

Winter 2011

Women's Center &
Shelter of Greater
Pittsburgh

Rosewood

It will never rain roses; when we want more roses,
we will have to plant more trees.

Remembering Anne Steytler

Anne Steytler, co-founder of Women's Center & Shelter, passed away on September 13, 2010.

She committed her life to serving society's underdogs, and a large part of that commitment was in her work with WC&S.

In 1982, Anne wrote a WC&S history. She said that WC&S began "in the winter of 1973 as a twinkle in the eye of Ellen Berliner and me. We were having lunch with a long time friend of mine who was describing the women's center she and three other women had founded and were supporting in Carbondale, Illinois. This was in the surge of the women's movement, and the needs of women were being considered seriously."

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Letter from the Executive Director



The passing of Anne Steytler has caused me to pause and reflect on the beginnings of Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S), and how far the organization has progressed since its inception in 1974. Although one of WC&S' founders and greatest contributors has passed, her legacy lives on. Her vision of a safe place where women and children can "be" is realized because of all the ways the community helps.

Women's Center & Shelter is blessed with community support, and our work would not be possible without it. Several of our core services are provided in part by a dedicated team of volunteers, including our 24-hour hotline and children's program. Our monetary and in-kind donors also provide invaluable support for which we are ever grateful. There are always people helping us in multiple ways. If you would like to become more involved in WC&S, as a volunteer, donor or in-kind contributor, please visit our website to learn about the opportunities available. The back cover of Rosewood also contains information about volunteering and upcoming events. Women's Center & Shelter was founded because women in the community saw a need and worked hard to address it. It is carried forward by you, the women and men who are making the safety of women and children in our community a priority.

Anne was very important in my life and early workings in domestic violence. She will be greatly missed at Women's Center & Shelter, but I am comforted because I see her influence in so much of the work we do. I see her passion growing in a new generation of volunteers, donors and in-kind contributors.

Sincerely,
Shirl Regan

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Shop to Stop Domestic Violence Report



Photo of STS models, including 96.1 Kiss's Tall Cathy (Schodde) and WTAE's Andrew Stockey.

The 8th annual Highmark Shop to Stop Domestic Violence was held Sunday, November 7, 2010 at the Galleria of Mt. Lebanon. The event raised over \$50,000 to support Women's Center & Shelter's life saving services!

WTAE's Andrew Stockey emceed and 96.1 Kiss's Tall Cathy worked the runway as a model for the event. A survivor speaker told her story about fleeing intimate partner violence, and Jim Fawcett, Senior Vice President of Small Group and Individual Markets at Highmark delivered the keynote remarks. Guests enjoyed musical entertainment from the Dan Baker Jazz Trio, Mt. Lebanon High School Orchestra and Harmony Singers. Guests also enjoyed a food and beverage tasting, silent auction and raffle, Galleria merchant discounts and shopping from 20 local jewelry and artisan vendors.

Women's Center & Shelter thanks all those who attended Shop to Stop Domestic Violence to celebrate the courage and success of intimate partner violence survivors! We would also like to thank the Shop to Stop Committee, volunteers and Continental Real Estate who worked tirelessly to host the only event of its type in the region. Without their support, the event's success would not have been possible.

Due to these challenging economic times, Women's Center & Shelter has made the difficult decision to permanently end the Shop to Stop Domestic Violence event. Declining funding paired with an increased demand for services has made it imperative that WC&S look strategically at how to use its staff time most wisely and efficiently. This decision is felt as a great loss by WC&S staff and event attendees, but it is a necessary decision based on bottom line calculations. WC&S is looking to replace STS with a fun and creative, but smaller scale, fundraising and awareness raising campaign.

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The Andy Warhol Museum

The Capital Grille
The Entertainment Department at Giant Eagle
The Original Pancake House
The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
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STS Committee Co-Chairs

Pam Cain
Anna Gaetano
Maureen Stokan

STS Committee Members

Carole DeAngelo
Mary Anne Papale
Cathy Schwartzmiller
Ellen Waite

Survivor Story



Miss Jones met with WC&S to share her survivor story. Her story, as told in her words, is below.

