

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.

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## Letter from the President/CEO



Every day at Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S), we see success. The faces of success are all different and the stories that accompany them are as well. At WC&S, we are often able to define success by the stories that we hear – real women with real stories of perseverance and hope. Our goal is to empower women and help them reach deep down inside to obtain the hope that they lost along the way. That hope comes with providing safety, first and foremost.

Safety is the most important thing that we establish here at WC&S. From physical to emotional safety and beyond, we work with our clients to make sure they feel safe. Once this is recognized, we can begin to work with them on the steps that they can take to move forward with their lives. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a complex issue so we work with each survivor individually and

craft a goal plan based upon that survivor's journey.

Our Wall of Vignettes (found on our website at [www.wcpspittsburgh.org/wallofvignettes](http://www.wcpspittsburgh.org/wallofvignettes)), shows the many faces of IPV. Survivors are unique in their own way. Some had their first experience with IPV as a child witness, while others had no idea what IPV was until it happened to them. For many survivors, the abuse they suffered was more physical, while others suffered from more emotional, mental, spiritual and financial abuse. Some have experienced them all.

No matter where a survivor comes from and what they've experienced, WC&S provides them with the understanding and care to move them from a place of trauma to healing. Every journey is different but certain truths are undeniable. No one deserves to be abused. No one deserves to feel like they are not good enough. Through the power of safety and education, survivors come to WC&S to regain their voices and move forward successfully. Sometimes success is the smile on a woman's face – a face that went far too long without a smile. Sometimes success is a positive word where there have only been negative words. Sometimes success is in the woman's courage – courage she didn't even realize she still had until she came to WC&S.

Thank you for believing in the thousands of individuals we serve. It is because of this belief that our journey continues.

Sincerely,

Shirl Regan  
President/CEO

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Date

24-Hour Hotline  
412-687-8005

P.O. Box 9024  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

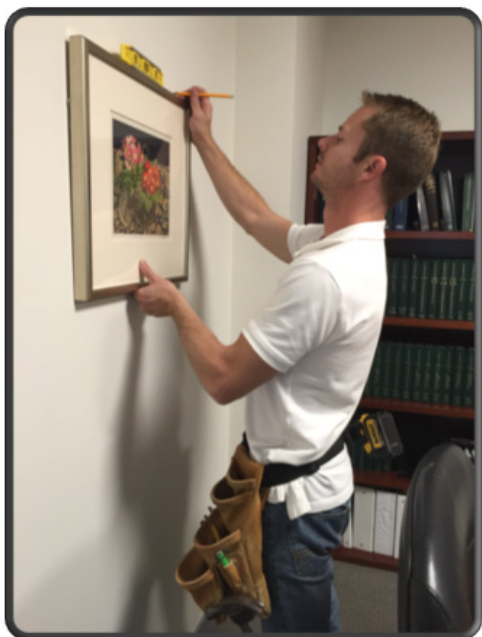
Administration Ph 412-687-8017  
Fax: 412-687-3315

Email [info@wcspittsburgh.org](mailto:info@wcspittsburgh.org)  
[www.WCSCanHelp.org](http://www.WCSCanHelp.org)

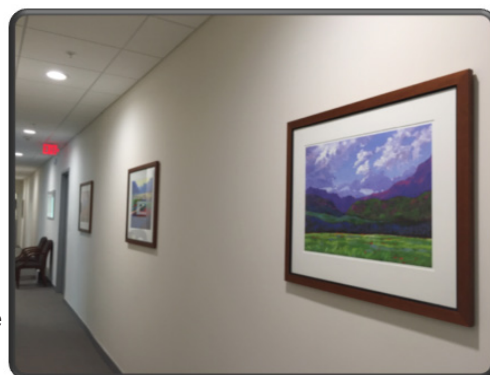


## Artwork Donation & Distribution Center Update

### The James Gallery Artwork Donation



The James Gallery, an art gallery and frame foundry located in the West End of Pittsburgh, donated 14 pieces of custom framed art, including photography, graphic reproductions, and limited edition prints to Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) for its Legal Office. After the WC&S Legal Office completed its move to a newly renovated office suite in the old Alcoa Building in downtown Pittsburgh last year, the James Gallery delivered and hung the artwork at the end of September 2015. The Legal Office staff, which are from both the Legal Advocacy Department and the Civil Law Project, have been very excited with this most generous donation that has added warmth and a more professional atmosphere to the Legal Office. Special thanks are given to James Gallery owner, James Frederick, and to Gayle Irwin, James Gallery project coordinator, who managed the selection, preparation, delivery, and installation of the artwork.

