

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



At Women's Center & Shelter, safety is at the core of everything we do. Every program and service focuses on the physical, emotional and spiritual safety of our clients. However, today's world poses significant safety challenges that did not exist before. The Internet and social media have made anonymity nearly impossible. For an organization such as ours, this is naturally a cause for concern. WC&S has to constantly adapt and respond to these challenges in order to continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our clients and their children.

As an example, WC&S experienced recent security breaches in our outdoor Children's Program playground area where two men were seen scaling the surrounding wall on separate occasions. This had never happened before in our 21 years of being in this building. The screams of the residents and their children scared the men away but the incidents were extremely frightening for the mothers and children outside as well as for other WC&S clients and staff. Luckily, the situations never escalated but the threat of something violent happening was real. We had to respond swiftly to these security breaches and now a high fence is currently under construction in order to provide more safety and privacy for our clients and their children.

Situations like the one mentioned above can occur at any time and we need to ensure that we are adequately prepared to deal with them when they happen. Your direct support is a critical piece of being able to meet these vital needs. There are so many ways to make a positive difference in the lives of the women and children served through our programs and services. In this issue, you will learn about what is currently taking place at WC&S as well as ways to get involved and show your support through upcoming fundraisers during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As always, thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Shirl Regan
President/CEO

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24-Hour Hotline
412-687-8005

P.O. Box 9024
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

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

Email info@wcpittsburgh.org
www.WCSCanHelp.org



Legal Move & Iraqi Law Visit

WC&S Legal Office *Makes a Move!*

WC&S' off-site Legal Office (Legal Advocacy Department and Civil Law Project) moved its downtown office location from the 6th floor of the Regional Enterprise Tower (RET - old Alcoa building) to the newly renovated 4th floor of the same building with a new 5-year lease. A WC&S property committee including Sara Davis Buss, Jim Warharm, Vice-President at PNC's Trust Real Estate, and Margaret Bell, UPMC's Senior Director of Corporate Real Estate, explored space options and negotiated successfully for some additional space and upgrades in RET. In addition, through Margaret's involvement and assistance from Michele McIntire, UPMC's Facilities' Planning Manager, the Legal Office has been furnished with UPMC-donated wood furniture including desks, book cases, side tables and chairs, conference tables and matching white boards--and a full-sized refrigerator. Also, UPMC maintenance staff graciously worked for a day to help legal staff hang white boards, bulletin boards and more. Special thanks to WC&S Board Member, John Lovelace for making the connection to UPMC and Margaret, and to all who helped make this move possible!



IRAQI LAW ENFORCEMENT VISITS WC&S!

WC&S Legal staff were contacted in April 2015 by Pittsburgh Police partners who were hosting Iraqi law enforcement officers to see if the Iraqi guests could meet with WC&S staff and tour WC&S' facility. Legal Advocate and police trainer, Dana Bleasdale, along with an advocate from PAAR, met with the Iraqi law enforcement officers at the Pittsburgh Police Academy for a question and answer period in the morning and then Dana brought the Iraqi guests for a meeting and tour at WC&S. The guests included officers from the Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government, Direct Directorate Resistance Violence Against Women Ministry of the Interior, a State Department interpreter, and a Pittsburgh Police Sergeant. The guests toured WC&S' facility after a meeting and discussion with WC&S' Director of Services, Nicole Molinaro Karaczun, and Legal Director, Lorraine Bittner. They were very impressed with the facility and the staff's obvious good working relations with each other. They had many questions about decision-making around who comes into shelter, length of stay and daily activities while in shelter. They explained that domestic violence victims go into a shelter in Iraq by court order and cannot leave without court order so as to ensure safety. The visitors gave WC&S staff a pin/button of the Iraqi flag and booklet of the Violence Against Women initiative in Iraq.



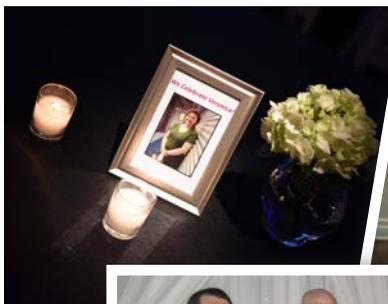


Celebrating Survivors Presented by: Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh and UPMC Health Plan

“Every time I went (to WC&S), I learned more and more and I just knew it was the place I wanted to be. They say, “we believe you” and they didn’t dismiss me. I couldn’t imagine me giving up. There are things I want in life.”

