

## Thank you for empowering her to safety



Women's Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh

### Survivor Story: From Dynamite to Detonator

*"I remember the first time I saw her at the shelter," Bayleigh quietly said as she looked down at the floor. As the memory came back to her, she softly smiled, eyes still fixated on the ground.*

Bayleigh tried to stop the flow of tears welling up in her eyes as she continued. "She was so sweet. Bashful, hiding in the corner, she was skiddish about coming toward me. Cocking her head to the right, she looked at me with these big, brown, curious eyes. She'd been hurt before. Not only could I see a few scars on her head, back, and both ears, but realized she must have been taunted, too. She hadn't had an easy life. She slowly crept my way. She wanted to be loved, but most of all she wanted to be able to trust again. Her little paw reached out of the cage. From that moment, not only our hands, but our hearts were connected. I never knew I was going to have so much in common with a dog."

Bayleigh had blindly gone to the animal shelter on her 10th date with Devin. She was literally blindfolded. They both agreed that if they liked each other enough to go on 10 dates, they'd make it official and become a couple. Devin knew that surprising her with a trip to the shelter and the purchase of a dog would definitely seal the deal. "I thought, 'this guy is too good to be true.' He's getting me a dog?! That was way better than flowers in my mind. Because of that, I named the dog Daisy. Devin had been nothing short of wonderful and caring to me in those first couple of months. I used to call him 'Dynamite Devin' when I spoke about him to my family and friends," Bayleigh said as she shook her head.



*I never knew  
I was going to  
have so much  
in common  
with a dog.*

For the next couple of months, everything was normal. Devin was still the same wonderful and caring guy he was at the beginning. In fact, he was almost too caring. He started to worry about where she was from moment to moment. What time was she going to be home from work? How long would she be at the store? Where was she going with her friends and what friends would go with her? What was she talking about with her mother on the phone? Why was she talking to the neighbor and especially while wearing those short shorts? Bayleigh didn't notice any red flags, because to her, there were none. "I thought Devin was showing how protective he was. I thought he wanted to know everything because he worried about me. He wanted to know who I was with just in case something ever happened to me. And the shorts and the neighbor? Well, I thought about it and shrugged it off as jealousy. I kind of thought it was cute. I felt really loved and cared about."

*Story continued inside...*



Find out the one thing **YOU** can do to help  
survivors of intimate partner violence! (see inside)

*Client names and images have been changed to protect their safety. Thank you for understanding.*

## Welcome Nicole!

*We have a new President/CEO of WC&S*



As you can imagine, I was speechless when I received the good news that I would be the next President/CEO of Women's Center & Shelter! My passion for WC&S and working with those experiencing intimate partner violence stretches back almost 23 years when I began as a

direct service volunteer, and my commitment and enthusiasm for our mission and work have only grown during that time. I am honored and excited to serve adult and child survivors of intimate partner violence in this new capacity, following in the footsteps of two long-time CEOs, Shirl Regan and Martha Friday, both strong and smart women who I am proud to say were my mentors. To be given the honor of leading a staff comprised of amazing people who work with passion, creativity, and smarts to help those experiencing intimate partner violence is truly a humbling experience.

The survivors we serve are often at the most vulnerable times in their lives. Knowing we can make a difference—and sometimes literally a life-saving difference—by helping and empowering them on their journey to heal from abuse is what drives us every day. Hearing from survivors who received our services a year ago, or 5 years ago, or 25 years ago and have been living lives free from violence adds to our collective motivation to continue our good work. Sadly, reading in the news about those who lost or almost lost their lives because of an abusive partner drives home the realization that we must remain committed to continuing and expanding this critically important work.

Many thanks to our incredible Board of Directors for their unwavering leadership, vision, and support, especially during this time of transition and growth. Our staff, interns, and volunteers are the very heart and soul of WC&S, digging into this difficult work in an uncompromising fashion that proves every day how much we value and respect our clients. And without the ongoing support and dedication of our funders, community partners, and friends, WC&S would be unable to provide these trauma-informed, high-quality services to families experiencing intimate partner violence. It truly does take a village, and we just cannot thank you all enough for being our village.

With peace and gratitude,

*Nicole*

Nicole Molinaro Karaczun  
President/CEO

Your life-changing support made quite the **PowHERful Impact** in 2017-18!

**7,500+**  
ADULTS & CHILDREN

received critical services to escape domestic violence and build safer lives

**283** children healed from trauma by receiving  
**6,117** hours of direct service

**88%** of those with known destinations obtained safe, affordable housing upon leaving Shelter

**80%** of Shelter residents reported less depression

The **RIL** Team served over **500** refugee, immigrant, and Limited-English speakers

**274** adult survivors and **203** child survivors spent

**13,954** nights in Emergency Shelter

**5,090** crisis callers received safety planning, emotional support, and resources

**242** **CYF** (Children, Youth & Families) new clients received services  
**189** caseworkers received consultations

**217** **INC** (Immediate Needs Coordination) new clients received services

**388** **MENS** (Men Embracing Non-violence & Safety) participants received battering intervention

**266** non-resident clients received  
**2,767** hours of direct service through Support Groups and individual therapy

Because of you, almost **3,000** survivors of IPV received

**6,818** hours of **Legal Advocacy** and the attorneys in our **Civil Law Project** opened **620** new cases serving **426** new clients

Our mission is to advance the safety and wellbeing of victims of intimate partner violence and prevent and respond to intimate partner violence through social change.

