
Quality Time Ministries
Red Satin Dolls
Rehoboth Presbyterian Church Deacons
Reunion Presbyterian Church -
Women's Association
Rotary Club of Greensburg
Ruffs Dale Book Club
Saint Paul Parish Rosary Altar Society
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Scottdale Beta Y Gradale
Second Baptist Church

Seton General Assembly 4th Degree -
Knights of Columbus - Greensburg
Seton Hill University
Seton Hill University - Art Therapy Students
Seton Hill University - Physician Assistant's Club
SNPJ Lodge No. 223
St. Anne Church - Christian Mothers
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Christian Mothers
St. Emma's Retreat House
St. John's Harrold United Church of Christ
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Women of North
American Lutheran Church
St. Vincent Basilica Parish -Social Ministry
St. Vincent College - Psi Chi
Super Seniors of Westmoreland County
The First Baptist Church - Ester Circle
The Tabitha Society
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Trinity United Church of Christ -
Women's Association
Trinity United Methodist Church -
Missionary Fund
Trinity United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Ligonier - Beulah Rosen Committee
United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church of Waterford
United Way of Southwestern PA
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg -
Academic Villages
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg -
Criminal Justice Club
Valley School of Ligonier
West Newton United Presbyterian Women
Westmoreland City Primitive Methodist
Church - Sunday School
Westmoreland County Community College
Westmoreland LGBT Community
Women in the NAACP - Greensburg/
Jeannette Branch
Youngwood Lions Club
Youngwood Lodge 23 LOOM
Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous
The Allstate Foundation
CentiMark Foundation
Dollar Bank Foundation
FirstEnergy Giving Foundation
Funds Administered by The Community
Foundation of Westmoreland County:
Geiser Acuff Charitable Fund
James and Kathleen Bendel Fund
Penn Pals Fund
Susanna and Bussy Bowman Charitable Fund
FISA Foundation
The Hauser Family Trust
Jim & Beth Hergenroeder - Family Legacy Fund

Kennametal Foundation
Nick & Mary Pavlakovic Charitable Fund
The Pittsburgh Foundation
Quindlen Family Trust Fund
McFeely-Rogers Foundation
Standard Charitable Foundation
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Schaab Memorial Foundation
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
The Smiy Family Foundation
UPS Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

CHANGE AGENT

(\$5,000 and up)

Anonymous
Mrs. Lucy Ann Conrad
Mr. Peter Nordby

CHAMPION

(\$2,500-\$4,999)

Anonymous
Mr. Michael Foy
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kenawell
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lupson
Mr. and Mrs. A. Frank Petrosky
Mr. James McKenna, Jr.
Mr. Nicholas T. Passaro

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(\$1,000-\$2,499)

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(\$100-\$249)

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Ms. Bessie Wright
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(up to \$99)**

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