

Spring 2021

# STANDINGSTRONG

Blackburn Center News

Throughout the year, Blackburn Center sponsors and hosts events designed to gain support for our mission to end gender-based violence, and to raise awareness about these issues. With your help, we can reach our goal of ending this type of violence in our community!

Our signature event, **Walk a Mile in Their His Her Our Shoes**, takes place each April. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2020 Walk was cancelled. This year, our Walk will be virtual to support the health and safety of our participants and community as a whole.

Walk a **MILE** in  
**Their  
His  
Her  
Our  
SHOES®**



## *As part of our Walk, you can:*

- Walk a mile in a location of your choosing, or at one of the trails that we suggest around Westmoreland County. How do you know that you've walked a mile? There are 2,000 steps in one mile!
- Do one or more virtual activities to engage in our mission to end gender-based violence, and the call to action that supports our mission. These activities will include things like sharing posts, pictures and videos on social media, as well as crossword puzzles, coloring pages and more!

This year, there is no registration fee to participate in the Walk. We encourage you to donate \$5.00 (or more!) to support our mission, and to ask your friends and family to donate as well. You can also request a yard sign and/or Walk t-shirt!

*The Walk will take place between  
April 7 and 10, 2021  
at a location of your choosing.*

Scan here to access  
the 2021 Walk website



**Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Blackburn Center remains committed to providing services to anyone who has been impacted by violence. WE ARE STILL HERE.**

## Help Us Help Others – Safely!

We appreciate your generous ongoing support of our services and our clients. We are currently unable to accept in-person donations of items for our programs as a cautionary measure due to COVID-19; however, there are still ways that you can help! You can make a monetary donation online or send a check to Blackburn Center (P.O. Box 398, Greensburg, PA 15601). Or, if you want to purchase items needed for our shelter and counseling programs, you can shop from our wish list on Amazon.

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

**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 24/7 Hotline:**

**724.836.1122 or 1.888.832.2272**

Scan here ➔  
to access  
the wish list



Our theme for this year's **Walk a Mile in Their His Her Our Shoes** is **EMPATHY**. Empathy is the awareness of the feelings of another person or group of people, coupled with the ability to imagine those feelings from their perspective. Some may describe it as “walking a mile in their shoes.”



**NARRATIVE 4**  
Share Today. Change Tomorrow.

At Blackburn Center, we believe that if individuals understand and foster empathy, and practice empathy in their everyday lives, it can reduce incidents of hurtful behavior. Our **Walk a Mile** event provides an opportunity to do this.

One way that Blackburn Center provides education about empathy is through the Narrative 4 program. Narrative 4 is a global network that uses storytelling to build empathy among participants by having them tell stories from the perspective of another person.

Several of our staff at Blackburn Center have become certified Narrative 4 Story Exchange facilitators, and we have used this method of education in the community to emphasize the significance of empathy and the importance of applying it to our daily interactions with others.

If you would like to hear more about scheduling a facilitated story exchange, please call our office: 724-837-9540, x114.



## 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).

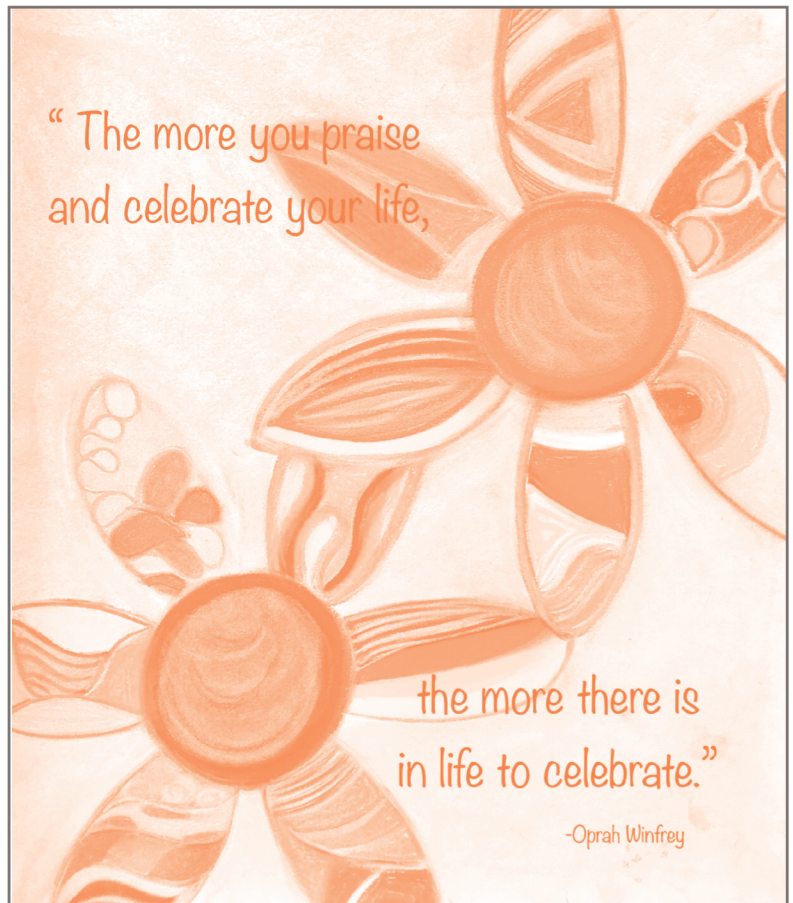
## 2021 ALL OCCASION CARD

For more than 20 years, Blackburn Center has offered a meaningful way for you to mark important occasions and celebrate special people in your life through our Special Occasion Cards. During this time of social distancing and staying safe, our all-occasion cards make it easier than ever to send a card to a loved one while supporting our services.

This year's beautiful card, designed by a friend of Blackburn Center, features the verse: *"The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate."*  
-Oprah Winfrey

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 or occasion 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 send a card (or cards) of your choosing via our website: [www.blackburncenter.org/greetingcards](http://www.blackburncenter.org/greetingcards).



**Please consider this 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.**



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**BlackburnCenter**

Standing together to end violence.

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Greensburg, PA

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## Blackburn Center Vision, 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.

Blackburn Center is funded in part by United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, 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.