

WomeneWS

W o m e n ' s C e n t e r o f M o n t g o m e r y C o u n t y

Executive Director's Report



Submitted by Maria Macaluso

With the close of fiscal year 2006-2007 on June 30th, it is my great pleasure to report on another successful and satisfying year, both programmatically and organizationally. We have many reasons for pride and celebration at the conclusion of this year as we continue to meet and exceed the performance goals set with our funders and by our Board of Directors. It has been an exciting year of development and growth, as our volunteer training program has evolved to meet the changing needs of our new recruits. While our emphasis on ensuring the highest quality standards in the provision of direct services remains a strong priority, we have been able to expand and diversify our volunteer recruitment and training efforts so that we can continue to attract and retain our committed and highly skilled volunteer workforce. Moreover, we have developed evaluation tools and outcome measures to help us collect information from service recipients about the quality of the service they received and to identify the additional resources and services they need so that we can incorporate those needs into our future planning and development.

In addition to our successes in terms of community training, the growth of our volunteer program and the outstanding work being done by our direct service staff and volunteers, it has also been a very rewarding year for our Board development, as we work to strengthen committee functioning and maximize the Board experience for our directors.

Each of our special events this past year was also successful in so many ways, beyond their obvious financial benefit to the Center. As our incoming Board President Beth Brinly likes to say these events serve as wonderful "friend-raisers," bringing new members and supporters to the Center and educating them about what a truly unique and amazing place this is.

Fiscal year 2006-2007 also brought us new funding relationships with donors previously unexplored and supported the creation of new programs and services. These growing relationships have followed us into the current year, and I am very pleased to say that as we start the new fiscal we already have foundation commitments of \$49,000 in July, from four different funding sources, to support new initiatives here at the Center. As the year progresses and these projects are implemented, I will be writing more about the exciting impact they will have on our work.

As start we start this new year with such wonderful prospects for building on our past successes, I am also very pleased to be welcoming six new Board members to the Center, each bringing skills, knowledge and creative vision that will surely propel us further along in our development. Next month we will bring you more information about each of Board members so that you can learn about our leadership.

In closing, I would like to provide this brief overview of the services provided by our staff and volunteers in 2006-2007. I hope you will join me in congratulating them all for a job well done!

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**Domestic Violence Services Provided by the Women's Center
Fiscal Year 7/1/06 to 6/30/07**

Number of Domestic Violence Victims Served:

Number of New Victims & Significant Others	3,589
Number of Continuing Victim	1,825
Total Victims Served	5,414

Counseling Hours (excludes Abington Medical Advocacy Project services)

Telephone Counseling:	4,705 contacts	2,411 hours
In-person Counseling:	1,949 contacts	3,126.25 hours
Group Contacts:	81 contacts	292 hours
Total Counseling Hours	6,735 contacts	5,829.25 hours

Legacy Advocacy and Court Accompaniment:

Victims Receiving In-person Legal Advocacy Services	1,869 unduplicated victims
Court accompaniment services	815 unduplicated victims

Community Education Programs:

Number of programs to community groups	52
Number of persons reached through community groups	2,866
Number of programs to schools	58
Number of persons reached in schools	2,902
Media Presentations & other outreach	262

Training Programs Conducted

48-hour Domestic Violence Counselor Trainings	10
Number of Volunteer Counselors Trained	87
Number of Internal Trainings for Volunteers & Staff	65
Number of Volunteers & Staff Trained	277
Number of External Trainings (Police, Healthcare workers, etc.)	26
Number of People Trained	692

Condolences

It is with sadness that I must report this month the passing of our long-time friend and volunteer, Gladys Diamond. Although I never had the opportunity to work with Gladys, since her failing health prevented her from coming into the office in recent years, stories of her commitment, skills and passion as a hotline counselor have made her a volunteer icon here at the Center. As the first recipient of the Mary Gaynor Award for Volunteer Excellence in April 1995, Gladys set a standard of professionalism and dedication that continues to motivate our work and our vision. On behalf of the Board, staff and membership, I would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to Gladys family and friends and to all of you here at the Center who had the opportunity to work with and know this very special woman!

