

Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County



A Lyrical Note of Thanks

From Board Member Marguerite Nocchi, Co-chair of Development Committee

We went to a garden party to honor our dear friends: Norma Jarrett, Carol Horvitz and Toby L. Dickman.
A chance to share our memories and celebrate again.

When we got the garden party we were surrounded by the Center's love.
We ate and shopped, listened and took in what the survivor's shared.

But it's all right now, we learn our lessons well
See we can't empower all at once, so we go one by one!

And people came from all over the county and beyond, the circle brought their harps.
There was magic in the air.

And outside in the meadow much to our surprise the wind kicked and rain poured down but it could not dampen our spirit.

Cause it's all right now we continue to learn our lessons well
See we can't empower all at once we go one by one!

We had vendors, crafts and raffles to auction many, many came.
We said hello to Chelsea Allen she was there to paint the scene.

Someone opened a gallery door out stepped Maria Macaluso.
She was smiling and speaking words of praise just like we knew she would.
If you gotta attend a garden party I wish you a lotta luck.
Hope you have the chance to ride on the Women's Center truck.

And it's all right now we continue our lessons well
You see, we can't empower all at once, so we go one by one!

On May 7th the Center hosted a garden party at the Abington Arts Center. It was an amazing day. Dov Weiner and I thank everyone for their support and continued belief in our efforts as co-chairs of the Development Committee. Oh and thanks Ricky Nelson for the lyrical inspiration.....

Peace,

Marguerite Nocchi



For event photos - visit our [Facebook page](#)

The Event Program book can be found on our website under [Newsletters](#)

**Women's Center of Montgomery County
Board of Directors
Nominating News:**

The following individuals have been nominated by the Board of Directors as **proposed new Board members**. The slate of candidates has been distributed to active/voting members of the Women's Center, with ballots due back by the annual membership meeting scheduled for Thursday June 15th in Colmar.

Proposed New Board Candidates:

Linda Brennan is a Finance Manager at Almac with over 20 years of experience in managerial accounting and internal control. Although she has worked in several industries, the last 10 years have been spent working in the pharmaceutical clinical trial industry. From a very early age, the concept of giving back to the community was taught by her parents. Now, this ethic is shown through leadership in her employer's Community Service Team, implementation of corporate charity giving program and several volunteering outreach (both chronic and non-secular) programs. Although Linda was born and raised in Western Pennsylvania, she and her two sons have lived in the Yardley area for over 25 years. Knowing the importance of empowerment, from both a mental and physical base, she is looking forward to this commitment.

Sandra (Sandy) Capps – Sandy is presently employed part-time for Premier Pool Renovations, Inc. Before that, Sandy worked for Earning Performance Group, Inc. as a bank consultant for Branch Operations. She retired from First Union Bank formerly CoreStates) after 27 years as Vice-President overseeing Branch Operations for 87 branches. Sandy has been a counselor volunteer with the WCMC since 2003, and has served on the Board of Directors of other non-profit organizations. Previously, Sandy served on the WCMC Board from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2016, serving as Board President from April 2012 until June 30, 2016. For the past year she has stayed connected to our Board in the capacity of Past President, a non-voting ex-officio role.

**Incumbent Board Members
Running for Re-election**

Diane Morgan: Diane is former Controller of Montgomery County from 2008 to 2011. A speech pathologist, Diane was the founder and CEO of DM & A Rehab, which provided physical, occupational, and speech therapy services to hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home health agencies in PA and NJ. Currently Diane is a founding member of the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site Community Advisory Group, which meets with the EPA to monitor and find solutions to the former Keasby Mattison Asbestos Waste Disposal site located in Whitpain, Upper Dublin, and Ambler. She also volunteers with Art Goes to School, and is a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, board member of the Philadelphia Area Jewish Community Relations Council, and volunteer with WCMC. She resides in Lower Gwynedd. *Seeking re-election to her second term*

Marguerite M. Nocchi, Esq.: Marguerite is a family law attorney with twenty-five years of experience. Since 1993, she is a sole practitioner with an office in North Wales. In 1995, Marguerite was the recipient of the Pro-Bono award from the Penna. Bar Association for service to the Montgomery County Legal Aid Society. She also taught law at Immaculata University. Marguerite provides 1/2 free consults to victims of domestic violence. She resides in Lansdale. Joined Board July 1, 2013 and is currently our Development Committee Co-Chairperson. *Seeking re-election to her third term*