Veronica, the survivor speaker featured in an inspirational video premiered at Celebrating Survivors 2015, spoke these words. With nearly 300 guests in attendance, Celebrating Survivors was held on Friday, May 1, 2015 at J. Verno Studios in the South Side with all net proceeds benefiting Women's Center & Shelter's programs and services for women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) and their children.

Diane P. Holder, Executive Vice President, UPMC, President and CEO, UPMC Health Plan hosted the event. Charlie and Latasha Batch graciously served as honorary co-chairs for this special evening, which focused on celebrating survivors of IPV, remembering victims who lost their lives to IPV and honoring Newton Consulting, LLC with the Ted Craig Humanitarian Award. The Craig Family bestowed this honor upon Newton Consulting for their commitment and generosity in helping WC&S create the RUSafe App – a dangerous relationship assessment smartphone app, which is now available at no cost on a national scale.



Those in attendance were treated to fabulous food by Rania's Catering, the smooth sounds of The Kevin Howard Band, a photo booth, silent auction, wine grab and more! Most importantly, guests heard Veronica's incredible story of survival and saw the many faces of IPV throughout the room to be honored and remembered. Due to the tireless efforts of many, including the Celebrating Survivors Committee, the event was a great success raising over \$110,000 in net proceeds benefiting WC&S' mission.

**Save the Date for Celebrating Survivors 2016!
Friday, May 6, 2016 at J. Verno Studios**



LAP/RUSafe, Survivor Story & Purple River

LAP/RUSafe Lunch & Learn!



WC&S and ClientTrack will be hosting a Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and RUSafe App lunch and learn on October 8th at the Rivers Club in downtown Pittsburgh (by invitation only). The event will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with lunch graciously provided by ClientTrack, WC&S' case management software provider.

Those in attendance will include other non-profit organizations with similar missions and area police departments. The session will focus on how LAP and the RUSafe App are connecting law enforcement with domestic violence organizations to increase victim safety. Representatives from Newton Consulting, creators of the RUSafe and LAP Apps, will be on hand to answer technical questions. WC&S' partnership with Newton Consulting and ClientTrack is a great example of a public/private partnership that uses a creative strategy to help meet our data collection and management needs with limited resources.

Follow WC&S and RUSafe on social media!

Instagram: @WCS_Pittsburgh

Instagram: @rusafe_app

Facebook: RUSafe

Twitter: @RUSafeApp



Survivor Story...

A pregnant woman named Lynne came to our shelter to escape her abusive partner. She came directly from the hospital where she was treated for injuries from the physical abuse she sustained. This stay marked Lynne's 8th time in our shelter since 2013. Each time she stayed, she was only here for about a week before leaving. This pattern of behavior is not unusual, as it typically takes a victim of abuse 7 attempts before leaving their partner for good.

During each of her stays in shelter, Lynne safety-planned with WC&S Advocates and received emotional support through WC&S' numerous support groups--benefiting from S.E.L.F and Recovery From Trauma topics. She was seen by our on-site medical clinic and was connected with prenatal care. Lynne was also connected with our CYF Advocate who provided her with support and advocacy throughout her stays and while she was receiving non-resident services. WC&S Legal Advocates helped her with the difficult decision to file a PFA and she received advocacy and support from our attorneys and advocates at her court hearings.

In addition, Lynne was able to make police reports from our shelter when her abuser violated the terms of her PFA. Our Housing Advocate worked diligently with her on applying for transitional and subsidized housing, and once Lynne was able to get back on her feet, she was accepted into a transitional housing program where she will continue to receive supportive services for all of her needs. Lynne plans to remain a client of WC&S, utilizing our supportive services as she moves forward with her life.



The Purple River Project...



Join Women's Center & Shelter, Alle-Kiski Hope Center, Center for Victims and Crisis Center North for an afternoon of fun at Roberto Clemente Memorial Park on the North Shore, Saturday, October 3rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Purple River Project is an agency collaboration aiming to spread domestic violence awareness, honor survivors and remember those who have lost their lives.

