our thoughts

I am pleased to present to you the 2015 Annual Report of The Women’s Center, Inc. of Columbia and Montour counties.

2015 has been a year fraught with challenges. The largest, and still looming, challenge has been the impasse over the 2015-2016 fiscal year state budget. It’s not always easy to see the direct connections that exist between social change and social service agencies in your local community and the activities that take place on the floor of the state capital. Nothing connects those dots more clearly than a budget stalemate that effects the functionality of the agencies the community relies upon.

In today’s world I can’t think of any individual or organization that would be able to function at a relatively normal level for six months without any income.

The Women’s Center has always made good stewardship of our dollars a priority. Why? Because they are your dollars. This is your agency. You deserve considered, careful and responsible treatment of these resources. I'm proud to be able to share with you that good stewardship is the primary reason why we were able to soldier on for so long without cutting services, borrowing money, laying off employees or, worse, closing our doors entirely.

The other reason was the strong and consistent outpouring of support from the community. Everyone from our United Way agencies in Columbia and Montour counties, to church groups and student organizations, and private individuals and families reached out and lent their support.

Time and again the people of Columbia and Montour counties prove that they are graceful, resourceful and powerful under extreme circumstances. I’m humbled by your kindness. I’m in awe of your creativity. I take strength in your determination.

In peace,

Zabrina Finn
Executive Director

TWC accomplishments 2015

- The Columbia County VOCA Policy Board and area police officers, honored Officer Jason Hayes from Catawissa Borough with an award for his outstanding work with victims of domestic violence.
- Clean audit with absolutely no findings for the 14th consecutive year.
- Volunteers donated 5,562.36 volunteer hours to the mission of The Women’s Center, Inc. Valued at the minimum wage of $8.65 per hour this represents nearly $48,114.41 of salary donation!
- Held an Open House at our Administration building for community members and volunteers, we highlighted previous advocacy projects conducted by TWC.
- Held a Columbia/Montour Domestic Violence Vigil on the topic of Domestic Violence and the African American Community with Dr. Shavonne Shorter from Bloomsburg University as our Keynote Speaker.
- Hosted a Paint the Town Teal Campaign throughout the month of April. We had window painting on 80 businesses around the Columbia/Montour counties including areas such as: Berwick, Benton, Millville, Bloomsburg, Danville and Catawissa.
- Created sidewalk chalk displays to participate in the International End Street Harassment Week Campaign April 17th-19th.
- Created an interactive Photo Booth that has been scheduled at various school districts throughout Columbia and Montour Counties for Teen Dating Awareness and Prevention Month.
- Held our Ride for Shelter Event that had almost 50 riders, we raised over $1,000.
- Held our 41st anniversary luncheon recognizing professionals and community members for their outstanding contributions in response to domestic and sexual violence in Columbia and Montour counties.
- Held our Annual Participant Party with staff and 50 volunteers serving 63 participants and 43 children. Every child was also presented with a gift and a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- Hosted summer Gateways program with 12 children enrolled. The children enjoyed field trips to the Town Pool and Park, Knoebels Grove Amusement Park, Owen’s Farm, Ashland Coal Mine, Bloom Park, and Children’s Museum. The children learned about cooperation, safety, communication and boundaries.
- Raised $8103.31 through our 2014 Annual Giving Campaign.
- We completely restructured our Advocacy Training Class to make it a hybrid class where half of the course are offered online through modules and the other half are offered through in-class sessions. We trained over 20 direct service volunteers last year!
- Purchase of grocery gift cards available on website at www.thewomenscenterinc.org. Weis and Giant gift card fundraiser raising nearly $202.50 in donations.
- Raised $7356.30 through e-bay store selling under the name “peaceineveryhome.”
- Raised nearly $22,083.34 in total donations.
- Partnered with Columbia County Housing Authority to provide transitional housing to 4 women and 11 children though our Bridge Housing program.
Colombia County
- People in Community: 2,171
- Professionals: 874
- Schools: 307

Montour County
- People in Community: 1,139
- Professionals: 281
- Schools: 132

Community Outreach
- Served: 37,244

Hotline Calls
- Domestic Violence: 1,219
- Sexual Assault: 957

Counseling Hours
- Domestic Violence: 10,660.92
- Sexual Assault: 3,742.37

Shelter Days
- Adults: 2,243
- Children: 821

Protection from Abuse Petitions
- Columbia: 94
- Montour: 14

Expenses and Revenue
- Expenses: $766,310
  - Program Service: $591,776
  - Management and General: $167,514
  - Fundraising: $7,020
- Revenue: $806,811
  - Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence: $415,964
  - Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape: $133,287
  - Other Government Funding: $125,469
  - Local Support: $116,142
  - Fundraising: $15,181
  - Investment Return: $768

Volunteer Hours
- Direct Service Hrs: 2,687.81
- Indirect Service Hrs: 2,874.55

Participants
- Domestic Violence
  - Adults: 669
  - Children: 152
  - Significant Others: 146
- Sexual Assault
  - Adults: 137
  - Children: 14
  - Significant Others: 60

Funded by Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.