

Spring 2018

STANDINGSTRONG

Blackburn Center News



CALLING **ALL** COURAGEOUS MEN OF
WESTMORELAND COUNTY TO

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

The 8th Annual Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018
Offutt Field & Stadium in Greensburg
Registration 9-10am • Walk begins 10am

Registration is \$5 for each participant. Men, women and children are welcome! Includes free event t-shirt (while supplies last).

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.blackburncenter.org or call 724-837-9540 x144

Teams are encouraged!
Form groups at work or school and walk as a team.

You may carry an identifying banner, but the banner must be pre-approved by Blackburn Center prior to the Walk.

In Westmoreland County, a project of



BlackburnCenter
Standing together to end violence.

Underwriting Sponsor

Tuscano
A G E N C Y

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Commissioner Charles Anderson
Commissioner Ted Kopas
Commissioner Gina Cerilli



United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania serves Allegheny
Westmoreland, Fayette & Southern Armstrong Counties

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.

24-hour hotline 724.836.1122 or 1.888.832.2272, Deaf and hard-of-hearing may use VRS to call hotline



Tarana Burke, #MeToo, and How National Movements Can Inspire Local Action

This year, we will host our eighth annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. Our Walk seems to carry more poignancy than before, coming on the heels of national movements such as #MeToo that have sought to bring attention to the issues of sexual assault and harassment — and justice for its victims.

In February 2018, Tarana Burke, the original founder of the #MeToo movement, gave a talk in Pittsburgh at the Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside. More than 1,000 attendees listened raptly as Ms. Burke described how she came to this line of work, and how she originated the phrase that kicked off a national



movement. Through her work with youth, Ms. Burke had noted that the crime of sexual assault is so common, and yet so isolating. The phrase #MeToo promotes unity, creating what she deems “empowerment through empathy.” According to Ms. Burke, “‘Me Too’ creates this community that we need because this road to healing and recovery is so tough.” It also has generated a national conversation around the topic of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

At Blackburn Center, we have offered services to victims of sexual violence and worked to prevent this and other forms of violence for more than 40 years. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is an important way for us to raise awareness about issues such as sexual assault and sexual harassment. Westmoreland County residents may follow the news and see what is happening in Hollywood or Washington, D.C. and wonder how they can get involved. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes gives everyone a direct way to join the movement and take direct action against gender-based violence in our community.

We have reached a critical juncture in our society — a time when women and men alike are standing up to say that sexual assault and harassment are no longer acceptable. We know that it will take more than a hashtag or a few resignations to make a real difference. It will take women and men getting involved at the local level, and pushing for change. Joining us at the Walk is a first step. **Will you commit to Walking a Mile in Her Shoes this year?**

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.

2016-17 Annual Report

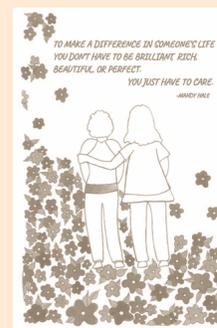
To reduce costs and environmental impact, we will be posting Blackburn Center’s Annual Report on our website: www.blackburncenter.org. The 2016-17 report is now available for your review. Please let us know if you’d like a hard copy sent to you; call 724.837.9540.

For 19 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 Card. This year’s card, designed by a Blackburn Center client, features this verse:

**To make a difference in someone’s life
You don’t have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect.
You just have to care.**

For each \$25 gift to Blackburn Center, we will send a card to the person you specify and will include your personal message 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.”) We have enclosed a remittance envelope in this newsletter for your convenience. 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.



This specially created collector’s card was designed by a friend of Blackburn Center. Our artist has left the people in the picture as “sketches” to allow others to visualize who they might be. She credits this image to someone special in her life who helped her to see the beauty in the world.

How Bystander Intervention Can Help Prevent Violence

At Blackburn Center, we believe that primary prevention — addressing the root causes of gender-based violence — is the best way to end violence in our community. However, there are a number of other methods that can be used to influence outcomes in specific situations. That is why we have developed a bystander intervention training curriculum for the Westmoreland County community. This training is patterned after an approach that is currently being implemented on college campuses here in the county, but that we have updated for broader community application.

