

# Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County



## Celebrating With Our Friend Pauline McGibbon

We are thrilled to announce that our good friend and colleague, Pauline McGibbon, was awarded the Non-Profit Service Award for Exception All Women by the YWCA TriCounty Area, based in Pottstown. Pauline, who joined the Women's Center as a volunteer in 2009, currently serves as our Lethality Assessment Coordinator and Legal Advocate in our Pottstown office

Since moving to the United States from Ireland ten years ago, Pauline has become a passionate leader in our county promoting, advocating for and defending the rights of domestic violence victims. Pauline is a strong legal advocate for her clients, accompanying them to court, counseling them, providing legal options, facilitating support groups, educating law enforcement and the courts to ensure domestic violence victims can access opportunities for justice in our systems.

In her 7 years as a legal advocate at the Women's Center of Montgomery County she has supported and assisted hundreds of victims, explaining their legal options, safety planning, identifying resources to help them find safety and stability. She has built a strong referral network with organizations such as Creative Health Services, the YWCA, the Tri-County Network, and the Soroptimists of Pottstown. She is committed to educating others – including students, hospital personnel, community members, police officers – about the dynamics of abuse so that we can break the cycle of violence.

Pauline has implemented prevention programs in the Pottstown area including Coaching Boys into Men, a research-based curriculum that educates young men on healthy relationships using athletic coaches as role models. In 2013 she took on the challenge of implementing the Lethality Assessment Project (LAP) in Pennsylvania. LAP is an evidence-based protocol developed in Maryland that helps police identify cases of escalating domestic violence with a goal of connecting victims with counseling programs as an early intervention. Pauline led one of the first 13 programs in PA to implement this protocol. With more than 40 programs statewide now utilizing the LAP screening process, Pauline has trained police officers throughout Montgomery County, resulting in more than 700 lethality screen referrals from police since 2014.

In the courts, in the hospitals, in all systems that interact with victims of domestic violence, Pauline is known for her unwavering commitment to providing the most comprehensive and skillful service to victims. She is a visionary, always seeking to engage other systems – recently launching a campaign to educate veterinar-



ians on the intersection of domestic violence and animal abuse. She volunteers long hours to make sure that every victim with whom she works receives the time, attention, care and advocacy they deserve.

Pauline is the consummate advocate for women's rights and empowerment. It is well-reflected in the manner in which she approaches her work with victims. She does not judge; she does not direct. She provides information and options and supports victims through the process. Her work doesn't end when the crisis ends. She continues to help survivors through their recovery to lead safe and stable lives. She is constantly there for others – as a peer, as a colleague, as a friend, as a mentor, all with a goal of improving the world we live in. In her efforts to empower others to achieve all that they can, Pauline is a role model for us all in giving selflessly and skillfully.

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### **Celebrating Our Friend, Christine Wiita, as She Makes A Happy Status Change**

Even for a 'glass is totally half-full' kind of person like me there are some moments in life in which I am torn – celebrating a life transition that brings joy to another but sadly and selfishly heralds a change that I am just not ready/willing/able to accept. This is one of those moments, when our wonderful Christine Wiita, Bryn Mawr Volunteer Coordinator, is shifting her role here from staff to volunteer as she retires from her paid position to enjoy some well-earned travel and fun with her husband, children and grandchildren.

Many of you know Christine as the tremendously competent, committed and hard-working professional who keeps the Bryn Office – indeed, all of us, myself especially! - focused and accountable. In her former career, prior to joining the Center in 2008, Christine retired from a career as a structural engineering and enterprise software sales and consulting specialist. With her undergraduate degree from The Cooper Union and an M.S.E. in Structural Engineering from Princeton University Christine has brought an enlightening and elevating perspective to our work that blends logic and science with a passionate dedication to helping others in a comprehensive and responsible manner. These skills have encouraged us all to approach our work with a methodology and concern for details that have expanded resources and skills for staff and volunteers here at the Center.

We are very fortunate that Christine is choosing to continue on as a volunteer at the Center but as her supervisor, my glass is just a little less full thinking about her leaving our ranks. I can only hope that she continues to find ways to keep me on my toes and always looking to how we can do better!

Best wishes, Christine on your well-earned retirement!

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## ***Save The Date!*** **Garden Luncheon**

May 7, 2017  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
at the Abington Art Center  
515 Meetinghouse Road – Jenkintown, PA



for details - [www.wcmontco.org](http://www.wcmontco.org)

## Calling All Volunteers!!

by Patricia Metzger

When I was asked to write an article for the newsletter, I kept thinking “what would interest the readers?” Several ideas kept floating around in my head but I decided to write on a subject that I am very passionate about....our new strategic plan and volunteering!