Continued from page 1

## Survivor Story: From Dynamite to Detonator

Eventually, if Bayleigh didn't have answers to Devin's questions, he responded with yelling, slamming his hands on a table, or punching a fist through a wall. Soon, Bayleigh became a target for his physical brutality. In addition to the hitting, he tried to strangle her. And then, he threatened to kill her. "Devin told me he could easily take my life. No one would care. He had alienated me so much from my family and friends, I started to really believe that no one would care," Bayleigh explained.

The abuse didn't stop here. "I came from work a few times and Daisy looked scared. I could see it in her eyes. She had that same timid look that she had in the cage at the shelter. Not only did Daisy have that look; I had it sometimes, too. I felt like we were both two frightened little beings, caged up and afraid," said Bayleigh. "I had wanted to leave so many times—for my sake—just pick up and run, you know? He'd

threatened Daisy before, but I had never seen him physically hurt her. If I did leave, I thought she might be alright and I could somehow get her back. But then I saw him—Devin grabbed Daisy by her scruff and threw her toward the wall. She whimpered, I cried, and I knew I had to get out. This was that final moment—the straw that broke the camel's back as they say," explained Bayleigh. "Devin went from dynamite to detonator. I don't even know how I did it, but I picked up the phone the next day at work and called you guys."

You, our valued partners, played a crucial role in saving their lives. Not only did Bayleigh have a sanctuary in which to begin healing, Daisy also had the comfort of a special place for four-legged friends in our Pet Shelter. The compassion you have in your support of WC&S helps survivors and their pets escape abuse and helps us do our crucial work for them every day! ●

One thing YOU can do to help is download the **RUSafe 2.0 App** today!



## Granting WC&S a Great Future!

*Get those shades ready — the future of Women's Center & Shelter is getting brighter!*

With hearts full of gratitude, we're excited to share with you that we are the recipients of a competitive grant through the PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). What does this mean, you ask? It means our existing programs and services will expand and serve survivors of intimate partner violence in an even more robust way.

You want specific details? Here you go:

- This grant supports the **expansion of our outreach services in local communities**. WC&S will now facilitate up to 10 weekly community-based support groups for at least 100 new, underserved survivors of IPV per year. We are thankful that victims of intimate partner violence who encounter barriers to services due to their location will be able to receive the help they need.
- This grant also **expands a successful program designed to meet the immediate emotional, psychological, physical health, and safety needs** of victims of intimate partner violence who are using our services. Initially started three years ago through a United Way United for Women grant, the program has been so successful that we have received renewal funding from the United Way for current programming AND are expanding by adding two full-time staff through VOCA to serve additional Legal and Empowerment Center clients.
- We are also very excited that this **VOCA grant allows our Civil Law Project to hire a new attorney** with a specialization in immigration and family law to work with victims of IPV who are refugees, immigrants, and limited-English speakers. ●

*We are thrilled for the support to offer these expanded services!*

United Way Contributor Choice #110





## Kids Being Kids!

### Children's Program's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Festival

Think back to the good 'ol days of being a kid at the fair. The colors, the sounds, the oh-my-goodness-what-is-that-yummy-smell—it was all so much fun that your stomach hurt from laughing by end of the day. Or it hurt from too much cotton candy. Either way, life was good. And looking back now, being a kid was THE BEST.

Earlier this month, you packaged up those memories and feelings, tucked a couple extra giggles inside, and handed this special box to a child survivor, giving them the gift of being a kid.

At the Children's Program's 18th Annual Summer Festival, your support ensured the kids had a worry-free day and the adults received helpful information about children's counseling and mental health services, medical resources, mentors, childcare services, resources for children with special needs, W.I.C., after school programs, parenting support and more! Because of you, moms and kids alike not only received the help they needed, but also enjoyed a delicious cookout, games, activities, and prizes at our festiVALL! ●



**Wow! Thirty-thousand ways Highmark and Allegheny Health Network are supporting survivors of IPV!**



**Just one of our many vendors who helped give the women and children important resources.**



## See your support in action!

Inspiration, stories of hope, videos, and timely advocacy needs to help adult and children survivors.



Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh



@wcpittsburgh



@wcpittsburgh



Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh



Also, be sure to sign up for our short email newsletter on [WCSCanHelp.org](http://WCSCanHelp.org)

Join us to Help End Domestic Violence

## STAND UP for STANDING FIRM Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, October 30, 2018  
Omni William Penn Hotel  
Downtown Pittsburgh



Registration is open!  
[www.standingfirmwpa.org](http://www.standingfirmwpa.org)

Register Today

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

UPMC MAGEE-WOMENS HOSPITAL

STAND UP FOR STANDING FIRM  
2018 AWARDS LUNCHEON

## Corporate Love

*We were absolutely thrilled to host 340 volunteers from various companies last year who together donated more than 880 hours of service to WC&S!*

From cleaning the facility to meal preparation to hosting children's parties, each corporate group made a lasting impression on the residents and their children through their kindness and generosity. Beyond the delicious meals and fun activities, our corporate partners also support WC&S in numerous ways.



### How can YOUR company get involved?

- Sponsor a WC&S special event (such as our Happy Hour or Celebrating Survivors event)
- Provide a matching gift opportunity for #GivingTuesday or the end of year appeal
- Plan a corporate volunteer activity
- Host a drive for new items from our essential needs list
- Collect gift cards for distribution during the holiday season
- Plan your own special event with proceeds benefiting WC&S
- Become a member of STANDING FIRM

For more information, contact Kristin at [brownk@wcpittsburgh.org](mailto:brownk@wcpittsburgh.org). ●