



**BlackburnCenter**  
Standing together to end violence.

Spring 2024

# STANDINGSTRONG

Blackburn Center News



## WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES®

Westmoreland County's 13th International March  
to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault, & Gender Violence

**Take a STAND...  
While taking a WALK!**

**WHEN:** Saturday April 13, 2024

**WHERE:** St. Clair Park in Greensburg

**REGISTRATION:** 9:00am – 10:00am

**WALK BEGINS:** 10:00am

- Registration is \$5 for each participant
- Children 12 and under are free
- Family-friendly event
- Pets on a leash are welcome

### Prizes for most festive shoes!

T-shirts will be available for a fee of \$5.00 each while supplies last. Participants will receive sunglasses while supply lasts, and are available in child and adult sizes.

**REGISTER ONLINE:**

**[www.blackburncenter.org](http://www.blackburncenter.org)**

In Westmoreland County, a project of



**BlackburnCenter**  
Standing together to end violence.

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A G E N C Y

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**Big Stride Sponsors**

JANICE GARLOCK  
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**Form teams with your family, friends,  
co-workers, school or neighbors  
to support Blackburn Center's  
services to victims of violence.**

# WALK A MILE 2024: Unity is Strength

Since 2010, Blackburn Center has hosted the **Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®** event as a way to raise awareness about gender-based violence – along with much-needed funds to support our mission. On April 13, 2024, we will gather once again at St. Clair Park in Greensburg for our 13th annual walk.

Each year, we choose a theme for the Walk. The theme is meant to highlight a crucial aspect of our work. At the same time, our theme is used as a way to educate the community about the ways that they can get involved in the fight to end gender-based violence.

**This year, our theme will be Unity is Strength.**

The phrase "unity is strength" has been used throughout history. In fact, a version of this saying can be traced back to ancient Greece, when Homer wrote in 850 BC that the power lies in unity. So what exactly does it mean? Unity is strength has a simple meaning: we are stronger when we work together as a group. We may be able to accomplish quite a bit as individuals. Yet, when it comes to taking on big challenges, working with others is the best way to achieve our goal.

In context, we can show strength in unity in the movement to end gender-based violence – which is a different type of wrongdoing that can and does affect all of us. This type of violence takes many forms, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and human trafficking. At its core, gender-based violence is any type of abuse that targets a person because of their gender, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. While women and LGBTQ+ people are more vulnerable to gender-based violence, it can – and does – affect anyone.

As an organization, we know that gender-based violence will only end when we address its root causes: inequality, the objectification and degradation of women in media, rape culture, and harmful gender norms. We also know that we can't do it alone: it will take all of us, working together and united in strength, to make a difference.

This brings us back to unity. As individuals, we may not have experienced gender-based violence. As a community, however, we have a shared interest in ending this type of abuse. When we unite as a community there is strength in our unity, and together we can make a difference.



**WALK A MILE  
IN HER SHOES®**

What does showing unity with victims and survivors of gender-based violence mean? It can take many different forms. Registering for the Walk is a great way to show strength in unity, as is attending the Walk and participating in a respectful way. You can also show how unity is strength by:

- Contacting your legislators to urge them to support a law that would support victims and survivors of gender-based violence;
- Volunteering for Blackburn Center;
- Making a conscious choice to not consume media that is degrading to women;
- Donating to Blackburn Center; and
- Speaking up when someone makes a joke about rape, domestic abuse, or another form of gender-based violence.