In other sad news, I would like to extend our support and sympathies to Women's Center member, former Board President and volunteer Nancy Poor on the loss of her father, Captain Murray B. Frazee, Jr. Knowing that Nancy has many friends among our membership, I know that you would want this opportunity to reach to Nancy and her family with your condolences and encouragement through this difficult time. The family has created a memorial webpage at <http://murraybfrazee.virtual-memorials.com> for those of you wishing to stop by and sign the guestbook and learn more about the life of this interesting and inspiring man!

Norristown Volunteer Update

IN-SERVICE:

Our in-services will resume on **September 18, 2007** from **1-3pm** in the Norristown office. Our guest speaker will be Linda Awarski, Director of Montgomery County Court Care, she will discuss their services and the importance of referrals from the Women's Center. Please let me know if you plan to attend!

LEGAL REMEDIES:

The Legal Remedies Workshops are now over for the summer months. Legal Remedies will resume in September. A special thanks to the attorneys who gave their time this year, the women greatly appreciate you time and expertise! 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!

WALK-A-THON COMMITTEE

The Walk-a-thon for this year will be **October 27, 2007** from 10-12 p.m. at the Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Athletic Department.

To all staff, WCMC volunteers, members and others: Anyone who has an interest to be part of the organizing committee, please call Denise @ 610-279-7474.

SAVE THE DATE

The Volunteer Appreciation Brunch will take place **Sunday, October 14th, 2007** at the William Penn Inn. Hope to see you all there!

Stay cool!

Jenn B.

Norristown Volunteer Coordinator

Pottstown's Potpourri

Community outreach is a key component in raising awareness about, and accessing victims of domestic violence. In July, the Pottstown office was presented with an opportunity to potentially reach 10,000 individuals at one event when the Women's Center was invited to set up a table in the Community Care Center at this year's Passion Fest.

Passion Fest is a one day community festival with Christian values that targets the youth in the community. Extreme sporting events and a concert series featuring popular Christian artists are utilized to capture the interest of the 13- to 25-year olds. This age group is significant to the Women's Center because young women in this group experience the highest rates of relationship violence and any venue available to reach these young women needs to be utilized.

While this was the second year for the Passion Fest to be held on the fields of Pottstown High School, it was the first year that community, nonprofit organizations were invited to set up their tables and to share their valuable information with festival attendees. It is probably a fair bet that this will become an annual event for the Pottstown office of the Women's Center!

Kristine Wickward

Legal Advocate - Pottstown

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

**Thursday, October 25, 2006
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!

Fundraising With a Conscience

Donating Your Used Cellphones

For several years now, the Women's Center of Montgomery has partnered with Shelter Alliance, a Miramar, Florida firm that specializes in the logistics and underwriting of fundraising programs through the collection and responsible recycling of used cellular phones. Shelter Alliance currently works with over 2000 social service organizations in 50 states and has contributed over \$4,000,000 to participating organizations.

Once discarded cell phones are collected by the Center, they are mailed to Shelter Alliance. They evaluate each phone and decide its worth. They will pay up to \$40 for newer telephones. These proceeds are paid back to our program to support services to victims of domestic violence.

Each year these donations benefit our program with several hundred dollars in added revenue. So spread the word and keep the phones coming. Phones can be delivered or mailed to any of our offices or the thrift shop.

For more information on Shelter Alliance check their website at www.shelteralliance.net.

Empty Ink Cartridges Wanted!

If you're looking for an easy way to support the Women's Center, bring us your empty Inkjet Cartridges, empty Laser Cartridges, laptops with power cords, and PDA's (Palm Pilots). We will be reimbursed for the items we collect by Cartridges for Kids, who will then recycle them in an ecologically friendly manner.

Please spread the word around and help us raise much needed funds.

