

Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County

Executive Director's Report



Submitted by Maria Macaluso

One of the most enlightening things I have learned from our Board President, Beth Brinly, is that for a special event to be truly successful, it should be both a *fund-raiser* and a *friend-raiser* – an opportunity for the Women's Center to shine in the community and to connect with new people who come to learn about the Center and leave inspired and eager to get more involved. Our 1st Annual Art and Craft Show, held on August 22nd and 23rd in Glenside, was just such an event, thanks to the amazing efforts of our volunteer student interns led by Rachel Klos, a Temple University student and Jenkintown native. With the support and supervision of our Director of Volunteers, Deanna Linn, this dedicated group of students put together an impressive two-day exhibition of artwork, photography and crafts that was both well-attended and well-received by the public. Generating more than \$3,300 in sales and more than \$1,100 in income for the Center, this exhibit brought together local art students, artists from MamaCita (a local Mother's Cooperative in the Arts), and volunteers from the Center, such as jewelry handcrafted by former Board President Nancy Poor and designer pens created by current volunteer Dov Weiner. Also joining us – in the true spirit of collaboration at its finest – was Mary Onama, Executive Director of Victims Service Center, displaying African art, sculptures and dresses.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, which donated space in their Glenside facility, our volunteers and vendors created an impressive display of creativity, beauty and local talent over the course of a two-day event that began with a festive wine and cheese reception. As a participant who spent a fun-filled Saturday with the exhibitors and volunteers, I would like to share with you the pride I felt representing the Center as we greeted several hundred friends and community members throughout the day. In addition to the opportunity to view some fascinating and provocative work, my favorite memories of the day came from the enthusiasm, laughter and dedication of the volunteers and artists, the amazing generosity of the artists who donated a portion of their proceeds to the Center, and the kind words of our guests, who praised the artwork and the efforts of the Center to serve victims of domestic violence. Some particularly poignant moments occurred when three different women approached me to say that they had benefited from the services of the Center in past years and wanted to give back to others now that they were in a better place. I cannot express how much more meaningful a special event becomes when someone touches your heart with their story, knowing that the fruits of our labors mean so much to their lives!

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Deanna and Rachel



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When the idea to host this event was first presented by Rachel, I think that what drew us all in was the concept of creating a forum to showcase the talents of local women – something near and dear to our core values and our mission of empowering women. For those of you who have been with the Center since its early days, one of the things of which we are most proud – besides our work in domestic violence – is the potential the Center has for bringing together our members and helping them to achieve their own individual excellence and expression. In this case, Rachel felt that organizing a fundraiser featuring local young artists would be a great way to combine her interests in studio art and women’s organizations. According to Rachel, female artists are underrepresented in the art world and this was an opportunity to showcase their work.

The special event coordinated by this extraordinary group of young women, with support from our Board, staff and volunteers, truly achieved so much more than we could have ever dreamed in those early planning meetings. More than a showcase for talent and more than a fundraiser, this was an event that reminded us all of the potential that exists in our world – the potential to do more for women as an organization, the potential to reach new members of the community, and the potential within each of us to create something beautiful and lasting.

On behalf of all of the staff and Board, I want to thank Rachel and the members of our planning committee for an event that was entertaining, inspiring and, in every possible way, a demonstration of what makes the Women’s Center of Montgomery County so special – our amazing volunteers!

Social Group for Lesbian Women 50+

If you are interested in socializing and making new friends with other Lesbian over the age of 50 The Women’s Center of Montgomery County is forming a new social activity group at our Elkins Park Office. Initial meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 at our offices. For information, contact our office at 215-635-7340 and ask for Elsa.

Norristown Volunteer Update

IN-SERVICES

Our next in-service will be September 9th, 2008 at noon in the Norristown office. Our guest speaker will be from the Sheriff’s office and he will discuss the department panic button and how to read peoples defensive postures. He will also be available for any questions we have for him. We will also discuss office and prothy updates. If there are any topics that you would like to discuss from the summer months, please let me know.

LEGAL REMEDIES

The next Legal Remedies Workshop will be held on, September 16th, 2008 from 5-7pm in the Norristown office. The guest attorney will be Marianne Modesti, Esq. The discussion will be open to civil and family law. The information sessions are held at our Norristown office at 18 West Airy Street, 4th floor. Please call 610-279-7474 to register to attend. Also, please refer a family member or friend to this valuable program!

SAVE THE DATE

The Volunteer Appreciation Brunch will be held at the William Penn Inn on Sunday, September 21st, 2008 from 11am-2pm.

The walk-a-thon will take place on October 11, 2008 from 10-12 at Montgomery County Community College. Walkers are needed contact; Maria or Denise.

*Jenn B.
Norristown Volunteer Coordinator*

Pottstown's Potpourri

In July, a call for media action was issued by PCADV. This measure was considered necessary due to the number of deadly domestic violence incidents that had already occurred during the summer in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, the death toll continued to rise in August and our local communities have contributed to the deadly statistics.

