

Womenews

W o m e n ' s C e n t e r o f M o n t g o m e r y C o u n t y

Executive Director's Report



Submitted by Maria Macaluso

As the first quarter of fiscal year 2007-2008 comes to a close, I am pleased to report that things are going very well here at the Women's Center of Montgomery County! In terms of funding, the Center has been fortunate to receive several significant foundation grants in July and August, totaling more than \$50,000 to support program and organizational initiatives that will enhance our efficiency, improve our informational systems capabilities, create new services for victims of domestic violence, and provide new training opportunities for our direct service volunteers on topics such as legal advocacy, custodial issues, and personal economic planning to help victims of domestic violence establish themselves as financially independent of their abusers.

Additionally, the Center was selected as one of five programs for a research project by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency to identify best practices in organizational capacity building. Two of the members of the research team recently visited the Elkins Park office and were extremely supportive and complimentary about the work we are doing and the significant accomplishments we have made in utilizing information systems technology to enhance our work.

While experiencing all of this positive feedback, I also received the wonderful news that the Women's Center of Montgomery County has been selected as a finalist for an award from GlaxoSmithKline for their Eleventh Annual IMPACT Awards. Although this only means that we made it past the initial screening of applications, it is certainly rewarding to know that our work merits this consideration. Should the Center be selected among the ten winners, we would receive a cash award of \$40,000 in support of our work and the distinguished honor associated with this prestigious award.

I also want to highlight the news that our own beloved volunteer counselor Judy B. was the focus of two awards this past month. First, as reported last month, Judy was selected as one of three finalists for the Phebe Novakovic Award, presented by the Women's Resource Center in Wayne. Although Judy was not the ultimate winner of the award, the lovely tribute in her honor presented at the breakfast celebration they hosted was a most meaningful experience for all of us who attended to support Judy.

Then, in more good news for the Center and for Judy, we received word in mid-September that Judy was selected as the winner of the 2007 Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Award for Community Service. For more information about this award and Judy's nominee, I encourage you to read the article that appears in this edition of Womenews!

I know all of the volunteers here at the Center who have worked with Judy over the years – as a trainer, as a counselor, as a Board member, and as a mentor - will join me in celebrating her accomplishments and her wonderful work here at the Center. But I also know that Judy herself would join me in saying that we are proud of all of our volunteers and the amazing

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work you do on behalf of the Women's Center of Montgomery County. Indeed, all of these recent recognitions, grants and successes are truly a testament to the outstanding work of our most elite and impressive group of volunteers!

Since October is the month in which we host our annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, I also wanted to take a moment to tell you all – as emphatically, enthusiastically, and sincerely as possible – how beloved all of you are by the Board and staff. Not a day goes by when I personally do not pause to think how truly fortunate and honored I am to work at an organization that attracts such dedicated, talented and passionate individuals. It is a most humbling and gratifying experience to lead such a dynamic organization, and I celebrate daily the experience of knowing you and working with you!

Before I move on to some exciting programmatic news, I also wanted to reflect on a somber occasion. Many of you knew volunteer Gloria Rosenberg, who passed away in June 2006. Gloria was with the Center for many years, and all of us who worked with her knew and loved her as a feisty, skillful, humorous and devoted 'fixture' here in the Jenkintown/Elkins Park office. She was such an integral part of our operations, our history, and our organizational conscience that we still find ourselves frequently reflecting on her life and her impact on the Center. Since the unveiling of her gravestone on September 30, 2007, I thought it was an especially meaningful time for us to remember this incredible individual.

In more programmatic news, I have an announcement about a new project we are beginning in January. The Women's Center was selected as one of four programs to be funded under the 2007 Innovative Initiatives Grants offered by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency through their Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). Our proposal was to create an aggressive outreach and training program to address stalking on college campuses throughout Montgomery County. With this funding, we will develop and implement a stalking curriculum for Resident Advisors, college administrators, and campus security that will educate them so that they can:

- 1) promote awareness among students about the early warning signs of stalking;
- 2) maintain resource tools, such as Stalking Incident and Behavior Logs, to help students document incidents;
- 3) offer current and helpful resources on safety planning and options counseling to students affected by stalking;
- 4) develop university protocols for responding to stalking, including an understanding of the role of the campus judicial system and its interaction with the local police department.

At a time when college enrollment is growing and students are faced with increasing incidents of stalking, prevention and education at the campuses it is critical to ensure the physical safety, emotional well-being and academic success of our college students. Since this project has the potential to be funded for up to two years (the second year is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the first year activities) and provides for the creation of a second part-time community education position, we are excited to be able to initiate this effort! I also hope to partner with our friends at Victims Services Center in a collaboration to bring services and awareness to our college campuses!

Finally, I am delighted to report that we have signed a lease for new space in Lansdale, with occupancy expected upon completion of construction in early winter. As a tenant in a new building owned by the North Penn Community Health Foundation, we will have a wonderful opportunity to explore partnerships with our fellow residents which include Family Services of Montgomery County, Children's Aid and the North Penn YMCA. This promises to be a most extraordinary facility, with great thought given to the needs and constraints of the non-profits who will occupy the space. I am hopeful that this will be the launch of many new possibilities for the Women's Center of Montgomery County in the North Penn community!

