

## Quick Notes

### Have we mentioned we're on social media?

What's the easiest way to get in touch with us in between newsletters? Check out our social media pages!

*Find us on:*

**Twitter:** TWC\_19\_47

**Instagram:** TWC\_19\_47

**LinkedIn:** The Women's Center, Inc.

**Facebook:** The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia and Montour Counties

**YouTube:** TWC Education Dept.

### Upcoming Events:

Participant Holiday Party

Stalking Awareness Month

Teen Dating Violence

Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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

OR

Visit us on Facebook at

"The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia and Montour Counties"



## PURPLE PURSE CAMPAIGN

Approximately, 99% of victims of domestic violence are not able to leave because of financial abuse. It is insidious and it is so deeply imbedded into domestic violence that it is hardly distinguishable. In some ways, it is the worst form of abuse because these victims know that they want to leave, but are unable to do so. From the end of the September throughout the month of October, The Women's Center, Inc. was selected as one out of only 250 other organizations of our size to participate in the Purple Purse Campaign. The goal of the Purple Purse Campaign is to raise awareness and funds to end of financial abuse.

Actress Kerry Washington (Scandal), has been instrumental in this campaign. She has been working with the Allstate Foundation for 3 years to publicize financial abuse and its horrific effects on domestic violence victims. She has done PSA's, spoken about the campaign on talk shows, and she designed the dark purple purse that was gifted to our agency for participation within the campaign. The purple purse is a symbol of the financial abuse victims endure.

In order to raise funds, our agency partnered with student organizations at Bloomsburg University including: W.I.S.E. (Women Inspiring Strength and Empowerment), Ladies First, BUEA (Bloomsburg University Equality Alliance), and the Bloomsburg University Chapter of I AM THAT GIRL. The student groups helped us campaign on campus through collecting donations, selling Purple Purse tassels and spreading awareness about the topic of financial abuse.

The purple purse designed by Kerry Washington, was auctioned at our Anniversary Luncheon along with a second purple purse that was donated by The English Garden in Riverside. The funds raised from our silent auction, along with funds raised by our University groups, and individuals in the community amassed over \$2,000 and we couldn't be happier! Thank you to everyone who donated!



## **HOLIDAY SEASON HELP WANTED!**

This holiday season we are looking for volunteers to help us organize and wrap holiday gifts, volunteer at our Holiday Participant Party, or just help with any additional maintenance we have around the Shelter. We have a painting project that we are in need of skilled volunteers to complete. If you'd like to help, please call (570)-784-6632 and ask for our Volunteer Advocate.



## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

In addition to the Purple Purse Campaign, we had several exciting events going on throughout the Columbia/Montour community to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We organized a chapbook of poetry from poetry submitted by the residents at North Central Secure Treatment Unit as well as several art displays. Each of these was featured at McBride Library in Berwick. A special event was hosted to feature the work.

Additionally, North Central Secure Treatment Unit held a Domestic Violence Awareness Open House even and included our agency in the day of festivities!

## **PULP PROGRAM**

Over the last fiscal year our agency has had the pleasure of being selected as one of three sites for a pilot program through a grant obtained by the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project. The goal of this project was to help domestic violence victims secure affordable, reliable utility service through the development of a program to assist victims leaving a transitional shelter and moving into their own residence navigate the process, review contracts, and determine how or whether to choose an electric service provider.

Over its first year PULP:

- Cleared or deferred approximately \$58,000 in utility debt
- Restored or preserved 58 utility accounts
- Handled 124 cases for 72 individual clients
- Trained 134 advocates
- Intervened in UGI Gas rate proceeding and gained improvements to the systemic handling of utility issues for victims of domestic violence

This grant has been an amazing opportunity for many victims who are affected by growing utility bills as a result of their batterer. Additionally, as an agency we were able to provide victims a referral to an attorney who could provide comprehensive legal counsel, advice, and/or representation. This particular group of attorneys is familiar with the issues being suffered by survivors and we are grateful that our clients could receive services that empowered them to establish and maintain affordable, stable, and reliable utility services (PULP, 2016).



**PULP**  
PENNSYLVANIA  
UTILITY LAW PROJECT

## ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Our annual Anniversary Luncheon took place on Thursday, October 27th at the Pine Barn Inn where we honored numerous community members who helped our agency immensely over the last fiscal year. We are so grateful for the amazing work the people below helped us accomplish!

