2026

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS SUMMIT

Uniting through Community

PRESENTED BY:

Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

STANDING FIRM®
The Business Case to End Partner Violence
A National Program of Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

Regional Learning Alliance Learning and Conference Center

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The NASW-PA Chapter has approved the workshop for CEs.

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Supporters of WC&S and STANDING FIRM,

Welcome to the 2026 Supporting Survivors Summit! As we gather to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month, learn together, and honor our very own Rhonda Fleming, Chief of Prevention, Intervention & Outreach, we do so under a theme that is both timely and timeless: ***Uniting Through Community.***

Domestic violence thrives in isolation. It flourishes when people feel unseen, unheard, or unsupported. The antidote is community: neighbors who care, professionals who listen, organizations that collaborate, friends who believe survivors, and individuals willing to speak up when something isn't right. Lasting change happens when people come together around a shared commitment to safety, dignity, and hope.

That commitment is evident throughout our community. Because of the support of countless advocates, partners, donors, volunteers, and community members, WC&S served 7,909 individuals and provided 34,805 counseling hours agency-wide last year. These numbers represent more than services delivered. They represent people finding safety, families rebuilding stability, children experiencing healing, and survivors discovering that they do not have to face their journey alone.

Yet the need remains significant, and that work belongs to all of us. The purpose of today's Summit extends beyond education. It is an opportunity to strengthen connections, share knowledge, challenge assumptions, and build partnerships that expand our collective impact. Whether you are a social service professional, healthcare provider, educator, law enforcement officer, employer, advocate, community leader, or concerned citizen, you play a vital role in creating a community where survivors are believed, supported, and empowered.

Each conversation, each new insight, and each connection formed today has the potential to make a difference. Learning to recognize warning signs, understanding the dynamics of abuse, responding with compassion, and knowing where to turn for help all contribute to a stronger network of support for those affected by domestic violence.

By joining us today, you are helping create a community that is more informed, more connected, and better equipped to respond to domestic violence. This is the work to which professionals like Rhonda have dedicated their careers, creating a path for others to follow. Her legacy of compassion, community, education, and unity will continue to inspire and guide us for years to come.



Thank you for standing with us, not only during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but throughout the year. When we unite through community, we create lasting change, strengthen the systems that support survivors, and move closer to a future free from violence.

In partnership,

Nicole

Nicole Molinaro, President/CEO

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Registration / Coffee / Breakfast
9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Sessions
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Sessions
4:00 p.m.	Happy Hour Networking

*Please note that brief remarks and a logistical overview will take place during breakfast in Great Room A&B at approximately 9:15 a.m. Lunch will also be served in Great Room A&B.

MENU

Grilled Fajita Chicken

Southwest Garlic Pepper Flank Steak

Peppers & Onions

Cilantro Lime Rice

Beans

Shredded Cheese, Guacamole, Salsa, Lettuce, Flour & Corn Tortillas

Scratch Made Desserts by ***RLA Pastry Chef***

We invite you to join us for a **networking happy hour at 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium** immediately following the Summit. Participate in meaningful discussions while enjoying light refreshments as we close out a day of learning together.

HONORING



Rhonda L. Fleming, MSOL

Chief of Prevention, Intervention & Outreach

Since beginning her career at WC&S in 1990, Rhonda has held the positions of Education Specialist, Education Program Supervisor, Director of Education, MENS/Education Director, and most recently, Chief of Prevention, Intervention & Outreach. She currently manages the residential programs, Wellness team, and outreach services including Medical Advocacy, Education in Schools, and more.

WC&S provides teen dating violence prevention and intervention services using the award-winning curriculum, *Hands Are Not For Hurting®*. As co-author of this pre-kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum, Rhonda has played a major role in the implementation throughout the states of Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Michigan, and South Carolina. She has also trained teachers, counselors, advocates, and other professionals in Moscow, Russia on teen dating violence prevention who have now replicated sections of the *Hands Are Not For Hurting®* curriculum.

One of Rhonda's greatest passions during her time at WC&S has been her work facilitating weekly groups with men on the effects of battering and abuse. Under her leadership and direction, WC&S' Battering Intervention Program was one of the first of its kind to receive full certification by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.