I was in an abusive relationship and didn't know how to get out. I felt hopeless. One day leaving church I started talking to a friend who works in social services. As it turned out she too had been in an abusive relationship. She was able to finish my sentences. She knew just what I was feeling. [She gave me the WC&S hotline number!](#)

I called the hotline several times. [They worked with me to develop a safety plan.](#) I packed an emergency bag with clothes and important papers. I put that at my mom's house. It took a month for space to become available in shelter! Finally, space was available, and it was not too soon.

[The abuse was starting to transfer to my three daughters.](#) I was a school bus driver, so I had to leave early to get to work. I would call to check on my girls. I hated hearing their sadness because he was yelling at them. He'd make them feed him after school instead of the other way around. It broke my heart. I started to move items at night when he was working, but he must have sensed something was going on because he stopped going to work for about a week.

[And the day came when the risk to remain a bud was more painful than the risk to blossom.](#) Finally, that Friday, January 16th, 2009 he went to work. My oldest two knew when they said goodbye to him that day, we'd be leaving. We were all so excited. When the door opened, I ran through.

When we arrived at shelter, my little one cried, but my older two were as excited as I was. I had no idea what to expect going into the shelter. I pictured a big room with cots and people stealing shoes. It was nothing like that at all. It was a very positive experience. We slept so good the first night! It was so peaceful.

I was numb by the time of the great escape, but I didn't know it until I started group. I realized that we were all suffering post-traumatic stress. My oldest was wetting the bed, had headaches, and was unable to sleep, etc. All of that stopped when we got to shelter and all started in group. I was in shelter for 2 months.

One day at group I met Miss Mary Anne from PA Women Work. She was talking about nontraditional careers. That really lit a

fire in me because I always wanted to be an electrician. I love working with my hands. I took assessment tests and scored highest in the technology categories. [I was accepted into and graduated from the MWELA \(Minority and Educational Labor Agency\) Program!](#) I found out what I really wanted to do.

[While I was in that program, PA Women Work honored me with the "Women of Triumph" Award in 2009.](#)

While doing New Choices I was accepted into New Option HeartHouse Transitional Housing offered by Goodwill on the Southside. It was a large, beautiful apartment. March 14, 2009 we moved in. I was so overwhelmed! Everything I need was there and my case worker had even decorated in all of our favorite colors.

The MWELA Program was mainly for carpentry. It was very exciting for me. I even bought my own drill! Everything was really awesome. I even started to ace math, a subject I had struggled with in the past. My girls and I would do homework together. Life was good! [I graduated in October 2010.](#)

I continued to participate in my group here at WC&S. The counselor I had at the time suggested that I apply for the Bartko Grant. I applied for a computer, desk, chair and work boots. And I got it! I also received the Irene O. Bartko Self Sufficiency Award. Mr. Thomas Kennedy at UPMC, Director of Capital Projects, heard my speech and he was inspired. He asked what he could do for help.

I was already a Certified Trainer and recently became a Certified Smith System Trainer. I have become one of the top trainers in my job. I still have my heart set on being an electrician one day. [Friends and family see me now and comment on how at peace I look](#) Transitional housing ends in March. I'm working to repair my credit so I can buy a house. And I applied to "Ways to Walk" for low interest car loans. It was accepted and helped me purchase an SUV. [The girls are doing wonderfully.](#) They are excelling in school and thriving in our new world. They are musicians and athletes as well as A students.

[Knowledge gives you the wings to soar, watch me soar!](#)

WC&S staff are very proud of Miss Jones's success, and wish her the best in her future!