There will be food, music, activities and the opportunity to pin a flower in remembrance or in honor of a domestic violence victim/survivor on a specially created float by Rosedale Tech! We hope to see you there!

(Sponsored by the Allegheny County Domestic Violence Giving Circle)



'100+ Women Who Care' & Highmark Walk



100 Women Who Care... SELECTS WC&S AS FIRST CHARITY!

Making an impact in the lives of those living in the Greater Pittsburgh Community is what 100+ Women Who Care Pittsburgh is all about. 100+ Women Who Care was started in 2006 in Michigan by Karen Dunigan. The Pittsburgh group started in June, 2015 by Kim Patterson, Alice Greene and Brandi Phillips. The concept is to gather local women to meet 4 times a year and help support local charities by donating \$100 per meeting.



Jamaica Jones, WC&S staff member, nominated Women's Center as her charity of choice. During the group's first meeting in June, the local organizations nominated by the women were put into a hat and 3 were drawn. The women who nominated the organizations drawn were to give a pitch and then the group as a whole voted. A.J. Drexler, WC&S Board Member, was at the meeting and made the pitch on our behalf. Women's Center & Shelter won and we were so honored to be picked as the first organization for 100+ Women Who Care Pittsburgh. They raised \$6,300 for us, which will be used to repair/update the fence in our outdoor Children's Program playground and increase safety for our moms and children. Thank you so much to 100+ Women Who Care Pittsburgh!

2015 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community!

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. The 2015 Highmark Walk proved to be a successful one for WC&S. We had a total of 85 registrants, 53 of which were walkers—as well as a total of 8 teams! This year we had a special incentive allowing walkers to participate "In Honor" or "In Memory" of someone close to them. Each walker was given a WC&S T-Shirt to wear during the walk and also a purple label to wear on their shirt with the name of someone close to them. We also gave out prizes to the top 3 fundraising individuals. With your support, WC&S was able to raise nearly \$6,000 in support of our programs and services. Thanks for making the 2015 Highmark Walk a success. We hope you will join us again next year!





Macy's & VIP Gallery Reception

Macy's MORE THAN A DAY OF BEAUTY...



On Tuesday, July 14, 2015, a team from Macy's provided "A Day of Beauty" for shelter residents complete with facials and makeovers! Residents were given the choice to have their makeup done by a Macy's professional or have a team member provide tips on how to best apply makeup. All of the residents thoroughly enjoyed the relaxing experience of being pampered and "beautified." For some residents, the day was more than just about outer beauty. It was about building confidence and self-esteem, both of which are so important in the healing journey of IPV survivors.

Residents were also treated to a fantastic pink bag filled with goodies courtesy of Macy's. And that's not all--local area Macy's employees collected items from WC&S' essential needs list such as new towels, bedding, socks and underwear, etc. Providing for the basic needs of our resident and non-resident clients is at the heart of our programs and services so we can't thank Macy's enough for their generosity! Last but certainly not least, WC&S is a proud recipient of a grant from Macy's to provide help to victims of domestic violence.

From skilled volunteering to meeting in-kind and financial needs, Macy's is the definition of a great community partner!



A Day In My Shoes VIP Gallery Reception!

A Day In My Shoes Pittsburgh is a project to help women of intimate partner violence get back on their feet and share their stories. San Francisco based photographer and founder of A Day In My Shoes, Amy Martin-Friedman, came to Pittsburgh in June to photograph local women, at locations that highlight the splendor and diversity of our region.

On **OCTOBER 19TH, 2015** more than 40 canvas prints and accompanying personal stories will be on display at Art Space 616 located in the heart of the village of Sewickley.

The Gallery Reception will be from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with a special VIP Reception before from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

During the VIP Reception, guests will receive a photography book from the Pittsburgh project and will also have the chance to meet Amy Martin Friedman, who will be available for autographing/ personalizing of the photography books.

Included in the VIP ticket will be the Pittsburgh photography book, delicious passed appetizers, beer, wine and soft drinks -- as well as an exclusive first look at the canvas prints of local women and shelter survivors who participated in the photography project.