**Congratulations to
Lynda Monks, Domestic Violence Advocate
Medical Advocacy Project**

It is our great pleasure to share some wonderful news about our colleague, Lynda Monks, who is our Domestic Violence Advocate through the Abington Hospital Medical Advocacy Project. Lynda is the July recipient of the hospital's "Gold Standard Award," an employee recognition program at Abington in the vein of an "Employee of the Month" award. Since we all already know what an amazing job Lynda does, it is no surprise to us, but we are proud to see our friend recognized by the hospital for her outstanding work and dedication to victims of family violence.

Congratulations, Lynda! We are proud of you and all that you have achieved!

**Offering Thanks to A Special Friend,
Representative Josh Shapiro**

As I am sure many of you have heard over the past months, the PA state budget discussions became quite heated and contentious, with some 'non-essential' state offices even experiencing a one-day shutdown in early July as a result of the standoff. What you may not know is that caught up in these debates was a commitment from the governor to give a long-awaited increase in funding to domestic violence. While the increase was minor in terms of the overall impact on the budget (amounting to approximately \$800,000 in increased funding to programs throughout the state), negotiations and appeals to local representatives for support were intense during the latter part of June and early July.

While our original hope was to secure a 1.5 million increase, in the end we were ecstatic to hold on to what we could. I want to thank all of our staff, volunteers and Board members who reached out to their representatives to urge them to support this increase which is so critically needed to maintain services at their current levels.

In addition to thanking all of you for your efforts, I also wanted to let you all know about the wonderful support and advocacy efforts on behalf of domestic violence victims and our programs that came from one of our own local heroes, Representative Josh Shapiro.

It is truly one of the most satisfying experiences to know that our representatives are hard at work on behalf of their community. Even more satisfying and pride-inducing was the call I received from the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence at the conclusion of the budget negotiations. The PCADV staff person wanted to take a moment to let us know what a phenomenal advocate Josh Shapiro was for domestic violence programs. She spoke in very glowing terms about how he really came out to support budget increases for domestic violence, and singled him out as one of the brightest new stars of the PA State Legislature.

I know that some of you contacted his office over the past week to encourage him to support the funding increase for domestic violence programs. I have already contacted him to personally thank him for his effort on our behalf, and I wanted to share this information with those of you who live in his district or reached out to him for support.

**Support the Women's Center of Montgomery County
Through eScrip**

Buy participating products at Genuardi's/Safeway and earn up to 10% for **the Women's Center of Montgomery County**.

Women's Center of Montgomery County eScrip **Group ID – 2298334**

Please confirm that the Women's Center is your designated charity! You can sign up at your local store, at www.escrip.com and in the upcoming eScrip Magazine!

PA SAVIN: Pennsylvania's Victim Notification Service

SAVIN stands for Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification. A project of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI), in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), PA SAVIN is an innovative service providing crime victims and other concerned citizens free, prompt and confidential notification regarding a county inmate's release, transfer, or escape.

All 63 counties that have county jails have the option of participating in the PA SAVIN project. To date 17 counties have technical implementation dates scheduled between this summer and October 31, 2007. Those 17 counties are: Allegheny, Berks, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Erie, Lancaster, Luzerne, Mifflin, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Pike, Venango and Washington.

Understandably, many questions come up among Pennsylvania's victim advocates when they are first looking at the PA SAVIN system. In the past decade, the commonwealth has made great strides in its recognition and support of victims. Any new program or service needs to fit into the very important personal and emotional connection between victims, victims' families, and their advocates.

It's important to understand that PA SAVIN is an enhancement to the work that is already being done in victim services offices in every county of the commonwealth. It is meant to support the work victim advocates are already doing, rather than replace it.

If you are a Victim Advocate currently considering the PA SAVIN system, you are probably wondering how electronic notifications can be incorporated into your office policies and procedures. The answer may be different from county by county, based on conversations between victim advocates, law enforcement, the jails, and county information technology professionals.

In some cases, PA SAVIN will be used as a back up to notification calls advocates are already doing. In others PA SAVIN may work hand in hand with victim advocates by providing victims with the initial notification call - any time of day, any day of the week.

