

Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County

PRESIDENTIAL NOTES



Dear Sisters,

Regretfully I cannot attend the Volunteer Recognition Brunch this year. I always look forward to this event to meet and greet old friends with whom I have worked side by side and to welcome new volunteers who are attending for the first time. And so I'm glad that I have the opportunity to thank you in this letter for the privilege of being associated with such an amazing group!

You can be so proud of your accomplishments. Sometimes we take for granted the work that we do because it is "just our nature to help" and so for us it is business as usual. However when you read the statistics of Maria's article of last month which breaks down the numbers of people served by our volunteers and staff, you see that THOUSANDS have received our services. Those were some awesome numbers. So many people served by a relatively small volunteer organization. In spite of deep funding cuts, we have maintained our excellent standards and have never wavered from our commitment as a vital group to help victims of abuse. Your energy, ideals and dedication has affected positive, responsive and necessary changes through the years. We have continued to grow and thrive as a vital organization in our community and I dare say our state! We have achieved great accomplishments and have every reason to celebrate!!

Thank you staff! You are incredible individuals who are clearly dedicated to service and are a source of inspiration, guidance and support for the volunteers.

I am especially proud of our Board of Directors and thank them for their service. Their expertise and guidance in making difficult decisions affecting the center allows us as an organization to continue serving with excellence. They are keeping their promise to the community and our funders by safeguarding our money and striving to personally raise funds so that Women Center's clients will not lose services because of deep government funding cuts. They are dedicated in supporting the work and the mission of the Women's Center.

We are all working together as a team, and I am really in awe of our accomplishments over the past thirty years.

I see us continuing for many more years to come, inspired by our mission and each other to aid and empower victims of domestic violence to get free from the bonds of abuse!

And so the beat goes on. Hope to see many of you at the Walk-a-thon!!

Joyce

On Thursday, September 7th, we had the great pleasure of welcoming former WCMC Board President Lorell Hernandez and Pam Birmingham, Director of Education at the Woodmere Art Museum to our offices for a presentation on Woodmere. We asked Lorell to share information about her volunteer experience as a docent, as well as information about Woodmere, with her friends here at the Center.

WOODMERE ART MUSEUM — A NEARBY RESOURCE FOR LOVERS OF ART

By Lorell Hernandez, Docent and Former WCMC Board President

Pam Birmingham, Director of Education, and I enjoyed a recent visit to the Women's Center and the chance to talk with a small but very interested group about Woodmere, a lovely historical house and art museum which is very near, but not necessarily very well known.

Pam brought slides which introduced the group to some of the wonderful paintings in the Woodmere permanent collection, and she talked about our many temporary exhibitions, in particular the current one: Mother's House: Robert Venturi's Big Little House for Vanna Venturi (September 17, 2006 - January 7, 2007), a delightful exhibit about the house built in Chestnut Hill by Venturi for his mother. There are also decorative arts by Venturi and his wife and partner, Denise Scott Brown.

This is just one example of the many on-going pleasures to be found at Woodmere. As a docent there for the past several years (with the opportunity to take visitors on tours), I have found it to be an especially wonderful place to volunteer, with its easy accessibility and parking, its manageable size, and its excellent professional staff. I'd like to invite all Women's Center members to come visit Woodmere (on Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill, 215-247-0476), enjoy the current exhibit and get acquainted with all the riches of this lovely museum.

Elkins Park Volunteer Update

Submitted by Deanna Linn, Director of Volunteers

Preparations are in place for the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. Jenn, Anya and I have put together some *FUTURE* exciting activities for the brunch. See you there on October 15.

The Women's Center is welcoming new volunteers from the summer counselor training and there are new trainees in the Elkins Park and Bryn Mawr training sessions. The goal is to provide training programs at the different WCMC offices as well as day and evening times to meet the scheduling needs of the interested women who want to volunteer but have other time commitments to work around. I envision another training starting late winter, place and time to be determined by the applicants' requirements.

The Elkins Park in-service/Tea parties continue with afternoon and evening times.

- Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7:00-8:30pm – Domestic Violence 101 (previously given daytime in April)
- Wednesday, November 1, 1:00-3:00pm – counselor skills review – (*it will actually be fun*)
- Wednesday, November 8, 7:00-8:30pm – counselor skills review – (*it will actually be fun*)
- Thursday, December 5, 7:00-8:30pm — Children and Domestic Violence
- Thursday, December 7, 1:00-3:00pm – Assessing Dangerousness (repeated due to low attendance in September)

If anyone has topics she would want covered in one of these short in-services, please let me know.

RSVP for all of the above to me, Deanna at the Elkins Park office, 215-635-7340 or dlinn@dca.net

Norristown Volunteer Update

IN-SERVICE:

The next WAP in-service will be Tuesday, October 10, 2006 from 1-3 pm in the Norristown office. Our guest speaker will be from the Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County. Hope to see you all there! Let me know if you plan to attend.

LEGAL REMEDIES:

The next Legal Remedies Workshop will be Tuesday, October 17, 2006, from 5-7pm, facilitator to be announced. The information sessions are held at our Norristown office at 18 West Airy Street, 4th floor from 5-7p.m. Please call 610-279-7474 to register to attend. Also, please refer a family member or friend to this valuable program!

SAVE THE DATE:

October 15, 2006- Our annual Volunteer Appreciation brunch will be held at the William Penn Inn from 11:00am-2:00pm. Come join us for a celebration of 30 years and a look into the future!

October 28, 2006- 2nd Annual "Unmask the Abuse" Walk-a-thon will be held at Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell campus from 10-12pm. Come join in the fun again this year!

Hope to see you all at upcoming events!

WELCOME!

A special welcome to our newest volunteers Meredith M. in the Pottstown office and Linda M. in the Norristown office!

Jenn B.

Norristown Volunteer Coordinator

The Women's Center Wednesday Evening Book Club October 2006 to December 2006

The Women's Club is pleased to offer the following program:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
October 18	<u>Empire Falls</u> <i>by Richard Russo</i>	Dorothy	Elaine
November 15	<u>Orange Blossom Special</u> <i>by Betsy Carter</i>	Sandy	Ruth
December 20	<u>History of Love</u> <i>by Nicole Krass</i>	Caryn	Caryn
January 17th	<u>The Glass Castle</u> <i>by Jennifer Wells</i>	Ruth	Sandy

Reading enthusiasts please call Sunny at 215-576-6215 to join our lively and interesting book discussions. New members are always welcome!

A reminder from the Women's Center: If you are interested in buying any of these books online, we encourage you to use the shopping link on our site (www.wcmontco.org) to visit Amazon.com or Barnes&Noble.com. Both vendors donate approximately 5% of the sale price back to the Women's Center to support our efforts to empower women in our community.

Recognizing Local Businesses and Corporations Supporting the Women's Center of Montgomery County

As summer comes to a close, it is with great gratitude that we recognize that this past season has been both productive and rewarding for the Center. It is with incredible pride and pleasure that we recognize and thank the following corporate foundations for their generous support of the Women's Center:

Thanks to the hard work of Board member Thom McGowan, the Women's Center received a \$2,000 grant from **United Parcel Services (UPS)** in support of our domestic violence program.

We also are most grateful to **Citizen's Bank**, and our dedicated Board member Kathy Gallagher, who advocated on our behalf to secure a grant in the amount of \$5,000.

The Center also received a \$2,500 grant in August from the **Willow Grove Foundation** to support our domestic violence programs. The Willow Grove Foundation is funded by Willow Grove Bank.

Joining these community-minded organizations leading the way in supporting our work is the **Independence Foundation**, which awarded the Center a three-year, \$30,000 grant in July 2006 and the **Connolly Foundation**, which generously donated \$5,000 to our domestic violence program.

We are also extremely pleased to announce that we end the summer season with an announcement that the **Verizon Foundation** has given the Women's Center a grant in the amount of \$7,500 to support our technological advances in providing services to victims of domestic violence.

As many of you may know, over the past four years, we have seen significant funding reductions in our state and federal government contracts. Through the support and patronage of our friends at these amazing organizations, we are able to defray those funding cuts so that we may continue to provide quality services and programs to the community.