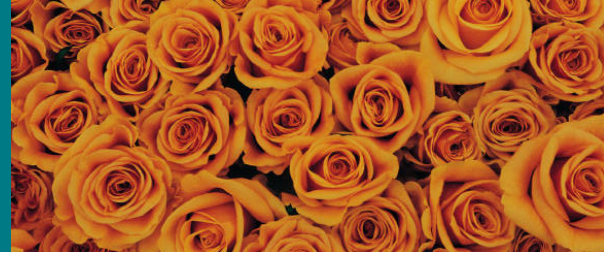


### DISTRIBUTION CENTER UPDATE

Women's Center & Shelter is preparing to make more space for clients and as this process begins, changes to our donation space and the way we can accept donations have taken place. With this comes the inability to accept most physical donations at this time, as we do not have the space to house them. Moving forward, our donation space will be considerably smaller to make more room for shelter beds.

Please see our Wish List on our website to view our current and immediate needs. The items located on the Wish List are frequently updated and encompass the immediate needs of our clients. If interested in collecting items from this list for a drive, please contact Morgan at [ghinassim@wcspittsburgh.org](mailto:ghinassim@wcspittsburgh.org).  
[www.wcspittsburgh.org/OurWishList](http://www.wcspittsburgh.org/OurWishList)





### Alcoa - A Partner in Healing

What began as a call from an employee regarding a possible holiday volunteer opportunity has turned into a strong partnership focused on meeting the many needs of Women's Center's residents and their children. In December 2014, volunteers from Alcoa helped to sort through donations and set up Santa's Workshop so that residents could holiday shop for their children. Volunteers also assisted residents in choosing gifts for their children as this experience can often times be overwhelming. Alcoa volunteers did so with patience, understanding and grace. Since that time, Alcoa volunteers have done work sorting and cleaning in our donation distribution center and again assisted in setting up Santa's Workshop this past holiday season. Alcoa volunteers always come with a smile, ready to work and do a meticulous job!

As an extension of our partnership, in September 2015, Women's Center was awarded a generous grant through the Alcoa Foundation to assist in healing child victims/witnesses of IPV through our Children's Program. Alcoa is a fantastic example of providing a holistic partnership through volunteerism and financial support. Many thanks to Alcoa and the Alcoa Foundation for their dedication to our mission!

**“ We have appreciated the volunteer opportunities that the Women's Center & Shelter has entrusted with us over the last year; we've been so warmly welcomed at the center. It has been enjoyable to set up the Santa's Workshop each year - the display created for the families is truly overwhelming and that is thanks to the generosity of the entire WC&S network. ”**

*After coming to the facility for a year, WC&S was an obvious candidate for the Alcoa Foundation 'Community Enhancement' grant in 2015. We hope this support will facilitate the center's objective in providing additional program support to the young victims that unfortunately fall witness to intimate partner violence. ”*

*Kelly D. Behan - Senior Manager, Global Capital Procurement*





## D-Jam 2016 & Highmark Walk

**D-JAM 2016**

FEATURING  
**theCAUSE**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**JEFF MATTSON OF DARK STAR ORCHESTRA**

**MARCH 26**

**REXTHEATER • PITTSBURGH**

8PM DOORS • 9PM SHOW • 21 AND OVER • TICKETS AT [BIT.LY/DJAM2016](http://bit.ly/DJAM2016)

PROCEEDS BENEFIT WOMEN'S CENTER & SHELTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

Every year Pittsburgh musician David Tauberg and his band theCAUSE come together to present D-Jam, a musical benefit hosted by the Rex Theater, with proceeds going to a local charity. This year, Women's Center & Shelter was selected to be the recipient of this awesome fundraiser.

theCAUSE is a band that consists of five Pittsburgh musicians playing tunes from Grateful Dead, Phish, The Beatles, Bob Dylan and more. Jeff Mattson, lead guitarist and vocalist of critically acclaimed Grateful Dead tribute band Dark Star Orchestra is the feature artist at D-Jam 2016.