The headlines that have been in Pottstown's local paper over the past 60 days reflect some of the devastation domestic violence has been inflicting on its victims.

*House sitter killed in West Vincent
Accused house sitter killer has history of violence*

*Murder-suicide attempt suspected
Alleged Pottstown shooter faces murder charges
Shooting victim filed for protection from abuse
Community surprised by identity of alleged shooter*

*Pathologist: Murdered woman struggled for her life
Victim's family: 'We finally got to see some justice'*

Man jailed for assaulting sister

Man allegedly threatened to 'put a bullet' in woman's head

Chesco officer sentenced in domestic dispute

For each headline in the newspapers and each news story on the evening news, there are many more incidents of domestic violence that no one ever reads or hears about. Domestic violence is a pervasive problem that must be addressed on many levels and from many different perspectives if we hope to prevent headlines like the ones previously listed. The concerted and collaborative effort of domestic violence agencies, police departments, judicial systems, medical establishments, legislators, and community members will be needed to significantly impact and prevent the cycle of domestic violence that is destroying many families and thereby significantly eroding the foundation of our communities.

It is time to save lives, families, and our communities by investing even more time, effort, cooperation, and yes, I will say it, **dollars**, to end the cycle of domestic violence and the devastation it causes!

*Kristine Wickward
Legal Advocate - Pottstown*

Women's Center of Montgomery County Evening Book Club

Book lovers are invited to participate in lively and interesting book discussions the third Wednesday monthly. Meetings are held at members' homes and at the Center. Among the books to be reviewed are Amsterdam, Little Women, Moral disorder, Loving Frank and more.

Please join us and call for additional information.

Sunny Letizi
215-576-6215

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

**Thursday, October 23, 2008
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!

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

**Tuesday, October 7th, 2008
9:00 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 7th.

The discount shopping pass can be used at any Boscov store in Montgomery County for purchases made on Friends Helping Friends Day.

Please note that the Montgomeryville Mall Boscov's will be closing in the next month, but the discount certificates can be used at the Boscov's in Plymouth Meeting Mall, Neshaminy Mall, and any other Boscov's in the PA/NJ region.

**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**

“Your Future Paycheck”

Did you know that ...

Women need more retirement income because they live three years longer than men? Yet half of all women work in traditionally female, lower-paid jobs without a pension. And, if they do receive a pension, women retirees receive only half the average benefit that men receive and must rely on Social Security for most of their income.

Boomer U is sponsoring a workshop called:

“Your Future Paycheck”

- Saturday, October 4, 2008
- 8:30-9:00am Continental breakfast
- 9:00 – 12:00 Workshop – ending with Q & A
- Boomer U – 45 Forest Avenue – Ambler
- Fee: \$10
- **Pre-registration required by Wed. October 1 ***

Our panel will include experts in the areas of social security, retirement income, and credit and debt management. You are invited to bring your questions.

This workshop is being offered strictly for educational purposes as a service to the women of the community. All ages are welcome.

Your Future Paycheck will focus on some of the basic information that women need to know about money and planning for their future. The session will provide you with:

- What you need to know to about how to get money, how to spend it, and how to save it.
- The basics, in ways you can understand, about Social Security, savings, and pensions, and how they affect your everyday life.
- Steps to taking charge of your financial future.

For reservations, contact Jill Byrne by October 1 at 215-619-8863, boomeru@montcosaac.com

SAVE THE DATE!

State Senator

LeANNA M. WASHINGTON

Invites the Community to Join in the

FIRST ANNUAL Walk to End DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SATURDAY • OCTOBER 25, 2008

5K Walk

Registration: 9:00 a.m. • Event Begins: 10:30 a.m.
West River Drive • Philadelphia, PA

RAIN or SHINE

*This event will raise much needed funds for the City's 4 domestic violence programs:
Women Against Abuse, Women In Transition, Lutheran Settlement House, Congress
and 24-hour domestic violence hotline.*

For more information contact: Pamela Smith-Chavis at 717-783-2175 or psmith@psenate.com

Empire Education Group Announces National Anti-Domestic Violence Campaign “Empire Gives Back” supporting “CUT IT OUT”

August 6, 2008, Philadelphia, PA — Empire Education Group, the nation’s largest system of corporate owned cosmetology schools, is launching a multi-platform campaign called “Empire Gives Back” to support **CUT IT OUT**, that will benefit nearly 90 communities across the country. CUT IT OUT is a program that teaches salon professionals to recognize signs of domestic abuse and safely refer those clients to people and resources that can help them.

“As one of this country’s leading educators of the next generation of hairstylists, Empire is perfectly positioned to support CUT IT OUT by teaching our more than 11, 000 students per year about domestic violence and how to respond when clients are suffering from abuse,” said Franklin K. Schoeneman, CEO and Chairman of Empire Education Group. “But we are not stopping at education. We are dedicated to truly making an impact by promoting public awareness of this issue, which is so often hidden from view. Each of our 87 schools will be raising money, supporting women’s shelters and helping women learn how to get the help they need.”