Pittsburgh Steeler # 22 William Gay

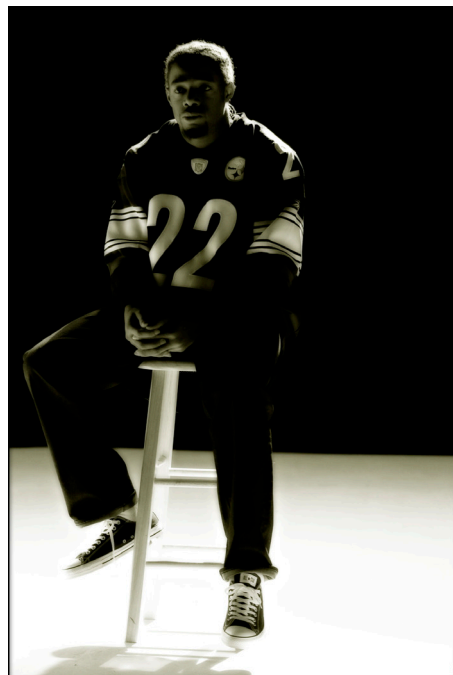
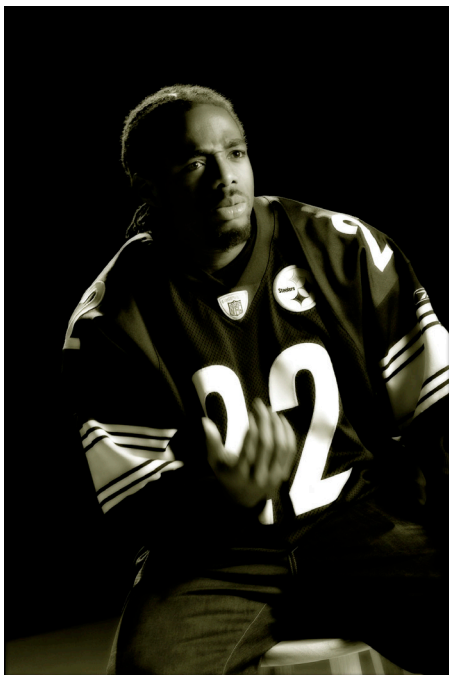
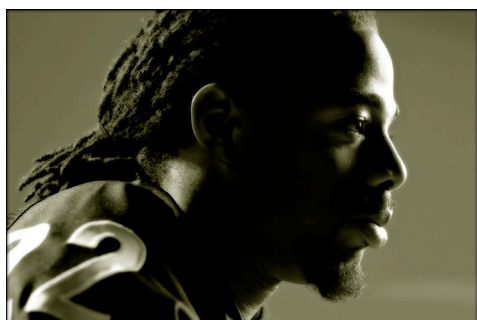


Will Gay's Thanksgiving Dinner Donation

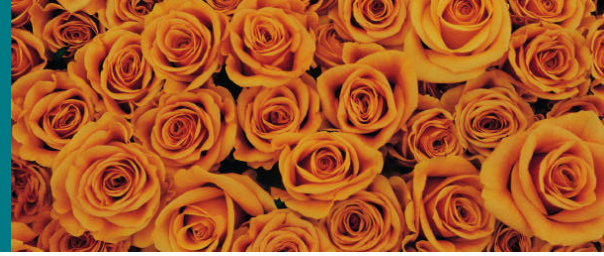
In November, Will Gay generously donated a Thanksgiving dinner for the women and children in shelter. He recruited Bryant McFadden to join him in serving dinner and autographing Steelers photos. Will ended the night with an uplifting talk, acknowledging the strength it took for each woman to flee danger and come to our safe place. This visit greatly brightened the holiday season for residents- a difficult time for them to be away from home, family and friends.

Pictured Above (Left to Right): Bryant and Will with dinner; Will serves meal to a shelter resident; Will and Bryant sign autographs; Will speaks with child in shelter.

While serving Thanksgiving dinner, Will discovered that WC&S is a intimate partner violence-specific shelter. Deeply moved by this, he decided to share his story with our residents, and help inspire them to leave for good. He also agreed to share his story with the community, by participating in our video vignette series. He recorded his vignette, parts of which were used to create PSAs, in the beginning of January, between practicing for the first playoff game. In his vignette, he shares that his stepfather murdered his mother before killing himself. The PSAs were released in January and the vignette was released February 3. Both can be viewed on our website at www.wcpittsburgh.org. Women's Center & Shelter thanks Will for having the courage to publicly talk about this tragedy. Pictured below are still shots from the vignette recording session.



Pittsburgh Steelers and Wives



Jonelle Foote's Holiday Party

In mid-December, Jonelle Foote, wife of Pittsburgh Steeler # 50 Larry Foote, organized a holiday party for the children and women in shelter. She brought carts full of home-made treats, including brownies, gingerbread houses and sugar cookies for the kids in shelter to decorate. She ended the night by passing out gifts for each woman and child. Several other Steelers wives attended including Nakeyia Allen, Latasha Wilson, Christina Essex, Sherri McFadden and Tiffany Starks.



Jonelle arrived early to set up for the party, and children in the shelter could not contain their excitement! Their faces were pressed against the glass between the dining room (where the party was being set up) and the play room (where they were to remain until the party started) as they watched the treats and presents being set out. The women were very excited to meet the Steelers wives, asking each for an autograph in the journals they were given as a present. One woman said, "Getting to meet the Steelers wives made my Christmas great!"