Being well informed about PA SAVIN, its capabilities and benefits will be the best route to finding your answers. The PA SAVIN team is ready to lend you support and guidance.

As your county prepares to launch, the PA SAVIN team will put together victim advocates from around the state to share information and strategies on how they are implementing the system. SAVIN Victim Advocate Mentors will also be available for more personal, county-specific support. .

When considering how PA SAVIN will fit in with your office, consider:

- 1) The victim's perspective. PA SAVIN empowers victims with information and control.
- 2) All telephone calls and registrations are free and confidential. The offender will not know the victim is registered with this service.
- 3) PA SAVIN is never the only resource. PA SAVIN is one means to assist victims in determining the custody of an offender and is not meant to replace the valuable and personal relationship between a victim and their local victim advocate.

Upcoming Events for the Women's Center of Montgomery County

Pre-School Program – My Hands Are Not For Hurting

September 19, 2007 – Carmel Nursery School 10:00-11:00 AM

September 20, 2007 – Carmel Nursery School 10:00-10:30 AM

November 5, 2007 – St. Andrew's Nursery School- 9:15-10:35 AM and 12:30-1:20 PM

November 6, 2007 – St. Andrew's Nursery School – 9:15-10:05 AM and 12:30-1:20 PM

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOPS And SPEAKING EVENTS

Aug. 23, 2007 – KEYS Program – Montco. Pottstown – 1:00-3:00

Aug. 29, 2007 – KEYS Program – Montco. Blue Bell – 1:00-3:00

Sept. 27, 2007 – St. Thomas of Villanova – 7:00-8:00

Oct. 10, 2007 – St Catherine's in Wayne – 7:00-8:00

Oct, 19, 2007 - 11th Annual Drug Free, Violence Free Youth Conference

Berean Conference Center in Sanatoga, PA.

TABLE EVENTS

August 5, 2007 – Upper Dublin – Pre-Night Out – 6:00-9:00 @ Upper Dublin Township Building

August 6, 2007 – Abington Township “Pre-Night Out 2007” - (rain date: Tuesday, August 7, 2007)

August 27, 2007 – Norristown Weed and Seed Annual Community Meeting – 6:30 PM

August 29, 2007 – Sen. Greenleaf Community Night – Lukens Park, Horsham – 5:00-8:00

September 8, 2007 – Upper Merion Community Fair – 10:00-2:00

September 29, 2007 – 2007 Lower Gwynedd Township Country Picnic

October 13, 2007 – Community Harvest Festival '07 – Whitpain Township Community Health Fair 11:00-5:00

October 13, 2007 – Schuylkill River Festival – Pottstown – 9:00AM-6:00PM

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

September 30, 2007 - The Woman's Forum will be conducting an event at Montgomery County community College to benefit the Women's Center.

October 14, 2007 - The annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the William Penn Inn, from 11:00 to 2:00.

October 27, 2007 - The 3rd Annual Walkathon will be held at Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell Campus.

April 13, 2008 - Annual fundraiser at the Meadowlands Country Club.

Contact Janine Kelly

The Women's Center of Montgomery County

Community Education Coordinator

610-525-1428

616-525-1429 (fax)

jkelly1@dca.net

www.wcmontco.org

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

**Tuesday, October 16, 2007
10:00 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 16th.

The discount shopping pass can be used at any Boscov store in Montgomery County for purchases made on Friends Helping Friends Day (October 16, 2007).

**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**

**Women's Center
of Montgomery
County**

Elkins Park Office

215-635-7344

Thrift Shop: 215-885-0620

FAX: 215-635-7347

Norristown Office

610-279-1548

FAX: 610-279-7740

Pottstown Office

610-970-7363

FAX: 610-970-0705

Lansdale Office

215-853-8060

FAX: 215-853-8065

Bryn Mawr Office

610-525-1427

FAX: 610-525-1429

www.wcmontco.org

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