As I said at the start of my article, things are going well here at the Women's Center of Montgomery County!

Congratulations to Volunteer Judy Blumstein

It is my great pleasure to announce that volunteer Judy Blumstein has been selected to receive the 2007 Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Award for Community Service.

The Pathfinder Awards were created to honor and recognize those who have shown a commitment to enhancing the lives of victims of crime within Pennsylvania. Judy was chosen to receive this award by a committee of victim service providers that were representative of a range of victim service programs throughout Pennsylvania. She was selected for her contributions to and impact upon the victim services movement. In the words of the award committee, 'a spirit of empowerment is obvious in her work benefiting the community that she carries out enthusiastically as a volunteer with the Women's Center of Montgomery County.

The award will be presented at the Ninth Annual PA Pathways Conference for Victim Services during a banquet to be held on Thursday, November 17th in State College.

I hope all of you will join me in congratulating Judy on this wonderful honor and thanking her for the amazing work she does here at the Women's Center!

Pottstown's Potpourri

Summer is typically the time for vacations, unfortunately, domestic violence does not take a vacation. It is for this reason that the Support Group in Pottstown continued to meet every Tuesday evening from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM during the summer months.

As always, the Support Group provides a safe and supportive environment in which its members can explore and express their feelings. Typically, this is done by each member verbalizing their feelings. However, this summer the members of the group were challenged to express their feelings via different mediums. This challenge proved to be enlightening, empowering, and fun for everyone involved!

Music was the first method by which the members chose to express themselves in a different manner. Each Support Group member was free to pick a song that they could identify with or that expressed how they were feeling. The song that seemed to strike a chord with everyone was Stupid Boy by Keith Urban.

The group also dabbled in the art of painting to express themselves. The Women's Center provided the canvas, T-shirts, and the paints but the women of the group provided the words and the images. The visual expressions of their feelings and the messages they conveyed are powerful and can be seen proudly displayed in the Pottstown office.

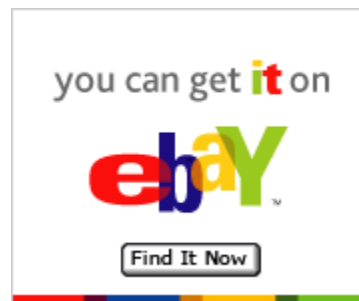
Kristine Wickward
Legal Advocate - Pottstown



Benefit the Women's Center When You Shop On-Line!

The Women's Center of Montgomery County will earn a percentage of each purchase you make at participating vendors if you link to their site through the Women's Center website at www.wcmontco.org. Just log onto the Women's Center website and click on 'shopping links' before you place your order. You must access the merchant's site through the Women's Center shopping link on our home page for the Center to receive credit!

Below is a sampling of participating vendors, but check out our website for more!



The Women's Center of Montgomery County
Please make us your highest priority

**United Way Donor Option
Number 00433**

Attention Book Lovers

For an evening of stimulating discussions and good fellowship, join us on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30.

The Women's Center Book Club meets at members' homes and at the Women's Center office in Elkins Park.

October will find us reviewing "Water for Elephants" by Sarah Gruen and in November "March" by Geraldine Brooks. We will be reading "The Road" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns" among many other fascinating "Reads". Call Sunny at 215-576-6215 for further information. Hope to see you!!!

Support the Women's Center at Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Event

**Tuesday, October 16, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Purchase your **\$5.00** admission ticket from the Women's Center of Montgomery County through our Elkins Park office by calling 215-635-7340. Your \$5.00 is tax deductible, and the Women's Center keeps 100% of your donation.

With your admission to the event, you will receive a 25% discount shopping pass for purchases made at Boscov's only on October 16th.

The discount shopping pass can be used at any Boscov store in Montgomery County for purchases made on Friends Helping Friends Day (October 16, 2007).

**Your \$5.00 ticket purchase benefits the Women's Center of Montgomery County!
Tickets are now available at the Elkins Park Office
Contact us at 215-635-7340**

Support the Women's Center of Montgomery County Through eScrip

Buy participating products at Genuardi's/Safeway and earn up to 10% for **the Women's Center of Montgomery County**.

Women's Center of Montgomery County eScrip **Group ID – 2298334**

Please confirm that the Women's Center is your designated charity! You can sign up at your local store, at www.escrip.com and in the upcoming eScrip Magazine!

**Support the Women's Center at the
Bloomingdale's 10th Annual Multi-Charity Event:
The Shopping Benefit**

**Thursday, October 25, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Purchase your \$10.00 admission ticket from the Women's Center of Montgomery County through our Elkins Park office by calling 215-635-7340. Your \$10.00 is tax deductible, and the Women's Center keeps 100% of your donation. In addition, if you shop at Bloomingdale's on October 25th and present your ticket, bearing our stamp, the Center will receive an additional \$5.00 per ticket!