The residents and staff of WC&S would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Jonelle, Nakeyia, Latasha, Christina, Sherri and Tiffany for making this season special and joyful!



A Charlie Batch Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, Steelers player Charlie Batch, through his Best of the Batch Foundation, donated presents to all the children spending Christmas as residents of our shelter. Charlie requested the names and ages of all the shelter children, so that he could buy age appropriate gifts for each child. His partner, Latasha, and niece, Mikayla, helped him pass out the gifts. Charlie called each child by name and personally gave each their presents, to the delight of the residents.

WC&S would like to thank Charlie and his Best of the Batch Foundation for its ongoing support of WC&S. Spending the holidays in shelter is very difficult for residents, but meeting a Charlie Batch and receiving gifts makes the experience very special.

Pictured: Batch of Toys from Best of the Batch Foundation; Latasha, Mikayla, Charlie; Charlie gives presents to children in shelter.





Donor Highlights

Playground Resurfacing

Last winter's fierce blizzard left the WC&S playground in need of immediate repair. The cracked and uneven surface made the playground too dangerous for children to play on. With a price tag of \$17,500, WC&S could not afford to make the repair until a donor and victim advocate stepped forward.

When Chris Yukevich toured the WC&S facility and saw the playground's condition, she wrote a check for \$8,000 towards the repair. She then secured another \$4,000 contribution towards the repair from the Cochrane Foundation. Another \$2,500 from Board Vice-President Rachel Lorey Allen and \$3,000 from Andrea Carelli brought the total to \$13,500. At that point, we appealed to you.

You responded with the necessary funds! The playground was resurfaced with a recycled rubber tire mixture that provides a cushiony and safe platform to play on. Chris also named the playground - The Jelly Beanns Playground! Thank you for contributing to this project. The project was completed just in time for the Women's Center & Shelter Summer Camp!



Pictured Above (Left to Right): Playground surface before; playground surface after; Children's advocate helps child roller skate; Playground resurfacing donor, Chris, with Development Director, Barbara.

Stevo's Art Donation

Last August local mosaic and fiber artist Stevo (Steven Sadvary) donated his mosaic "Sisters" measuring 48" x 40". Sisters is a depiction of Stevo's mother and her sisters. The piece is a mosaic of vintage ceramic tiles, Bisazza Italian tiles, stained glass, glass tiles, glass and marbles. The process was to adhere tiles to plywood with mastick, allow the piece to dry for 1 day, then apply grout. The faces were painted on the back of glass panes by another local artist, then added to the mosaic. Sisters is displayed prominently in WC&S' main hallway, and it receives numerous compliments from visitors. WC&S thanks Stevo for his generous donation! Visit www.stevosphere.com to learn more about Stevo and see his body of work.



Pictured Above Right: Stevo with Sisters; A close up of Sisters.

Commemorative Gifts Update

Women's Center & Shelter has changed the way it recognizes honor and memorial gifts. Rather than publish the list of commemorative gifts in Rosewood, we display honor and memorial gifts on an exclusive commemorative gifts webpage. Commemorative gifts are listed on the webpage as soon as they are processed by WC&S staff, and remain displayed on the webpage for the full fiscal year in which they are given.

The change increases recognition and lowers costs. Recognition is increased, because the gift is displayed for a full fiscal year rather than in one issue of Rosewood. WC&S also benefits from reduced printing costs. As you can see from this issue, placing commemorative gifts on our website has saved 4 pages of print. This leaves more money for our life saving services.

To see the current fiscal year's commemorative gifts, visit www.wcpittsburgh.org/gifts.

Wish List



Below is a Wish List of items needed by the women and children living in shelter and utilizing related services at Women's Center and Shelter (WC&S). Note that this list is updated and reflects the current needs of the women and children we serve. WC&S clients come from a wide range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, so we hope you will keep this in mind when shopping for products. Small sample size shampoos, lotions, soaps, etc. are NOT being accepted at this time. Thank you for your understanding. You can view the Wish List any time at www.wcpittsburgh.org/wishlist. If you or your organization would like to host a collection drive on behalf of WC&S, please contact the Development Department at 412-687-8017 ext. 335 to fill out an event registration form.