D-Jam will take place on March 26, 2016 at the Rex Theater in the South Side. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. with the show starting at 9:00 p.m. You must be 21 or older to attend. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available at [WCSCanHelp.org/eventregistration](http://WCSCanHelp.org/eventregistration).

Special thanks to the D-Jam Sponsors:



**wyep**  
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**DAY**  
**APOLLO**

**FiAir**  
*The handy little blower to feed your fires*

The  
**REX**  
theater

PRESENTED BY  
**GREY AREA**  
PRODUCTIONS

**PRINT**

**Z**

PRINT MANAGEMENT

**GRATEFULBEANS.COM**

## 2016 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community!

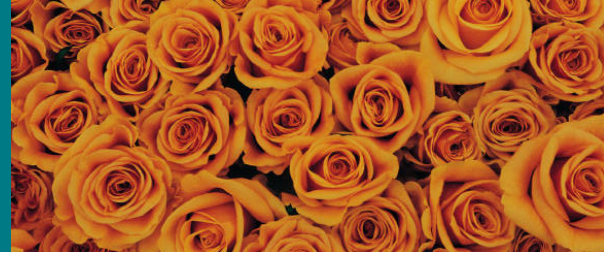
The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is an annual fundraising walk that benefits local health and human service agencies and the wonderful work that they do here in our community. Although Highmark coordinates the event, 100% of the money raised by walkers and teams goes directly to the participating nonprofits. Women's Center & Shelter is always grateful to participate in the Highmark Walk and we hope that this year you will join us on Saturday, May 14 2016 at Stage AE.

Since our ability to accept most physical donations is extremely limited at this time, participating in the Highmark Walk is the perfect opportunity for you to support WC&S in a very needed way. Consider creating a team with family, friends or coworkers. Create friendly competition to see who can raise the most money and generate the most support! Create an office competition – ways to make this engaging and fun are endless.

Sign up today! <http://www.wcpspittsburgh.org/highmarkwalk>







## New INC Position at WC&S...

A brand new position coined the INC, which stands for the Immediate Needs Coordinator, has made its way to WC&S through the United Way's United for Women program, with Women's Center & Shelter's Civil Law Project clients. The Civil Law Project (CLP) provides attorneys at no cost for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) who have the most difficult protection, custody, support and divorce cases. Typically, CLP clients are seriously traumatized from on-going abuse. They are often navigating becoming a single mother for the first time while struggling to leave an abusive partner who has threatened to kill them. The CLP attorneys found themselves overburdened, representing over 370 cases a year, while trying help their clients access desperately needed social services. The CLP attorneys realized they needed someone who could provide assistance to their clients and help them navigate social services. WC&S staff was thrilled to apply for and receive funding from the United Way to create a position to bridge this gap.

The INC receives referrals from the attorneys and works directly with each client, helping them to access any resources that might be helpful. The INC is able to meet individually with each woman, giving her unique and personalized assistance in navigating the difficult and dangerous process of leaving their abuser. In addition, a small amount of financial assistance, usually around \$200, can help women avoid a financial crisis by paying for such things as the court-sponsored communications website, which allows a woman to safely communicate with her abuser about their children.

In October, the INC was hired and began seeing clients shortly afterwards. An attorney from CLP recently stated, "The value of the INC to clients of the Civil Law Project is immeasurable. Prior to having an INC, the CLP attorneys found many obstacles in balancing the legal aspect of a client's case and her need for referrals and access to community resources. She added, "This new position allows the CLP attorneys to focus their entire energy on the client's legal matter while still ensuring the client has regular and on-going access to community resources and support that are vital to the client's ability to safely leave an abusive relationship and be successful in court cases." Check out the survivor story on page six to see how the INC position has already shown success!

## Staff Updates!

In the summer of 2015, Non-Profit Talent was hired by WC&S to do an organizational structure assessment and to recommend any changes that need to be implemented to accommodate staff retirements and infrastructure needs. This was a necessary task as WC&S is constantly changing and growing and we need to make sure we are equipped to best serve our clients and their needs.

