



WELCOME TO OUR

Summer Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

pcar

At-Home Rape Kits Press Release

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect (PCAR), a division of Respect Together, applauds the actions of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General to issue a cease-and-desist order against companies producing and distributing “At-Home Rape Kits.” After an assault, it is important survivors consider seeking medical attention and understand the potential risks associated with the use of at-home kits.

For many, hope is lost in the aftermath of sexual assault. PCAR continues to work tirelessly to restore hope and support healing for survivors of sexual assault. Using an “at-home kit” provides a survivor with false hope. It is highly unlikely that at-home evidence would be admissible to labs or courts of law throughout the Commonwealth—doing a great injustice to victims and survivors of sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.

PCAR remains committed best practices that have consistently proven successful for survivors of sexual assault. We will always recognize the courage it takes to seek help and continue to emphasize the importance of seeking care from specially trained healthcare providers at hospitals across the Commonwealth. These professionals are prepared to examine victims following an assault and care for their immediate safety. They conduct a forensic rape exam at no cost to the survivor, collect evidence, and screen for and treat sexually transmitted infections and other possible injuries.

Those who would use “At-Home Kits” would also forgo the on-site assistance of a rape crisis center counselor. Counselors provide support during the forensic rape exam and long after. They are confidential, trained professionals who help the survivor understand their legal options and support them in navigating their healing process. PCAR’s network of rape crisis centers also provide additional essential services to survivors such as, legal advocacy, and counseling services at no cost to survivors and their families. **The Women’s Center, Inc. provides free, confidential help in Columbia and Montour Counties. Services are available 24/7 at (570)-784-6631 or toll free at 1-800-544-8293.**

Sexual violence is a public health crisis and while the cease-and-desist decision is a victory for survivors, another critical issue remains: the funding crisis faced by rape crisis centers. The best way to support survivors in Pennsylvania is to support increased funding for Pennsylvania’s Rape Crisis Centers. These Gabriella Romeo Public Policy Director, PCAR 717-728-9740 ext. 114 gromeo@pcar-respecttogether.org centers provide indispensable services, yet they have not seen a significant increase in funding for over five years. Without urgent budgetary support from the Pennsylvania Legislature, many risk closing their doors, leaving survivors without the crucial help they need.

To ensure the continued availability of these life-saving services, it's imperative that we advocate for increased funding for rape crisis centers. Investing in these proven support systems is essential to maintain the safety and well-being of survivors across Pennsylvania. The time is upon us to urge our legislators to prioritize the budget for these vital services and ensure that every survivor has access to the help they deserve.

Save the Date!



The Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia and Montour Counties
50th Anniversary Celebration

SAVE *The* DATE

The Barn at Frosty Valley
1301 Bloom Rd, Danville, PA 17821

11.16.24

Summer Gateways Program:

The Women's Center, Inc. offers an eight-week summer day camp for children who have been exposed to domestic violence and sexual assault. The sessions begin the end of June and runs until the beginning of August, meeting once a week for almost a full day. Gateways combines community involvement with structured activities to provide an educational and fun experience! Children are encouraged to be creative, to interact cooperatively and to express their individuality. Every session is centered around a theme to help them realize that violence is never a good solution and show them non-violent alternatives. This year's Gateways activities include: Knoebels, the pool, visits to the Police and Fire Stations, Rohrbach's Farm, and so much more! The Gateways program is offered at no cost to the participants. For more information or to register, please call our Child Outreach Advocate at (570)-784-6631.



We Are Hiring!

- Sexual Violence Counselor/Advocate
- Second Shift Shelter Advocate

Visit our website to learn more about our open positions.

Visit [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) to apply today!

Sign the Petition



Domestic violence programs are at a tipping point, nearing a financial crisis that threatens the ability to keep their doors open to victims and survivors who are fleeing life-threatening violence in their own homes.

Use your voice to support survivors and the programs that serve them by **urging support for an increased funding for domestic violence services.**

Click [here](#) to sign the petition today!

Donor Spotlight

The Women's Center, Inc. would like to thank the following donors for their incredible support of our mission and programs. We could not serve the community without your generosity!

- Christina Francis
- Laura Hall
- Tina Entzminger
- Aidan McDonald
- Journey Bank
- APSCUF-Bloomsburg
- Sally Meyer
- First Keystone Bank
- Angela Young, Century 21 Covered Bridges Realty
- The Terri Davis Life Agency
- Rhone, Roker/Owner, Century 21 Covered Bridges Realty
- The Carey Smith Team, Century 21 Covered Bridges Realty
- Vreeland's Harley-Davidson
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- Hackett Philanthropies Foundation
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- Giant
- PA Nails
- Srijom's Place
- Elizabeth Hazzard
- Bloomsburg Drama Club
- The Barn at Greenwood
- Smokehouse Barbecue and Catering
- Dillon Floral
- Chrissy Brady Shipe
- Mary's Creations
- Francis Ashby
- Tim Pelton
- Bonnie Crawford
- Seesholtz Garden enter
- Eden Spa & Salon

If you love our mission and would like to become a donor, visit our website at <https://www.thewomenscenterinc.org/support-us>

Donations Needed:

- New adult athletic wear and children's clothing
- Laundry Detergent
- Cleaning Supplies
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels



Women's Center Contact Info:

24-hour hotline: (570)-784-6631 or toll free at 1-800-544-8293
Admin. Office: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (570)-784-6632
111 North Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Website: <https://www.thewomenscenterinc.org/>
Facebook: @womenscenter1976

The Women's Center is the only state recognized domestic violence and rape crisis center in Columbia and Montour Counties.