****Urgent Need Items**** (New Only Please)

- Combination Locks
- New Clothing (especially size 14 and up)
- Women's Pajamas
- Women's Socks
- Women's Underwear (especially larger sizes)
- Women's Bras (especially larger sizes)
- Slippers
- Casual Shoes (especially size 10)
- Baby Soap, Lotion and Toiletries
- Deodorant
- Journals and Notebooks for Women
- Crib Sheets
- Women's Sweats

Items for Residential Services

Household Items - Pillowcases, Air Mattresses, Dish Towels, Irons, Coffee Makers, Can Openers, Alarm Clocks, Toasters, Silverware, Dish Racks, Pots & Pans (NEW), Bake Ware (NEW), Microwaves, TV's, Mixers, Blenders, Food Choppers, Radios, Curtains, Twin Sheet Sets, Towels, Combination Locks, Small Bookshelf

Hair Care Products - Shampoo, Conditioner, Pro Style Gel, Pink Moisturizing Lotion, Dark & Lovely Hair Products (perm kit, gel, grease, & hair spray), Spritz, Hair Grease, Oil Sheen, Motions Hair Products, Organic Root Stimulator Hair Products, Girls Hair Care Products (hair balls, gel, barrettes, etc.)

Baby Items - Baby Wipes, Lotion, Shampoo, Baby Bath, Baby Powder, Baby Clothing (new only), Back Baby Carriers, Strollers (single and double), Diapers (size 4 and 5), Pull Ups (all sizes)

Toiletries - Body Wash, Powder, Lotion, Mouthwash, Nail Polish Remover, Baby Oil, Conditioner, Tampons, Combs & Brushes, Tweezers, Vaseline



Anne Steytler Continued (Pictured: Anne, left, with Shirl Regan)

Her friend described the current need of women as a place they can "come and 'be' for as long as she needs." Men had many places to relax and get away, but women had no place, so they created one.

Over the years, women began stopping by, for "a few minutes, for a half an hour, for half a day, all day." Anne, Ellen and a few others began sheltering women in their homes as needed.

After a few years, they were horrified to discover that forty percent of the women who had come had been beaten. Anne said, "We were moving from the women's movement into the battered women's movement without even knowing that." The number of battered women coming to their shelter increased steadily until the board decided in the early 1980's to have a

one year experiment and "provide shelter only for women who had been physically and psychologically battered." At that location, a house in Brentwood, there were three beds, three couches, three sleeping bags and one crib. From these roots, WC&S has grown in size and capacity to 35 beds for women and their children.

Now WC&S serves over 6,000 women and their children a year, all because of the twinkle of an idea Anne and Ellen had, and their dedication and passion in making that dream a reality. WC&S is committed to staying at the forefront of the intimate partner violence movement, just as Anne was in co-founding the shelter in 1974.

Visit www.wcpittsburgh.org to the complete history of Women's Center & Shelter from 1982, as told by Anne.



Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 9024
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Get Involved!

Volunteer Training

February 27 - March 5 • June 12 - 18 • October 9 - 15

Complete a 40-hour domestic violence training to volunteer in shelter, legal advocacy, or the children's program. You'll learn about such topics as confidentiality, the impact on children, safety planning, active listening, and woman-centered advocacy. No training is required to volunteer in non-direct services. For more information call 412-687-8017 ext. 335 or email Frantze@wcpittsburgh.org.

Spring Clothes Out

Wednesday, May 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Rivers Club

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

Saturday, May 21 at Heinz Field. Registration starts at 7:45 a.m., 5k begins at 9:00 a.m., 1 mile fun walk begins at 9:15 a.m. Online registration opens on February 1 at www.walkforahealthycommunity.org.

Join our Social Networks

Keep up to date on the latest WC&S news by joining our social networks. Become an online advocate by forwarding WC&S' messages and sharing its content on your social networks.

WC&S Online Community: By joining our online community, you are subscribed to WC&S emails (and the video vignette campaign); can participate in surveys, polls and discussion boards; and can manage your contact information online.

1. Visit www.wcpittsburgh.org
2. Click the "Community" tab
3. Click "Sign Up Now!"

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcpittsburgh

Linked In: Search for "Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh"

Twitter: [@wcpittsburgh](https://twitter.com/wcpittsburgh)