To start, Janet Scott-Mace, worked at WC&S for 28 years and retired at the end of 2015. Janet's dedication to WC&S and domestic violence has been outstanding throughout the years and she will be greatly missed. Janet's position has been filled by Nicole Molinaro Karaczun, with the new title, Chief Program Officer.

Kristin Brown, former Development Manager, was promoted to Development Director. Other changes include title changes such as Lorraine Bittner, Chief Legal Officer, Kent Bloom, Chief Financial Officer, Adrienne Laing, On Site Services Program Manager and Allison Kacmar, On Site Operations Manager.

**Women's Center & Shelter is so grateful to have wonderful staff and leadership working tirelessly every day to better the lives of our clients. Our work would not be possible without the staff mentioned above as well as the entire agency.**





## Survivor Story



## Survivor Story...

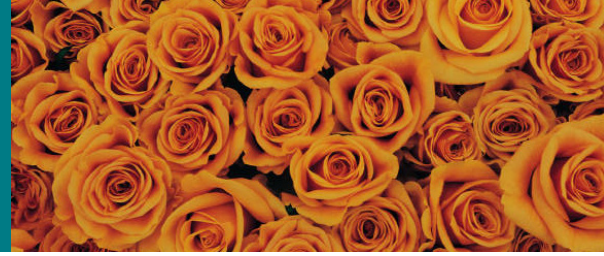
**Debbie first came to WC&S after her abuser strangled and threatened to kill her. She was connected to the Civil Law Project for assistance with her Protection from Abuse order and custody case. Unfortunately, Debbie's abuser owned the home that they shared with their son, so she began to look for safe, affordable housing. Debbie's attorney connected her with the Immediate Needs Coordinator (INC) at Women's Center & Shelter.**

Debbie had never lived alone and was unsure of how to find an apartment. The INC provided emotional support and safety planning throughout the process of leaving the relationship; leaving an abuser is one of the most dangerous times for battered women, as abusers can become lethal. Once Debbie found an apartment, the INC helped her apply for assistance to cover her security deposit. The INC also worked with Debbie to assist her in obtaining utility assistance and other tangible assistance. Debbie is now enjoying her time in her new apartment free from the violence and control of her abuser. She stated that before she was in a new apartment, her son had frequent nightmares. He recently excitedly woke Debbie up in the middle of the night to tell her about a happy, calming dream he had. Debbie attributes this change to their new life - a life of safety and comfort.

***Through the support of Women's Center & Shelter and Debbie's connection to our INC, she is now able to live the life and she and her son deserve. We are hopeful that Debbie will continue to flourish moving forward.***



Happy Hour



## Calling All Young Professionals!

# HAPPY HOUR

with

**Women's Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S)**



**Women's Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh**

*"A fresh start in life. Empowerment. Strength. Hope."*

The mission of Women's Center & Shelter is to advance the safety and wellbeing of victims of intimate partner violence and prevent and respond to intimate partner violence through social change.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016

OLIVE or TWIST  
UPSTAIRS LOUNGE

140 6th STREET  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

### EVENT DETAILS:

**TIME:** 5:30 - 7:30PM

### ADMISSION:

**REGISTRATION:** \$25 each  
Includes food and drinks \*

\*Must be 21 and over to attend.



Network with other young professionals and learn more about the WC&S mission and life-saving RUSafe App.

**Register online at [www.wcpittsburgh.org/WCSDonateNow](http://www.wcpittsburgh.org/WCSDonateNow)**

\*Please choose Happy Hour for "What Prompted You to Support Us Today?"\*

### SPONSORED BY:



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### HOST COMMITTEE:

Nat Binns  
Abigail Gardner  
Julie Hallinan

Nathaniel Hanson  
Katie Matscherz  
Ryan Morden

Women's Center & Shelter is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization - donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. The official registration and financial information of the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh may be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.





**Women's Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh**

P.O. Box 9024  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224



# *Save The Date*

**Join Women's Center & Shelter and UPMC Health Plan**

for this special evening celebrating survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV), remembering those who lost their lives to IPV and honoring Karissa's Army with the Ted Craig Humanitarian Award.

Formal invitation to follow.

**FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016**

celebrating  
**SURVIVORS**

SPONSORED BY UPMC HEALTH PLAN



**Women's Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh**

**United Way #110 CFC #81018 SECA #4601-0042**