***On April 13, join us as we unite for victims and survivors of gender-based violence in Westmoreland County. By walking a mile together, we can demonstrate our strength in unity to the community as a whole, that we take this issue seriously – and that we are committed to doing our part to end gender-based violence. While this year's Walk theme is Unity is Strength with victims and survivors of gender-based violence, Blackburn Center remains committed to eliminating all forms of violence in our community.***

## 2024 ALL OCCASION CARD

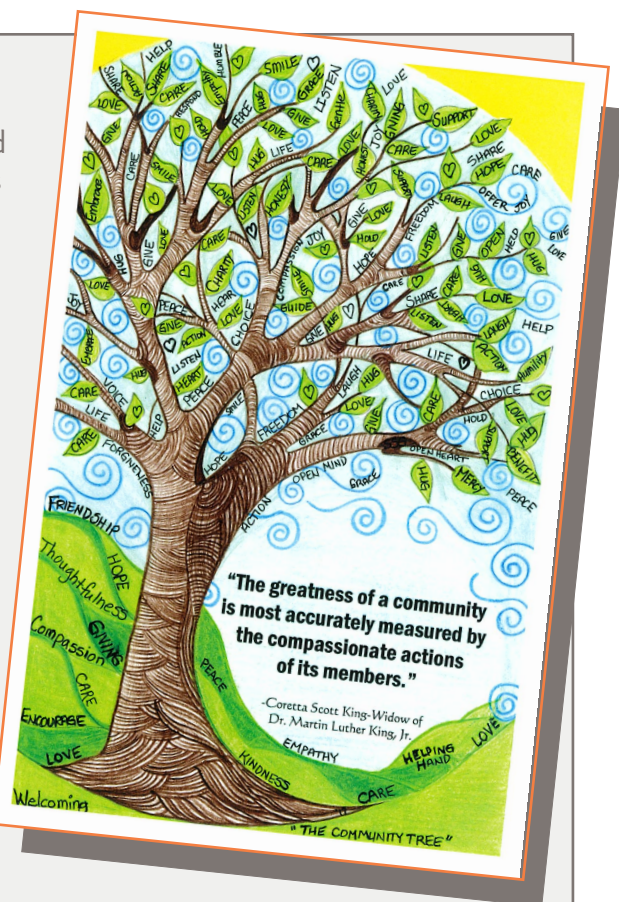
Susanna Gardikes, a friend of Blackburn Center, designed this beautiful card. It is part of a collector's series that was started in 1999. Other designs from this collection are available at [www.blackburncenter.org](http://www.blackburncenter.org).

Proceeds from this project are invested directly in the services Blackburn Center provides to the community. 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.

For each \$25 gift to Blackburn Center, we will send a card to the person you specify and will include a message specific to the occasion inside the card. For any level of giving, your name and the name of the person you honor will be included in the fall edition of our newsletter, and your name will appear in Blackburn Center's Annual Report. (If you prefer, we will list you as "anonymous.")

You can make a donation and choose a card (or cards) via our website: [www.blackburncenter.org/greetingcards](http://www.blackburncenter.org/greetingcards).

**Please consider this a way to touch the lives of thousands of people in our community as you touch the lives of those you honor. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for sharing in our mission.**



**For more information about donation opportunities, contact:**

**Blackburn Center**

**P.O. Box 398, Greensburg, PA 15601**

**724.837.9540**

**[www.blackburncenter.org](http://www.blackburncenter.org)**

**For Blackburn Center's services, call the 24- Hour Hotline:**

**724.836.1122 or 1.888.832.2272**

## REMINDERS

### United Way Campaign

All Southwestern PA 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.



### Volunteer Opportunities

Blackburn Center has volunteer positions available. To learn about these opportunities, call our office: 724-837-9540, x114.

### Trainings Available for the Community

- Creating Safe and Thriving Workplaces: A Comprehensive Approach to Preventing Harassment
- Bystander Intervention: A Community Model for Interrupting and Preventing Violence

To schedule either of these trainings, please contact Kristin at 724-837-9540, x114 or [kristinm@blackburncenter.org](mailto:kristinm@blackburncenter.org).

### Board of Directors

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## Help Us Help Others!

Your donations throughout the year enhance Blackburn Center's services. Items from the needs list can help to make the stay for shelter residents more homelike, can provide a victim/survivor of domestic violence with basic household items as they start to establish a home that is safe for themselves and their children, and can fill a grocery bag for clients who need an extra helping hand.



Scan here to  
access the needs list

## Blackburn Center 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

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 other forms of violence; and emergency shelter 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.



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