During this first year with the board, I was asked if I would chair the Planning Committee. This committee is responsible for creating and evaluating the strategic plan for the Women’s Center. A strategic plan is a document that an organization uses as it’s compass on where they want to go and assists them in making decisions for moving forward to stay true to their mission. We will use this plan to improve many areas of our center such as; to increase our revenue base from corporations and more private individuals; increase our volunteer base; create entirely new programs to empower all women and girls in Montgomery County just to name a few. I initially thought, how hard could this be? Well, at our first meeting, boy was I surprised! Last year, the Women’s Center raised the money to hire a company to help facilitate this process. GLOW Strategies came in and facilitated retreats and surveys to a broad base of our board, membership, staff and volunteers to help the WCMC decide what they wanted to achieve in their strategic plan. Unfortunately, I was not part of this process but I attempted to recruit some of previous participants so that we had some history. Our committee this year is made up of 7 board and/or staff members and I can say wholeheartedly that the committee ROCKS!

GLOW came in to our first meeting with material from the summits, surveys and meetings they had the previous year but it became apparent at the beginning that the committee did not necessarily embrace all of the previous logic. After some initial round-table discussions, GLOW rallied and facilitated a new, brainstorming meeting that both overwhelmed and excited all of us! Each committee member may have different ideas and passions of where they think the Women’s Center should go but everyone’s opinion is treated with respect and is voted on for moving forward. We have had several 3 hour meetings with GLOW to create our vision in each of the areas listed below:

- To Eliminate Domestic Violence
- Increase Enrichment Programs for women and girls
- Champion Gender Equality
- Organizational Improvement

This has been an intense process and I believe a very rewarding one. It is exciting at each meeting to hear some of the ideas that the committee members have on how we can initiate these categories.

Each of these areas are still in the process of being developed and will have measurements, strategies and actions. The final plan will then have to be approved by the board before it becomes an actual working document. I am feeling confident that the plan will be approved so that we can improve women’s lives.

So with this new plan, we will be looking for additional volunteers to help to facilitate the agenda. If you have an interest or area of expertise, please contact our Director of Volunteers Deanna Linn at [dlinn@womenscentermc.org](mailto:dlinn@womenscentermc.org) or [pmetzger13@comcast.net](mailto:pmetzger13@comcast.net) with any questions you may have.

Some of our committees are listed below and usually meet 1 time per month (Sept-June) and we are also welcoming more members:

Finance- budgets, audits, and investment statements  
Governance – maintaining quality of board through active recruitment and accountability  
Planning – Strategic plan and tracking for adherence  
Development -Special Events- fundraising and marketing  
CPA-Communication and Public Advocacy – communicate the mission and vision of WCMC to media and elected officials.  
2 new committees if plan is approved by the board  
\*Programs – create and pursue various monthly speakers and on-going training programs  
\*Membership – Define what we believe a member is and what you get as benefits

While we can always use more hotline volunteers, which is the base of our current program to assist clients who are living with domestic violence, we are hoping to reduce, if not eliminate, domestic violence through education, awareness, and programs to increase self-confidence and the skills needed to become independent.

I have had a very enlightening and exciting year as a volunteer and board member. I urge each of you to consider what talents, interests or enthusiasm you may have to volunteer some of your time to help us grow and make Montgomery County a better and safer place for its women and girls.

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## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Women’s Center of Montgomery County is seeking to fill the following part-time position to be based in our Colmar and Lansdale offices:

### Volunteer Coordinator– Bryn Mawr Office

**Purpose:** 1) to develop, maintain and supervise the volunteer component at the Bryn Mawr site; and 2) to assist the Women’s Center in delivering services to abused individuals as needed.

**Qualifications:**

- Knowledge and sensitivity to domestic and abuse dynamics
- Ability to communicate effectively and professionally
- Capacity for working with detail and ability to organize
- Ability to work independently and to handle stressful situations
- Sensitivity to feminist issues and trauma-informed counseling approach

**Prerequisite** Completion of 45 hour PCADV-approved Counselor/Advocate training

**Classification:** Part-time (20 hours per week)

email to [mmacaluso@womenscentermc.org](mailto:mmacaluso@womenscentermc.org)  
or mail resumes to

Maria Macaluso, Executive Director c/o the Elkins Park office,  
no later than June 1, 2017 with an anticipated start in July 2017

*It is the policy of the Women’s Center to provide program services and opportunities for volunteerism, training and employment without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, ancestry, disability or sexual orientation.*

**A CALL TO ACTION – Follow our Facebook Page! And Invite Your Friends!**

We would appreciate your help following and building our band of Facebook followers!

STEP #1: (Quick and easy!)

Click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/WomensCenterofMontgomeryCounty/>

And click on the “Like” button.

Then click on the “Following” button and select “See first” and Notifications “On”

That way all, or most, of the posts will appear in your newsfeed.

----- Then do this -----

STEP #2:

Click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/WomensCenterofMontgomeryCounty/>

Click on the button with three dots (next to “Share”)

Click on “Invite Friends”

Invite friends, that you think would be interested, to like our page.

Click “Close” once you are done.



*Honor Your Mother on  
Mother's Day  
With A Special Gift*

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **in honor of**  
\_\_\_\_\_ on Mother's Day.

If the Women's Center receives this flyer by MAY 8th, then my honoree will receive a personalized Mother's Day Card, letting her know she inspired this donation to the Women's Center and their work to empower women and end domestic violence.

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **in memory of**  
\_\_\_\_\_ on Mother's Day.