Lawrence Pauker, Esq.: Larry is a graduate of American University Law School in Washington, D.C., and maintains a law office in Norristown. His legal practice involves family law, divorce and personal injury. He often works with our court advocates on PFA Cases. Larry has published several articles in the PA Law Journal. He has served on the Board and as an officer at Temple Sinai, and is currently on the Upper Dublin Township

Zoning Board. He has also been treasurer of the Upper Dublin Democratic Committee For many years. Larry mother was a personal friend of both Gladys Diamond and Mary Gaynor, advocates for the WCMC for many years. Served on WCMC Board from June 2008 to June 2014, as Co-President 2012/14, and ex-officio member July 2014 - June 2015. *Seeking re-election to his second term*

Lisa N. Poelck: comes to the board with over 25 years of sales and management experience in the electronic components industry. Since 2002 she has been owner/partner at Astrorep MidAtlantic Inc. Astrorep MidAtlantic represents 20 different manufacturers of semiconductor and electromechanical components in Eastern Pa, Southern NJ, Delaware, Maryland and VA. Our customer's encompass a variety of OEM companies in the Industrial, Defense, Medical and Communications Industries. Her interest in the WCMC and DV came in May of 2013 when her only daughter lost her childhood best friend Julianne Siller who was stabbed to death by a boy she had dated for a few short months. Since that tragic life changing event she began to get involved in the WCMC to advocate the mandate of healthy relationship curriculum education in middle and high schools in PA. She is a member of the TCN and serves on the CPAA Committee (Community Partners Against Abuse). She help create the Orange Shoe Lace Campaign to promote healthy and safe dating relationships in High Schools during February's Teen Dating Violence Awareness month (#putakNOTinDV). She is co-chair of the Julianne Siller Scholarship fund which organizes and hosts Julianne's Journey 5K Run to raise money benefitting students of Springford High School with annual scholarships. She lives in Schwenksville PA with her husband Eric of 23 years, her daughter Devon, 21, a 2017 Graduate of the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, a dog named Rosie and a cat named Daisy. In her spare time she enjoys skiing, travelling any place, going to see live music and spending time with family and friends. She is current Chairperson of our Board's Communications & Public Policy Ad Hoc Board Committee. *Seeking re-election to her second term*

Rosemary Santulli: Rosemary (Rosie) is an experienced research scientist with over 30 years' experience, including 15 years in academic research and most recently 20 years in pharmaceutical drug discovery research at Johnson & Johnson. She has co-authored over 100 abstracts and published over 50 manuscripts in peer review journals. She has presented her work at National meetings as well. She is a graduate of Gettysburg University and currently resides in Wayne, PA. She is retired and is committed to and passionate about her volunteer activities at the Women's Center of Montgomery County. Rosie is a counselor in the Bryn Mawr office, participates in several community education activities, provides court accompaniment and co-facilitates an active Support Group in Bryn Mawr. Rosie is currently our Board C-President and chair of our Counseling Services Committee. Joined Board July 1, 2013. *Seeking re-election in her third term*

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



**Board of Directors and Annual Meeting
Announcement**

The next meeting of the Women’s Center of Montgomery County Board of Directors – which is also the annual membership meeting - will be held on **Thursday, June 15th at 6:30 pm** in the Walton Community Room at the Colmar Office at 2506 North Broad Street.

As with all Board meetings, this meeting is open to current members of the Center. Additionally current members can also join most of our Board committees. If you have an interest on serving on our standing committees – Finance, Special Events, Planning, Governance or Development – please contact our Board Co-Presidents Amy Stern and Rosie Santulli c/o the Elkins Park office.

The annual membership meeting is also the meeting in which we announce the results of our Board elections which includes a slate of new and incumbent members. In order to ensure that our Board operates at its most effective levels, we continue the search through the year for prospective nominees for Board candidacy. If you or someone you know would consider serving our Center at this level, please feel free to discuss with a Committee member or our executive director at our Elkins Park Office (215-635-7340). We are at present seeking persons with expertise/interest in the areas of finance, development, market and/or strategic planning, as well as connections to local corporations.

