

# Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County

## Executive Director's Report



Highlights from our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Domestic Violence Awareness Walk: Taking Steps to End Abuse – which was held on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at Montgomery County Community College. Despite some ominous weather (thankfully there was a break in the rain in the morning that allowed our intrepid walkers to complete the outdoor course and stay dry!), we had more than 175 participants turn out to walk. Although the results have not yet been finalized, we were able to raise more than \$18,000 to support our domestic violence program!

On behalf of our Board and staff, I would to thank all of our walkers, supporters and sponsors, who came together to make this event such a great success. This event continues to grow each year, in term of participants, energy and revenue. Thanks to your commitment and caring, we increased revenue by more than \$3,000 over last year! We could not achieve this success without the dedication and hard work of our staff, Board, members and supporters, and we are most humbled and grateful to you all.

Please check out our list of corporate and individual sponsors included in this newsletter. Our corporate sponsors in particular have been amazing models of community-giving. In the ongoing economically challenging times we face, they recognize the need to help others in crisis and to give back to the community. I would like to encourage all of us to support these corporate sponsors with the same enthusiasm and generosity of spirit that they continue to show to the Women's Center and the victims of family violence we serve.

On a final note, I would like to acknowledge the overwhelming and impressive contributions of our friends at UPS. In addition to a generous grant from UPS through their foundation, Team UPS was represented by approximately 60 walkers – some driving more than 40 miles to participate on a rainy day! – and raised more than \$4,200. It is truly my heartfelt pleasure to count these individuals and this amazing company as treasured friends of the Women's Center! They inspire me with their genuine friendship, enthusiasm and commitment! Thanks to our Advisory Board member Thomas J McGowan, who has helped us to develop and nurture this wonderfully rewarding relationship!

I would like to also acknowledge Board member Staci Levick, who raised a record \$5,000, along with her Team – Staci's Steppers. Thank you to Staci and her team (pictured in the orange t-shirts) who brought humor, energy and passion to our event!

## NORRISTOWN VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Submitted by Jenn B., Norristown Volunteer Coordinator

### In-Services:

Our next in-service will be September 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm. Our guest speakers are from Mental Health Services and will cover the topic of mental illness. The topics below will be discussed at the in-service. Please call the Norristown office if you plan to attend- 610-279-7474.

- Overview of Mont Co Mental Health System --Services/supports and how to access
- Crisis Intervention, Mobile Crisis Services, and the Involuntary Commitment Process
- Recovery Story--An individual in Recovery would share their success story

### Legal Remedies:

The next Legal Remedies Workshop will be on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 4:30-6:30pm in the Norristown office, Shelley Bobman will be the attorney. The discussion will be open to civil and family law. The information sessions are held at our Norristown office at 18 West Airy Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Please call 610-279-7474 to register to attend. Also, please refer a family member or friend to this valuable program!

### A New Kind of Support Group: *Time for Healing Spiritual Based Support Group*

Healing from domestic violence hurts and other life issues that have left one broken and scarred.

Fridays from 6-7:30pm at the Norristown office: 18 West Airy Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. Contact Denise at the Women's Center at 610-279-7474

**Abington CAPT (Citizens and Police Together) Check Presentation:** The Women's Center of Montgomery County was the grateful recipient of a \$500 donation from the Abington Police Department CAPT Fund, presented at the annual Abington Night Out held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.. Our Director of Volunteers Deanna Linn

was joined with co-beneficiaries Mary Onama (Victim Services Center) and District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Wendy Demchik-Alloy (both representing the Montgomery County Children's Advocacy Project). We are especially grateful to Abington Twp. Police Detective Sgt. Michael Gallagher for his support and his vision in creating a secondary victimization outreach program that coordinates the services of the Women's Center and Victim Services Center for adults and children victimized by family violence.



*The following article is from Speaking Up, August 17, 2009 Vol. 15, Issue 12.  
Speaking Up is a project of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.*

## ATTACKS AGAINST HOMELESS RISING

There were more than 100 violent attacks against the U.S.'s homeless population in 2009, and 27 of these attacks were lethal, according to a new report. Hate, Violence, And Death on Main Street USA, 2008 from the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) finds that the perpetrators of these crimes tend to be men or teenage boys who punch, kick, shoot or set afire people living on the streets.

Eight percent of the recorded crimes against the homeless in 2008 were rapes or sexual assaults, and women were the victims in all those cases. The new report contains case descriptions of each attack that included sexual assault. In Hayward, California, a serial rapist was responsible for sexual assaults against five homeless women from February to October 2008.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that 42 percent of the homeless population is unsheltered. They in particular are vulnerable to attacks. The report notes that because crimes committed against homeless persons often go unreported, the actual numbers of non-lethal attacks is likely much higher. Rapes and sexual assaults also tend to go unreported.

While the motive for many attacks are unclear, some attackers later said they committed the crimes out of "boredom," or for a "thrill" or "fun."