Rhonda provides training to the professional community on the identification and intervention of Intimate Partner Violence, Teen Dating Violence, dynamics of abuse, and power and control. She has made numerous television and radio appearances, including local and national programming.

Rhonda's career awards include the Governor's Victim Service's Award, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Service Award and the New Pittsburgh Courier 2016 Women of Excellence, and several other recognitions. In November, she will be honored with the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh's Heroine Award at their 2026 Annual Equity Awards.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in Administration of Justice at the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership at Geneva College.

For leisure and relaxation, Rhonda enjoys traveling, reading and spending time with her daughter.

9:45 a.m. Sessions

View Presenter Materials

LEGAL TRACK:

Violence Intervention Prevention: Navigating Firearm Safety & Weapons Relinquishment Orders

During this panel discussion, members of the WC&S Firearm Safety team will introduce attendees to a new project geared to assist victims at risk for gun violence. Attendees will have a better understanding of Act 79 weapons relinquishment and the challenges survivors face when requesting relinquishment of firearms during the PFA process.
Approved for 1 CLE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TRACK:

Doula Care to Support Perinatal IPV Survivors

Doulas are trusted by perinatal people and may be an incredibly important group of individuals to support perinatal IPV survivors. Perinatal IPV is common and can cause profound health impacts on the perinatal person and their infant. In this session, our team will describe the current literature and practices around doula support for IPV survivors, share a novel training developed in collaboration with doulas, survivors, and IPV advocates, and describe a current clinical trial focused on assessing two support services for perinatal IPV survivors.
Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

YOUTH TRACK / Double Session A Part I:

Supporting Survivors of Teen Dating Violence: Digital Abuse, Financial Abuse, and Effective Responses

Attendees will be able to: understand the dynamics of teen dating violence and how it differs from adult domestic violence, apply the Stages of Change theory to teen dating violence program referrals, and demonstrate their ability to respond to disclosures of teen dating violence.
Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

LEGAL TRACK / Double Session B Part I:

Criminalization of Survivors Part I: History of Judicial Intervention & Current Policies

The first session will introduce mandatory arrest laws, primary and secondary aggressor considerations, as well as an introduction to how reactive abuse plays a role in the arrest of those actively being victimized by their abuser.
Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

11:00 a.m. Sessions

View Presenter Materials

LEGAL TRACK:

Intersection of DV & Immigration in the Current Political Climate

Provide policy updates, case law, updates, and current challenges of representing DV survivors where the survivor and/or abuser is not a US citizen. This will include a review of DHS policy and practice, case law updates from federal circuit courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, and a focus on local happenings with ICE and USCIS.

Approved for 1 CLE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TRACK:

Firearms: A Lethal Bridge. Understanding the Intersections of IPV & Community Violence to Inform Effective Intervention

Presentation will consist of data/statistics specific to Allegheny County. Taking a big-picture view reveals shared dynamics: impulsiveness vs. intentionality, patterns of behavior, and power and control beliefs that may not be cleanly divided across the three categories. All violence has multilayered causes and common root factors; multifaceted problems require multifaceted interventions.

Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

YOUTH TRACK / Double Session A Part II:

Supporting Survivors of Teen Dating Violence: Digital Abuse, Financial Abuse, and Effective Responses

You will learn about teen economic abuse (TEA), one form of adolescent relationship abuse, occurring when an adolescent's intimate partner limits pathways to financial freedom and employment or educational opportunities to maintain power and control.

Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

LEGAL TRACK / Double Session B Part II:

Criminalization of Survivors Part II: Understanding Consequences and Barriers to Safety

The second session will focus on the safety concerns and barriers for survivors arising from IPV criminalization. Specifically, this session will look at reactive abuse and self-defense, as well as the weaponization of systems to perpetuate violence. Further, implications on long-term safety, stability, and policy recommendations will be discussed.

Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

1:45 p.m. Sessions

View Presenter Materials

LEGAL TRACK:

Victim or Perpetrator? Courtroom and Custody Considerations

This presentation will explain Juvenile Dependency law and court process and provide an explanation of how IPV is often cast as parental neglect ("failure to protect") or even abuse in the dependency context, including a quick compare/contrast of Adult Family Court (PFA) and Juvenile Court (Dependency) — how the same facts produce different "labels" and different results; "failure to protect" as a systems problem, not a survivor problem; and, what IPV advocates should know when child welfare is involved.