Please remember this is YOUR board and its composition and service reflects your interests and concerns. Your input is of great value to those of us currently on Board. We appreciate and honor each of you for all that you do. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Domestic Violence Services Provided by the Women’s Center
Nine Month Period Fiscal Year 7/1/16 to 3/31/17**

Number of Domestic Violence Victims Served:

Number of New Victims	3,809
Number of Significant Others	159

Counseling Hours:

Individual Counseling:	4,460 hours
Group Counseling:	496 hours
Total Counseling Hours	4,956 hours

Community Education Programs:

Number of programs to community groups	69
Number of persons reached through community groups	4,554
Number of programs to schools	37
Number of persons reached in schools	3,826
Hospital-based Training:	40
Number Healthcare Workers	769

11th Annual Census Illuminates Critical Services, Highlights Gaps in Domestic Violence Field

Report shows that while more than 72,000 victims of domestic violence received services on a single day, nearly 12,000 requests were turned away because programs lacked the resources to help

Washington, DC – (May 11, 2017)

Today, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) released the 11th annual Domestic Violence Counts census report. The 24-hour count [1] of services provided to adult and child victims offers a unique glimpse into the untold story of our nation's domestic violence shelters.

“While you were sipping your coffee this morning, thousands of victims were waking up in a shelter, safe for the time being. When you dropped your kids off at school, thousands of children were heading into a new school, hauling backpacks provided by their shelter advocates. As you watch your evening shows tonight, thousands of survivors will be learning about protection orders and other services from unsung heroes: local domestic violence victim advocates,” said Cindy Southworth, NNEDV's Executive Vice President.

Domestic violence programs provide desperately needed services to individuals who are very often fleeing for their lives. Shelters provide a safe haven in a time of fear and uncertainty, working closely with families, communities, law enforcement, health care workers, and other advocates.

The data revealed in this newly released report show that in just one day...

- 1,762 local domestic violence programs (92% of 1,910) participated in the national census and reported the number of services they provided to survivors, as well as the services they were unable to provide.
- 72,959 adults and children received help and support from domestic violence programs on Census Day. Of this number, more than 41,000 adults and children found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing.
- 26,076 individuals participated in prevention and education trainings offered by domestic violence programs that day, including students, teachers, law enforcement, and community leaders.
- 20,239 calls for help were answered by local, state, and national hotline staff and volunteers.

The phenomenal work of domestic violence programs is sadly undermined by a lack of resources. In fact, on the Census Day, 11,991 requests for services could not be met due to a lack of resources. Of this number, 66 percent (7,914) were for emergency or transitional shelter.

“For every story of shelter received, a job secured, a protection order issued, or a child comforted, there is a harrowing story of tragic abuse, of shelters at capacity, limited resources, and survivors who couldn't get the services they needed. Nearly 12,000 times on the Census Day, a hotline phone rang or a victim reached out to request a shelter bed, legal assistance, counseling for a child, or another needed service, and the local program was forced to say ‘no’ because they did not have the resources to help,” said Monica McLaughlin, Deputy Director of Public Policy at NNEDV. “It is heartbreaking to know that so many people fleeing domestic violence are not able to get help when they need it.”

Over half of unmet requests (66%) were housing or emergency shelter services. We know that leaving is the most dangerous time for a survivor, so available and safe shelter is critical. While many programs try to offer hotel stays or other options when they are filled to capacity, those resources are costly and limited.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), have fueled our nation's undeniable progress towards understanding and addressing gender-based violence. Despite this progress, shelters, rape crisis centers, and other domestic and sexual violence service providers continue to face budget shortfalls, as evidenced in the Domestic Violence Counts Census report. As more victims come forward, some programs are forced to turn away desperate victims and their children. Funding cuts would erode our nation's progress on this critical issue.

“Funding cuts threaten the tenuous progress we have made in meeting survivors' needs,” said McLaughlin. “Now is the time to invest further in these life-saving services, not to retreat.”

Action Alert from the National Network to End Domestic Violence
Rep. Hudson's H.R. 38
Endangers Lives and Public Safety
5/17/2017

The U.S. House of Representatives may give domestic violence offenders the right to stalk their intimate partners across state lines with guns, which often leads to murder. In the next few weeks, the House plans to vote for H.R. 38, sponsored by Representative Richard Hudson (R-NC) that would allow abusers to carry concealed firearms into any state. This bill would replace existing state and local protections for victims of domestic and dating violence with some of the weakest gun laws in the country. H.R. 38 would force every state to recognize other states' concealed carry permits, **even if the out-of-state concealed carry permit was issued to a domestic violence offender who would be prohibited from obtaining such a permit in the travel state** due to crimes such as stalking, dating violence and other crimes of violence convictions that do not trigger the federal domestic violence prohibitors.