"Those experiencing homelessness are often ignored or misunderstood by society. If these brutal attacks were committed against any other religious or minority group to the same degree, there would be a national outcry and call for governmental action," said Michael Stoops, executive director of NCH. "We must respond to this dehumanization and protect homeless persons against hate crimes and violence."

Hate, Violence, And Death on Main Street USA, 2008 recommends that state legislatures add homeless persons as a "protected class" to hate crime legislation, and encourages police trainings so law enforcement officers will better understand homelessness and how to prevent hate crimes. Read the report at [www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/hatecrimes/index.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/hatecrimes/index.html).

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Walk – Taking Steps to End Abuse!



The Women's Center at the Keswick Theater!  
Join Us at the Sunday, November 1st Matinee Performance of  
CAPITOL STEPS 2009

The Women's Center is selling tickets to the Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> 3:00 p.m. production of "CAPITOL 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2009  
3:00 p.m. performance  
\$37.50 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





THE  
SHOPPING  
BENEFIT

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Have you purchased your ticket to The Shopping Benefit at Bloomingdale's? If you have already purchased your ticket, thank you for the \$10 donation to The Women's Center of Montgomery County!

Please remember to attend this exciting event on Thursday, October 29, 2009...you can help the Women's Center earn bonus payments from Bloomingdale's!

Here is how it works:

Bloomingdale's will award \$5.00 to THE WOMEN'S CENTER for each person who redeems the stub from a ticket pre-sold by our organization.\* So, if you have purchased a ticket from THE WOMEN'S CENTER please be sure to go to any Bloomingdale's in Philadelphia during The Shopping Benefit and turn in your ticket stub!

It's even more important that you redeem your ticket stub:

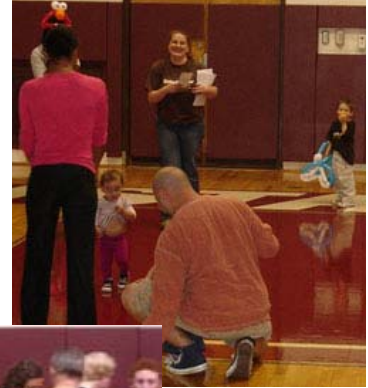
If at least 75 of the people who purchased a ticket from THE WOMEN'S CENTER redeem a ticket stub\* during The Shopping Benefit, our organization will receive an equal portion of the day of event ticket sale proceeds! In previous years, this "extra bonus" has totaled \$1,000... or more!

See you at The Shopping Benefit!

\* Only one pre-sold ticket stub redeemed per attendee on October 29, 2009 will count towards this bonus.



5<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Walk –  
Taking Steps to End Abuse!



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic  
Violence Awareness  
5K Walk –  
Taking Steps to End  
Abuse!**

**We would like to offer our special thanks to the following corporate and individual sponsors for their commitment and support in ensuring the success of our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Walk – Taking Steps to End Abuse!**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Gold Sponsorship                       | UPS   |
| Silver Sponsorship                     | Bayada Nurses   |
| Bronze Sponsorships                    | First Trust Bank<br>Lincoln Investments   |
| Tote Bag Giveaway Sponsor              | Soroptimists International of Pottstown   |
| Supporting Sponsorships                | Los Potrillos Taqueria<br>Marilyn & Skip Rosskam<br>Joyce & Jerry Skobinsky   |
| Distance Counter Sponsorship           | Canon Business Solutions<br>Pottstown Clinic Group<br>University Services   |
| Caring Friends Sponsorship             | Abington Surgical Group<br>Berger Henry ENT Specialty Group<br>Howard Cove<br>F. Craig LaRocca, Esquire<br>Mae Construction<br>Thomas J. McGowan<br>Clare Shaw, CPA           |
| Refreshments/In-Kind Donation Sponsor: | Wawa<br>Aramark<br>Amelyn Donuts<br>Del Monte Fresh Produce<br>Einstein Bagels<br>Suzy-Jo Doughnuts<br>George's Dreshertown Shop 'n Bag<br>KP Kitchen Krafts/Kathleen Salemno |



**GOLF CLASSIC BENEFICIARIES** - Upper Dublin Township Commissioners recently distributed proceeds checks to beneficiaries of the 28th Annual Upper Dublin Twining Valley Golf Classic held in June. Over the years this event has raised close to \$1million to support community organizations providing vital services to the Upper Dublin community. Participating in the event were Art Levinowitz, President of the Upper Dublin Education Foundation; Golf Classic Co-Chair Commissioner Chet Derr; Ginny Coombs, Executive Director of the Visiting Nurse Association; Jack Badger, Co-President of the Senior Adult-Upper Dublin Center; Maria Macaluso, Executive Director of the Women's Center of Montgomery County; and Golf Classic Co-Chair Commissioner Bob Pesavento.

**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**

215-996-0721  
FAX: 215-996-0725

[www.wcmontco.org](http://www.wcmontco.org)

**1-800-773-2424**

***DATED MATERIAL***

Women's Center of Montgomery County  
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Elkins Park, PA 19027

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