Dr. Shavonne Shorter	Kyle Cosoleto-Miller
Boe Kline	Jim Martin
Kristen Rice	Stacy Gaugler
Lynn Fait	Laina Lusk
Betsy Malatesta	Randy Ruckle
Donald Pursel	Nicole Bardo
Tim Sebastian	P. Rilee Benjamin
Dana Lockridge	Denise Cook
Nancy Hudak	Maxine Querry
Father Howell Sasser	Renee Fawess
Will Rowan	Susan Wehrle
Dr. Thomas Moreland	Sergeant Kenneth Fagan
Pastor Joel Zeiders	Officer Clay Fahringer
Adrienne Mael	Officer Jake Walker
Jasmine Davis	District Justice Marvin Shrawder
DA Thomas Leipold	District Justice Craig Long
Officer Robert Anderson	Oren Helbok
Penn Kashar	Elizabeth Marx
Lissa Bryan-Smith	Taylor Farr

## BOARD OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER DIRECTORS

2016-2017

**Zabrina Finn, Ex Officio**  
*Ex Officio - all committees*

**Dr. Alana Atchinson, President**  
*Executive; Chair*

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*Personnel; Chair, Executive*

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*Fundraising; Personnel*

**Dr. Kayleigh Taylor**  
*Membership/Nominating; Budget & Finance*

**Renee Fawess**  
*Fundraising; Public Relations*

To Contact The Women's Center:

*Administration*      *Hotline*  
**570.784.6632**      **570.784.6631**

*Toll Free*      *Fax*  
**1.800.544.8293**      **570.784.6680**  
*24-hours / 7 days*

email: [womenctr1@verizon.net](mailto:womenctr1@verizon.net)  
[www.thewomenscenterinc.org](http://www.thewomenscenterinc.org)

## WE'VE GONE PAPERLESS!

Want to help save the environment and save our agency some green?  
Start receiving this newsletter, electronically!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address of where you would like the Newsletter sent:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please cut out and mail back to us at:*

The Women's Center, Inc.  
111 N. Market St.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

**Yes!**

**I would like to support  
The Women's Center.**

Enclosed is my tax deductible  
donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes. Please *include* my name in a list of public donors.  
 No. Please *do not* include my name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Donor*

*Please Remit To:* The Women's Center  
111 North Market Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815



## December/January 2017 Issue

### Current Resident or

**The Women's Center would like to extend a sincere *Thank You* to all of the generous businesses, organizations and community members who have made contributions to help us better serve victims and their children:**

*Mandi Vivacqua ~ Mason Family ~ Larry Witmer ~ GHP Garden of Giving  
Soroptimists of Montour County ~ Christine Smith ~ Tim Pelton ~ Marilyn D. Frear ~ Morgan Coates  
Ann Kielbasa ~ Dr. Raj Chopra ~ BU Student Veteran's Association ~ Benton Senior Center  
P.I.N.E.R.S ~ Sonal Harris ~ Ed Sanders III ~ RCV United Methodist Church ~ Dave Ford  
Reverend Dr. Elizabeth McCormick ~ Amy Kolinovsky ~ Wendy Creveling  
Mary Ann Strine ~ First Columbia Bank & Trust ~ Community Christ  
Women Inspiring Strength and Empowerment ~ Louise Nogle ~ Bloomsburg University Equality Alliance  
Amy Kellner ~ Kathy Mulka ~ Chi Alpha Epsilon ~ Dunkin Donuts  
English Garden ~ Berwick Lions Club ~ Stuart Tank Memorial Association  
Wesley United Methodist Women ~ Rob Cooney ~ AnneMarie Shankweiler  
Sandra Latour ~ Anonymous ~ Michelle Brown ~ Sue Oberkerker ~ Robrbach's Orchard  
Ann Sheatler ~ Bloomsburg Kiwani's Club ~ Leslie Levan ~ Sandra Drew  
Monica Johnson ~ Nadine Kramarz ~ Alicia King Redfern ~ Kristen Rice ~ Maxine Williams  
Jan Dubbs ~ Renee Fawess ~ Tyler S. ~ Bri Williams ~ Danielle Miess  
In honor of Ron Crawford ~ In honor of Emma Cook ~ Debbie Harper ~ Morgan Coates  
Mary Shankweiler ~ Lynn Fait ~ Dr. Amy Taylor Teats ~ Allison & Harper Bressler*

# THANK YOU!