In expressing my sincerest and most heartfelt thanks to these corporations and individuals, I also want to acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers and staff. Your efforts and the diligence with which you provide dedicated, professional and outstanding services is what inspires others to give so generously to the Center! Thank you for your commitment to excellence!

In this time of competition and funding cuts, it is easy to lose sight of the real goal of this work – to maximize our ability to provide superior services to those in need and to unify the community to affect positive social change. I am awestruck and humbled at moments like this, when I can truly see the coming together of all your efforts and the vision and leadership of our corporate partners. With all that energy and dedication coming together, there is no way that we can fail!

In closing, I want to encourage all of our members to consider supporting these companies who, in turn, value and recognize your hard work here at the Center. These institutions are, indeed, inspirational examples of community excellence, leadership, reinvestment and community giving at its finest, demonstrating a genuine concern for the needs of their customers and employees and a commitment to improving the lives of our county's residents.

On behalf of our Board and myself, I'd like to extend my warmest thanks to all of you!

Maria Macaluso
Executive Director

Pennsylvania's Address Confidentiality Program

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is administered by the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) and provides an important service to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

The program has two basic parts. First, the ACP provides a substitute address for victims who have moved to a new location unknown to their perpetrator. The second part of the program provides participants with a free first-class confidential mail forwarding service.

The ACP is not for everyone. A victim service professional from a domestic violence, sexual assault or a victim service program can help determine if ACP is right for a victim as part of their safety plan.

Who is Eligible

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and persons who live in the same household as a participant may apply. ACP will determine if a victim meets eligibility.

Applying for Participation

Victims do not apply directly to the ACP. Application is made in person at a local domestic violence, sexual assault or victim service program located throughout the state. A parent or guardian can apply to the program on behalf of a minor or individual who is incapacitated. The application process involves meeting with an application assistant who is a victim service professional.

Application Assistance

The application assistant's role is to help the victim determine whether ACP should be a part of the victim's overall safety plan, explain the program services, explain the victim's responsibilities and assist with the completion of the application materials. The victim will mail the completed application to ACP.

Enrollment of a Program Participant

Once accepted into the ACP, the victim will receive a packet of information which includes an ACP identification card. The ACP card includes the victim's name, signature, and their substitute address including their ACP#. Their substitute address is to be used as their private mailing address. It is the victim's responsibility to tell state and local government employees that they are a participant in the ACP.

The ACP is only one part of a safety strategy

The Address Confidentiality (ACP) is only one small piece of an overall safety plan. *By itself, the ACP cannot keep a person safe.* Combined with other safety strategies, the ACP can help a victim start a new life.

This program is only effective if the victim has recently moved and the perpetrator does not know the new address. If the victim creates government records that document where they live, using a substitute address will not protect them from being found. A victim needs to live in a confidential location for the ACP substitute address to be most effective.

State and local agencies are required by law to use the substitute address provided on the ACP identification card. Should they have questions about the use of the substitute address, ask them to call ACP. The number is on the back of all ACP identification cards. The enrollment is effective for three (3) years unless otherwise cancelled by the participant or ACP before the expiration date.

continued on Page 6

continued from Page 5

When to use the substitute address

The substitute address used by an eligible participant has no relation to their actual address. The address may be used by the participant for receipt of all first-class mail, registered and certified mail. The ACP does not forward magazines, packages or junk mail. The participant may also use the substitute address on all of their address return labels.

It's the victim's decision

An ACP Participant should use the ACP substitute address every time they interact with state and local government agencies. The victim is safer when very few people know where they actually live. If the victim provides the state or local government their actual address, there is no guarantee it will remain confidential. It is important to understand that once enrolled in ACP, first class mail will be delayed 5-7 days from the date it was sent.

Private companies (like department stores, banks, phone companies, insurance agents) do not have to accept the substitute address. But many businesses are willing to do so. The victim should not hesitate to ask them to send all their mail to their ACP address.