Bystander intervention involves recognizing a potentially harmful situation or other interaction, and responding in a way to positively influence the outcome. While the concept may seem simple — like the Department of Homeland Security's tagline of "if you see something, say something" — in practice, bystander intervention can be more complex. For example, if you see a person being physically or emotionally abused by a partner, intervening directly may lead to more harm to the victim after you have left the situation. Bystander intervention training for schools, community

groups and other organizations in Westmoreland County develops skills that will help to assess and respond in these situations.

A bystander is any person who is present when an event takes place, but who isn't directly involved in the situation itself. They may be present when sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, or any other form of violence is happening. Alternatively, a bystander may witness the events that lead up to these types of abuse. In some scenarios, bystanders may be able to intervene safely to prevent violence from occurring.

Bystander intervention can be a highly effective way for an individual to prevent gender-based violence. The key is knowing how to do it safely and effectively. That's where Blackburn Center's bystander intervention training comes into play. These training and educational programs are free of charge, and are a vital part of our overall mission to end all forms of violence in our community. Contact our office or visit our website to schedule a training or to learn more about bystander intervention.

BLACKBURN CENTER NEEDS LIST

Items Needed throughout the Year for the Emergency Shelter for Current and Former Residents

KITCHEN

Coffee (regular)

Coffee creamer
Cookie sheets
Cooking oil
Food items: any canned food, other non-perishables, etc.*

Glass baking dishes

Kitchen towels & dish cloths

Paper products: paper towels
Paper towel holders
Plastic pitchers

Pots, pans & skillets

Silverware, service for 4

Small appliances: electric can openers, coffee makers, toasters, mixers, etc.

Storage bags – 2.5 Gallon

Zip-lock bags – 2 gallon, 2.5 gallon & quart size

**Food items we especially need include: all kinds of soups, jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken and other meats, canned or bottled juices.*

BATHROOM

Hair care products for women of color

Hair conditioner – full-size

Liquid hand soap
Paper products: toilet paper
Shower caddies
Toddler/Training toothpaste

Towels: durable, bath and hand towels and washcloths

BEDROOM

Alarm clocks

Baby monitors

Bed-in-a-bag sets – twin & full

Blankets – cotton, twin & full

Comforters – twin & full

Pajamas sets: summer-weight

Women- small, medium, large, 2x

Boys – sizes 4-5

Girls – sizes 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14

Pillows - washable

Slippers - all sizes

MISCELLANEOUS

60-watt lightbulbs

Bras – all sizes

Brooms

Colored pencils

Diapers – sizes 5 & 6 only

Duffel bags

Fabric softener sheets

Flashlights

Gasoline cards (GetGo & Sheetz)

Gift cards (Giant Eagle, Walmart

Shop 'N Save & Target)

Juice boxes

Laundry detergent

Mops

Mr. Clean Magic Erasers

Outdoor garbage bags

Sweat suits – small, medium & large

Tool kits

Underpants:

Women's sizes 4, 5, 6, 7

Boys' sizes L & XL

Girls' sizes 6, 7, 8

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.

For more information about donation opportunities, contact:

Blackburn Center

PO Box 398

Greensburg, PA 15601

724.837.9540

www.blackburncenter.org



BlackburnCenter

Standing together to end violence.

PO Box 398
Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

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Blackburn Center's Commitment to Helping Victims of Violence: Women, Children and Men

Since 1976, Blackburn Center has offered services to victims of violence in Westmoreland County. Over the years, our mission has evolved. While our services were originally geared towards victims of domestic and sexual violence, our organization now offers a wide range of services to anyone whose life has been impacted by any type of violence or crime.

We know that violence and crime can impact anyone, regardless of gender, race, age, socio-economic status, or religion. For this reason, all of our services are available for women, children and men. We provide services to children, teens, adults and seniors, and to individuals in all parts of Westmoreland County. Blackburn Center is committed to supporting the wide range of needs for anyone in the community. Through an expanded outreach program, we have recently dedicated increased outreach to the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, the elderly, people with limited English proficiency, and victims of human trafficking.

Our client services are trauma-focused and include:

- a 24-hour hotline, which 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. Our hotline can be reached at: 1.888.832.2272 or 724.836.1122.
- an emergency shelter for victims of intimate partner violence and their children.
- counseling, therapy and support groups for victims of any type of violence or crime.
- legal and medical accompaniment and advocacy through all parts of the legal and medical systems.

All services are offered at no charge to clients, are confidential and can be anonymous.

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 domestic violence and their dependent children. Blackburn Center also provides community education, school student awareness programs, and in-service professional trainings throughout Westmoreland County.

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 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.