With your admission to the event, you can enjoy a 15% to 20% discount on your Bloomingdale's purchases on October 25th. The tickets are good for admission at King of Prussia and Willow Grove.

Come and enjoy the storewide discounts, fabulous enter-to-win prizes, live entertainment, cooking demonstrations, food and beverage samplings, trunk shows, informal modeling, vendor representatives, celebrity personal appearances, music, psychics, and, for the kids, balloon artists, caricaturists, costumed characters and much more.

Your \$10.00 ticket purchase benefits the Women's Center of Montgomery County!

Fundraising With a Conscience

Donating Your Used Cellphones

For several years now, the Women's Center of Montgomery has partnered with Shelter Alliance, a Miramar, Florida firm that specializes in the logistics and underwriting of fundraising programs through the collection and responsible recycling of used cellular phones. Shelter Alliance currently works with over 2000 social service organizations in 50 states and has contributed over \$4,000,000 to participating organizations.

Once discarded cell phones are collected by the Center, they are mailed to Shelter Alliance. They evaluate each phone and decide its worth. They will pay up to \$40 for newer telephones. These proceeds are paid back to our program to support services to victims of domestic violence.

Each year these donations benefit our program with several hundred dollars in added revenue. So spread the word and keep the phones coming. Phones can be delivered or mailed to any of our offices or the thrift shop.

For more information on Shelter Alliance check their website at www.shelteralliance.net.

Empty Ink Cartridges Wanted!

If you're looking for an easy way to support the Women's Center, bring us your empty Inkjet Cartridges, empty Laser Cartridges, laptops **with** power cords, and PDA's (Palm Pilots). We will be reimbursed for the items we collect by Cartridges for Kids, who will then recycle them in an ecologically friendly manner.

Please spread the word around and help us raise much needed funds.

**To end domestic violence, we must change our behavior.
To change our behavior, we must change our attitudes.
To change our attitudes, we need education.
To educate our communities, WE NEED YOU!**

Pre-School Program – My Hands Are Not For Hurting

October 1, 2007 – Grace Nursery School – Jenkintown – 10:00-10:30AM

November 5, 2007 – St. Andrew’s Nursery School- 9:15-10:35 AM and 12:30-1:20 PM

November 6, 2007 – St. Andrew’s Nursery School – 9:15-10:05 AM and 12:30-1:20 PM

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOPS And SPEAKING EVENTS

Oct. 2, 2007 – YWCA @ Pottsgrove Middle School – 2:45-4:30

Oct. 2, 2007 – Pine Forge Academy – Pine Forge – 6:00-6:45

Oct. 10, 2007 – St Catherine’s in Wayne – 7:00-8:00PM

Oct. 12, 2007 - Glenside Rotary Club at LuLu Country Club – Glenside – 12:15 – 1:30 PM

Oct. 15, 2007 – Bishop Shanahan High School – 7:45-9:15AM

Oct. 15, 2007 – Immaculata College – 10:10-11:25AM

Oct, 19, 2007 - 11th Annual Drug Free, Violence Free Youth Conference
Berean Conference Center in Sanatoga, PA.

TABLE EVENTS

October 3, 2007 – Rosemont College Health Fair – 11:00-1:00

October 6, 2007 – Montco. Community College – Blue Bell – Community Day – 11:00-3:00PM

October 13, 2007 – Community Harvest Festival ’07 – Whitpain Township Community Health Fair 11:00-5:00

October 13, 2007 – Schuylkill River Festival – Pottstown – 9:00AM-6:00PM

October 26, 2007 – Pottstown YMCA Halloween Safe House – 6:00-8:00PM

November 13, 2007 – Temple University – Ambler – Wellness Day 11:00-2:00

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

October 14, 2007 - The annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the William Penn Inn, from 11:00 to 2:00.

October 27, 2007 - The 3rd Annual Walkathon will be held at Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell Campus.

April 13, 2008 - Annual fundraiser at the Meadowlands Country Club.

Contact Janine Kelly
The Women’s Center of Montgomery County
Community Education Coordinator
610-525-1428
616-525-1429 (fax)
jkelly1@dca.net
www.wcmontco.org

**WOMEN'S CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PRESENTS OUR THIRD ANNUAL
"UNMASK THE ABUSE"
WALK-A-THON**

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 27, 2007
10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON**

**5K (3.1 MILES) WALK-A-THON
AT MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BLUE BELL CAMPUS**

**Join us as we work to raise awareness and promote community collaboration in our work
to end domestic violence!**

**For more information on how you can help,
Please contact Denise in the Norristown Office at
610-279-7474**

**Women's Center
of Montgomery
County**

Elkins Park Office

215-635-7344

Thrift Shop: 215-885-0620

FAX: 215-635-7347

Norristown Office

610-279-1548

FAX: 610-279-7740

Pottstown Office

610-970-7363

FAX: 610-970-0705

Lansdale Office

215-853-8060

FAX: 215-853-8065

Bryn Mawr Office

610-525-1427

FAX: 610-525-1429

www.wcmontco.org

**1-800-773-
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