EVENT SPONSORS:

Art Space 616, Hotel Monaco, Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, A Day in My Shoes, cognak.com

To purchase tickets for this exciting VIP Gallery Reception, please visit
www adayinmyshoes.us/vip/

Total Sports & Sheriff's Conference



Total Sports Enterprises Supports WC&S!

Total Sports Enterprises specializes in professional sports athlete promotions and is the authentic source of Pittsburgh Steelers autographed sports memorabilia. The mission of Total Sports Enterprises is to provide fans an authentic connection to professional sports icons. Until now, Total Sports was an online store but a physical location has opened at the Mall at Robinson. During the month of September, Total Sports will be hosting a promotion to benefit WC&S! Throughout the month, WC&S will receive:

- 100% of proceeds from the sale of \$1, \$5 and/or \$10 Logo cards sold daily at the store's registers.
- 10% of net proceeds from all purchases made during September (including event day ticket and merchandise sales.)
- 10% of all online sales driven from an affiliate tag and link that will be provided later.
- 100% of net profits from online auctions.

On September 19th at the store, various Pittsburgh Steelers will be there to sign autographs and encourage sales to benefit WC&S. We are extremely grateful to be a part of this great promotion by Total Sports Enterprises. Make sure to stop by the Mall at Robinson on September 19th or anytime throughout the month to purchase some Pittsburgh sports memorabilia!

93rd Annual PA Sheriff's Association Conference:



On Thursday, July 23, 2015, WC&S was given the opportunity by Highmark to present on the RUSafe App and the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) App at the 93rd Annual PA Sheriff's Association Conference. The Conference was held in Pittsburgh and was hosted by William P. Mullen, Sheriff of Allegheny County. Women's Center & Shelter was able to successfully convey the goal to get the RUSafe App downloaded on as many phones as possible knowing that lives will be saved by women using the app. William Gay of the Pittsburgh Steelers is the spokesperson of RUSafe and his endorsement and personal experience have helped immensely with this effort.

Having sheriffs across Pennsylvania understand our mission was a wonderful opportunity, which resulted in many new 'Champions' of both the RUSafe and LAP Apps. We are also trying to engage Police Departments that utilize the Maryland Lethality Assessment Program to implement the LAP App as we are confident that the LAP App will enable police officers who are called to a domestic violence situation to quickly connect a woman in a lethal situation to the closest shelter. It was an exciting day for all who attended the Conference. Presenters included Barbara Nicholas and Kathy Marecic of WC&S with Marc Majors and Phil Kossler of Newton Consulting on hand, developers of both apps, to address any technical questions regarding the apps.

For more information on the RUSafe App please email kathy@rusafe.net and for more information on the LAP App, contact Barbara Nicholas at nicholasb@wcspittsburgh.org or contact Newton Consulting at 724-822-3861.



Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh
P.O. Box 9024
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2015:

Fall is right around the corner! This September and October, we are making sure that you have many ways to stay involved and help spread awareness about intimate partner violence (IPV). Please see the calendar and list of activities below!

SEPTEMBER 3RD: *Bravery & Beauty Charity Fashion Show*: Jergel's Rhythm Grille (Warrendale) from 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit WC&S and Crisis Center North. Use this link to learn more and purchase tickets <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bravery-beauty-charity-fashion-show-tickets-15948022966>.

SEPTEMBER 19TH: *Total Sports Promotion* – Total Sports, located at The Mall at Robinson, will be hosting a Pittsburgh Steelers autograph signing to encourage sales to benefit WC&S.

Remember...October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

OCTOBER 3RD: *Purple River Project* – Join WC&S and other local DV agencies for an afternoon of outdoor fun at Roberto Clemente Park from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 19TH: *A Day In My Shoes Gallery Event* – Join WC&S for a special gallery reception for the A Day In My Shoes Pittsburgh project. Visit www.adayinmyshoes.us/vip to learn more.

OCTOBER 23RD: *Wear Purple Day*. Wear purple to show your support and share photos to WC&S' social media sites.

OCTOBER 1ST – 31ST: *The Picket Fence Shadyside* – Shop and Give! 2% of all sales during the month of October will be donated to WC&S.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2015						
		1	2	3 	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Notes:		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2015						
				1	2	3 
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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