Background

- Currently each state has the individual authority to say who can and cannot carry concealed firearms within their borders, and travelers must follow the law. Some states' firearms laws are stronger for victims of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, while some states provide almost no protections for survivors from abusers with guns.
- This dangerous bill would also put law enforcement at risk, as they would be unable to confirm validity of out-of-state permits, endangering their safety, and would punish law enforcement for doing their jobs if they investigate the validity of such permits.
- Survivors often relocate to other states to escape their abusers, sometimes seeking refuge in states that have stricter firearms protections.
- Many states have stronger laws than the federal government, including prohibiting dating violence and stalking misdemeanants from possessing firearms.
- Twelve states currently have no requirement that an individual must apply for and obtain a state permit to carry concealed firearms. None of these twelve states requires a background check for private gun sales. Anyone in these states, regardless of prior acts of violence, can just pick up a gun, conceal it in their clothing, and go almost anywhere they want in the state. This could be the standard for the whole country if Congress passes these bills.
- H.R. 38 would make it easy for domestic violence offenders to "shop" for a state with weak concealed carry permit laws and to avoid being turned down for a concealed carry permit in a state that is more protective of survivors.
- H.R. 38 has a provision that threatens law enforcement with lawsuits if they try to enforce their own state's firearms laws that protect victims and survivors. This would punish law enforcement for doing their jobs--and would put law enforcement officers in danger, as well as survivors.
- Law enforcement's ability to remove firearms based on federal law is hindered by the limitations of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Domestic violence offenses not always entered, and further not always labelled as domestic violence offenses. Unless Congress also provides sufficient funding to bring these databases up to date, there is no way for law enforcement to make sure domestic violence offenders are not carrying concealed firearms in violation of federal law.

The following article was sent to us by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)
Statement About the Budget Proposed by President Trump**

The Impact on Domestic Violence Victims

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence has serious concerns about President Trump’s dangerous fiscal year 2018 budget. This budget inappropriately reallocates VOCA funds and decimates many programs on which victims and survivors rely. We call on federal Appropriators to reject this budget and to prioritize the needs of victims, survivors, and average Americans over cutting taxes for the wealthy and significantly increasing a military budget.

“This administration has once again demonstrated that they have little or no regard for those less vulnerable and that their priority is for the wealthy and those who do not rely on critical services,” said Ruth M. Glenn, NCADV’s Executive Director.

Victims and survivors rely on many of the social safety net and entitlement programs this budget proposes to cut or to entirely eliminate. Cutting these programs will trap victims and survivors in abusive relationships and create barriers to healing. For example, many low-income victims and survivors rely on Medicaid to access health care. Currently, all Americans who are eligible for Medicaid have access, but this budget recommends letting states choose between making Medicaid a block grant or receiving a per capita payment. Such a plan would remove tens of millions of people from Medicaid, including many victims and survivors, reduce benefits such as mental health access, and allow states to divert funding from healthcare to fill gaps in their budgets. Victims and survivors rely on Medicaid and other federal programs to access the physical and mental health care they need to heal. It also creates significant barriers to accessing safety for victims and survivors with critical medical needs who rely on their abuser’s insurance for their health care.

This budget also drastically cuts other programs that empower victims and survivors economically to leave their abusers such as SNAP (food stamps), Social Security Disability, Community Block Grants, heating assistance, and many other safety net programs on which victims, survivors, their children, and millions of other hardworking Americans rely. It also eliminates the Legal Services Corporation, which provides legal aid to countless victims and survivors.

Furthermore, this budget raids the Crime Victims Fund to pay for other programs, including \$1.3 billion that is ‘permanently reduced’. It also funds almost all of VAWA in addition to several other programs from the Fund, reallocating money that is statutorily directed toward victims and survivors to fund law enforcement and other activities. We do, however, applaud the inclusion of a 5% tribal funding stream to ensure victims and survivors in some of our most marginalized communities have access to important, life-saving services.

NCADV also strongly opposes anti-immigrant provisions that make victims, survivors, and communities less safe, including provisions that mandate local law enforcement undermine community trust by carrying out federal immigration enforcement activities and other provisions that prevent victims and survivors from seeking and receiving justice.

Although this budget does not cut VAWA funding, and we greatly appreciate the inclusion of a VAWA-funded program on firearms homicide reduction and the VOCA tribal funding stream, it does not consider or address the barriers victims and survivors must overcome to find safety and well-being. The cuts to vital safety net and social service programs, the end of Medicaid as an entitlement program, and many other provisions in this budget increase barriers for victims and survivors who are seeking to leave abusive relationships. It also threatens their ability to access the services necessary for them to heal and to thrive.

For more information, please contact Rachel Graber at publicpolicy@ncadv.org.

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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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Community Partner