Things to remember

- All participants will be assigned an ACP#. The personal ACP# will be what separates the participant from all the other ACP participants. This # must be included on all of the participant's mail.
- Should a participant move or change their name, they need to call ACP as soon as possible. The participant may be cancelled from the program if they fail to notify ACP within 5 days of a change.
- A participant does not notify the U.S. Post Office of their address change. If a participant notifies the Post Office of a change in their address, they will change the address of all the other participant's in the program.
- ACP enrollment is effective for 3 years. A program participant must reapply if they wish to continue in the program.

Condolences

The volunteers and staff of the Women's Center of Montgomery County joined together to offer our sincerest condolences to volunteer Pat Hopkins and her family on the loss of her husband, Richard, who passed away in September. Our thoughts are with our dear friend, Pat, and we would like her to know we are here to support her in any way we can!

Pottstown Support Group Update

Just a reminder to our hotline counselors that we offer a Support Group in the Pottstown Office of the Women's Center, every Tuesday evening from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. If you need more information or direct clients to please call: 610-970-7364.

The Women's Center of Montgomery County
Please make us your highest priority

United Way Donor Option Number 00433

To end domestic violence, we must change our behavior.
To change our behavior, we must change our attitudes.
To change our attitudes, we need education.
To educate our communities, WE NEED YOU!

We Welcome ALL Volunteers to the Upcoming Events for Community Education

MY HANDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING

November 12, 2006 – World Café Live – 4:00-6:00
November 14, 2006 – HarZion Pre School – 9:00-12:00
December 22, 2006 – Jenkintown Elementary School – 10:00AM

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOPS And SPEAKING EVENTS

October 3, 2006 – United Way Speakers Bureau – Patriot Bank – Pottstown – 8:00AM
October 5, 2006 – Montco. Community College – Pottstown 11:10-12:30
November 1, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue Adult Education – Evening
November 5, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue – Adult Education – 10:00 AM
November 6, 2006 – Western Center for Technical Studies – 9:30-10:45
November 7, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue Sisterhood – 10:00-11:30AM
November 8, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue Adult Education – Evening
November 9, 2006 – Visiting Nurses Association – 7:00-9:00 PM
November 13, 2006 – Western Center for Technical Studies – 9:30-10:45
November 14, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue Sisterhood – 10:00-11:30AM
November 14, 2005 – HarZion School Staff Training 12:00 – 12:45 and 1:00-1:45
November 15, 2006 – HarZion Senior Group – 1:00-2:00
November 15, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue Adult Education – Panel Discussion with teens and Parents - Evening
November 21, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue Sisterhood – 10:00-11:30AM
November 28, 2006 – HarZion Synagogue Sisterhood – 10:00-11:30AM
December 13, 2006 – Jenkintown High School – 1:55-2:40PM
April 21, 2007 – 16th Annual International Spring Festival – 11:00AM – 5:00 PM

TABLE EVENTS

October 7, 2006 – Montco. Community College Blue Bell Campus – Community Day – 11:00-3:00
October 14, 2006- Community Harvest Festival '06 – Whippen Township -11:00AM-5:00PM
October 28, 2006 – Walk-A-Thon
November 7, 2006- Penn State Abington – “Be Someone’s Hero” – 11:30AM-1: 30PM

**VOLUNTEER BRUNCH
OCTOBER 15TH
WILLIAM PENN INN**

**Women’s Center of Montgomery County WALK-A-THON
Saturday, October 29th
10:00-12:00 at Montgomery County Community College Blue Bell
WALKERS...SPONSORS.... DONATIONS... VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Contact Denise at 619-279-7474**

**WOMEN'S CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
AND SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF POTTSTOWN
PRESENT OUR SECOND ANNUAL
"UNMASK THE ABUSE"
WALK-A-THON**

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 28TH, 2006
10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON**

**5K (3.1 MILES) WALK-A-THON
AT MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BLUE BELL CAMPUS**

**Join us as we work to raise awareness and promote community collaboration in our effort to end
domestic violence!**

**For more information on how you can help,
Please contact Denise in the Norristown Office at
610-279-7474.**

**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

**1-800-773-
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