For credit card donations, please supply the credit card number,  
expiration date and the zip code of the billing address.  
Minimum donation: \$5 per card

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Personalized Message to be printed on your card  
(or you can opt for our standard message):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send Completed form and payment to:  
Women's Center of Montgomery County  
8080 Old York Road, Suite 200  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

## *May Special Events!*

There's no *May-be* about it – May is definitely a month of fun and activity here at the Women's Center of Montgomery County! We want to share with you the following schedule of events in May with the hopes that you can join us!

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** - This year's spring event is new and different! Our **Garden Party Luncheon** will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Abington Arts Center, celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of our beloved friends Carol Horvitz and Norma Jarrett. With fashions, art, vendors, auctions and celebrations it is an event not to be missed! As a reminder, there is still time to purchase an ad in our commemorative program book. Please visit website or call our Elkins Park office for details and to register!

**Honor Your Mother for Mother's Day** - Once again this year we offer the opportunity to celebrate a special woman/mother in your life with a commemorative card acknowledging that a donation as made in her name. The request form is enclosed.

**Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** – Join WCMC Board Member Theresa Hummel-Krallinger as she hosts a Women's Author Event – *Empower, Enlighten & Envision* - at the Pyramid Club in Philadelphia from 6 – 9. Proceeds benefit the Women's Center. For details and tickets visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/wcmc-authors>

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### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Do you want to hear some good news? Our education programs work! In the past year we have received numerous calls from victims who requested our services after attending one of our programs or seeing one of our informational flyers. They found out about us, because we found them, *first*.

Our job is far from over – it is only beginning. We want to have the Women's Center's name and our Hotline number in every corner of this oddly-shaped Montgomery County. Here's how you can help:

- Do you know of an organization, a business, a church or a gym that would accommodate our materials?
- What about your local train station or library? A medical facility? Think outside the box.

We are proud of the extensive services we provide to many and we want every person in our communities to have access to us.

So.... where is *your special spot*? Email Robin Jordan at [rjordan@womenscentermc.org](mailto:rjordan@womenscentermc.org) or Colleen Brown at [cbrown@womenscentermc.org](mailto:cbrown@womenscentermc.org) to arrange for a material delivery.

Thinking about entering the workforce?



**The most effective way to do it, is to do it. — Amelia Earhart**

Through collaborations with our outstanding community, we are pleased to be part of a team that will help you soar right back into the job market. Here some supports that will help you take off as you begin your new journey:

- ❖ **Microsoft and the WCMC:** Learn skill assessment, resume building, interviewing skills, budgeting, and tips and tricks to organize appointments. We will tailor all instruction to meet YOUR individual needs.

**COST:** FREE

**DATES:** Beginning APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>, then the last Friday of each month for six (6) sessions.

**TIME:** 12 PM – 2 PM

**WHERE:** The Microsoft Store at the King of Prussia Mall

**REGISTRATION:** [ltripp@microsoft.com](mailto:ltripp@microsoft.com)

**Your young children will be able to take advantage of Microsoft Children's Computer Camp Programs at during this time. This is also FREE of cost.**

- ❖ **Empire Beauty School** is offering FREE hair make-overs to anyone looking to make a great first impression on a job interview. Contact (610) 616-2188 to find out how these superstar stylists can help you look and feel confident.
- ❖ **The WCMC Second Chance Thrift Shoppe** has a wide variety of clothes and accessories to help you complete a polished professional look. Stop in at 201 Leedom Street, Jenkintown or call 215-885-0651 for more information.

For further information on these or any other community outreach events, please contact Robin Jordan at: [rjordan@womenscentermc.org](mailto:rjordan@womenscentermc.org) or 215-996-0723.

Join the Women's Center of Montgomery County and our friends at Congregation Beth Or on Sunday June 4th for a 5K/10K run. Congregation Beth Or has generously selected the Women's Center as the beneficiary of the event proceeds!



**Sunday June 4, 2017, 8:30 AM**

Congregation Beth Or, 239 Welsh Rd., Maple Glen, PA 19002

5k run, 10k run and 1 mile walk

Chip-timed, over-all and age category winners, team competition (5K)

Proceeds from this years race will support The Woman's Center of Montgomery County

ON-LINE REGISTRATION:  
[www.bethor.org](http://www.bethor.org)



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High Quality - Best Low Prices -  
Great Cause

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201 Leedom Street,  
Jenkintown, PA 19046

215-885-0651

Monday - Friday  
10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Saturday  
10:00 am to 4:00pm

## Women's Center of Montgomery County

### Elkins Park Office

215-635-7344

FAX: 215-635-7347

Thrift Shop: 215-885-0651

### Norristown Office

610-279-1548

FAX: 610-279-7740

### Pottstown Office

610-970-7363

FAX: 610-970-0705

### Bryn Mawr Office

610-525-1427

FAX: 610-525-1429

### Colmar Office

215-996-0721

FAX: 215-996-0725

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

1-800-773-  
2424

## ***DATED MATERIAL***

Women's Center of Montgomery County  
8080 Old York Road, Suite 200  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



United Way  
of Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Community Partner