CUT IT OUT was born because women often develop very close relationships with their hairdressers based on trust. Some even confide to their stylists about abuse at home, rather than their friends and family. CUT IT OUT strives to make sure such stylists know what to do with such frightening knowledge. And Empire is setting out to support this effort by educating its own stylists-in-training on the subject, as well as raising awareness and funds for the cause.

“We salute Empire Education Group and their commitment to spreading awareness to help break the cycle of domestic violence in America. It’s a powerful statement about the organization’s compassion and community service,” said Dianne Mooney, Founder of the CUT IT OUT program. “All of us at CUT IT OUT are grateful that Empire Gives Back has embraced our educational program in service to victims of violence. Cosmetology students are all in a unique and powerful position to spread the word that there’s no excuse for abuse.”

Empire has worked with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the Office on Violence Against Women to launch a comprehensive platform, which includes enhanced student training, public awareness and education efforts, fundraising, victim support, public service announcements, media outreach and an online campaign. Following is an overview of the specific elements of the initiative:

- Empire will coordinate a **national roll out of the CUT IT OUT program to all of its 87 schools** across the country. CUT IT OUT instructional sessions will be brought into each of Empire’s cosmetology schools reaching more than eleven-thousand students annually.
- Empire schools will **work with the US Attorney’s Office to adopt a local domestic violence support organization** within proximity to each Empire school. Empire will offer support with local student fundraising events as well as provide no-charge services to women who are in these shelters.
- Clients seeking support from each “Adopted” domestic violence support organization will also become eligible to receive financial assistance to attend any Empire Beauty School in the country. Quantitatively this educational aid could reach up to half-million dollars per year.

All Empire schools will participate in the **Empire Education Group National Day of Beauty**, on October 11th. On this day, all monies generated from services and sales in all 87 student salons will be donated to a local shelter in the community where the school is located. Empire will also devise an **incentive program** to generate excitement and support among students, educators and school officials for additional local fundraising efforts year-round.

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
Please make us your highest priority
United Way Donor Option
Number 00433

The Women's Center at the Keswick Theater!
Join Us at the Sunday, November 2nd Matinee Performance of
CAPITOL STEPS 2008 PRE-ELECTION SHOW

The Women's Center is selling tickets to the Sunday, November 2nd 3:00 p.m. production of "CAPITAL STEPS" at the Keswick Theater in Glenside. Ticket prices are \$35.00 per person,

The all-new pre-Presidential election show by **THE CAPITOL STEPS**. These ultra-popular musical political satirists (*all former or current Congressional staffers!*) will have you rolling in laughter at their up-to-the-instant lampoons of Democrats, Republicans, and everyone in-between and on the far fringes! Please note that this is the full-length version of their show, and NOT an abbreviated format.

"The Capital Steps"
At the Keswick Theater in Glenside
Sunday, November 2nd 2008
3:00 p.m. performance
\$35.00 per person

To reserve your tickets, please send in your payment with the information below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Number of Tickets: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

If you prefer to charge this donation to your Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express please provide the: Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Mail to: WCMC; 8080 Old York Road, Ste. 200; Elkins Park, PA 19027

Elkins Park Notes

Submitted by Deanna Linn

Janine Kelly, the Community Education Coordinator, presented two in-services in September on "Stalking" for the volunteers. This information is essential for domestic violence counselors, especially we need to be aware of the use of technology to stalk and harass victims. For those who were unable to attend, other times will be scheduled due the importance of this topic.

In October, Maureen Allen from Community Housing will present information on their program. The afternoon date is Friday, Oct. 10, at 1pm and the evening needs to be rescheduled so please contact me for more information.

Monday evenings at the Elkins Park Office and Tuesday nights at Bryn Mawr are our open nights for in-person counseling, those in need can either call for appointments or drop-in. All counselors please let callers know of these possibilities for assistance.

I will be starting a new session of the domestic violence counselor training course at the end of September, Wednesday evenings at the Elkins Park office, and if there is sufficient interest, Monday days at the Norristown office. Contact me with questions.

Save the Date!

The Women's Center of Montgomery County invites you to join us for our Fourth Annual

"Unmask the Abuse" 5K Walkathon

Do your part to STOP domestic violence in our community and raise awareness!

Join us at Montgomery County Community College
Blue Bell Campus,
Blue Bell, PA

Saturday, October 11, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For more information on how to register or to work on the Special Event Planning Committee for this event, contact Maria at our Elkins Park office at 215-635-7340.

Proceeds will benefit the Women's Center of Montgomery County

**Women's Center
of Montgomery
County**

Elkins Park Office

215-635-7344

FAX: 215-635-7347

Thrift Shop: 215-885-0620

Norristown Office

610-279-1548

FAX: 610-279-7740

Pottstown Office

610-970-7363

FAX: 610-970-0705

Bryn Mawr Office

610-525-1427

FAX: 610-525-1429

Colmar Office

215-336-0721

FAX: 215-996-0725

www.wcmontco.org

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