We will also present the emerging issues surrounding Kayden's Law — specifically, we will address the definition of "abuse" for Kayden's Law, how to determine if behavior falls within the legal definition of abuse for Kayden's Law, and how to present that to the Court.
Approved for 1 CLE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TRACK:

Stalking: What is it? Why Does it Matter, and What Can We Do About it, and Supporting Survivors on Campus

Attendees will be able to identify behaviors and patterns that may constitute stalking and how stalking is defined under PA law. We will also describe stalking response strategies. This presentation will provide tools for building supportive programs on your campus or within your institution by working in collaboration with internal and community partners.

Specifically, we will provide an overview of the University of Pittsburgh's Survivor Support Network, a community of trauma-informed faculty and staff who are trained to support survivors of sexual misconduct, as well as other programs, such as our resource locker, developed to support community members impacted by intimate partner and sexual violence.
Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

1:45 p.m. Sessions continued >

1:45 p.m. Sessions *(cont.)*

View Presenter Materials

YOUTH TRACK:

Children Living with DV: Understanding Trauma Behavior & Healing

This presentation will explore the impact of domestic violence on children and adolescents, including the emotional, behavioral, social, and academic effects of trauma exposure. Participants will learn to recognize common warning signs and trauma responses in children who may be experiencing violence in the home, while gaining a deeper understanding of how domestic violence can affect brain development, emotional regulation, relationships, and classroom behavior. The presentation also introduces the role of trauma-informed interventions, specifically art therapy/storytelling through expressive arts, as supportive tools that help children safely process emotions, build resilience, develop emotional vocabulary, and strengthen healthy coping skills.

Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TRACK / Double Session C Part I:

Bridging Clinic and Community: Innovative Responses to IPV and Survivor Support

A joint presentation covering the following topics: Part I: Developing novel caregiver-adolescent dating violence prevention program and co-designing training to improve healthcare for transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) students with a focus on survivor-centered and harm reduction approaches.

Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

3:00 p.m. Sessions

View Presenter Materials

LEGAL TRACK:

Strengthening the Front Lines: Collaborative Models Between DV Centers, Courts, & Law Enforcement to Safeguard Officers, Victims, & the Community

Domestic violence incidents remain a leading threat to the safety of victims, law enforcement officers, and communities. We will explore public-safety-focused collaboration between domestic violence centers, courts, and law enforcement to reduce lethality, improve outcomes, and enhance officer safety. Participants will learn how agency coordination can prevent escalation and support survivors, law-enforcement officers, and the community.

Approved for 1 CLE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TRACK:

Law Firm Allies: Using Pro Bono Service to Amplify Survivor Support

This session will explain the Start Anew Project and the Pittsburgh Clinic as an example of how corporate partners can support survivors through direct community engagement. A national (and soon to be international) initiative, the Start Anew Project holds one-day clinics offering services designed to promote financial and job stability to empower survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, or sexual abuse to achieve independence and security.

Additionally, we will also explore the Cyber Crime Clinic. Founded in 2014, the Clinic provides pro bono legal support to victims of non-consensual distribution of intimate images, a/k/a NCII, image-based sexual abuse, nonconsensual pornography, or “revenge porn”.

The goal of this session is to provide concrete examples of corporate involvement to encourage the audience to think creatively about ways in which they can leverage their professional skills and networks to support survivors.

Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

3:00 p.m. Sessions continued >

3:00 p.m. Sessions *(cont.)*

View Presenter Materials

YOUTH TRACK:

The Manosphere: The Cause, The Impact, The Fix

We will explain the Manosphere to show it's not an isolated case or one ideology, but a repackaging or rebranding of toxic themes that just might surprise you. We will explore the conditions that have created this environment and just how far the tentacles reach, including the connection to domestic violence. The panel will pose the question "What is missing from the conversation?" and provide insight as to how we might shift gears to tackle the growing problem.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TRACK / Double Session C Part II:

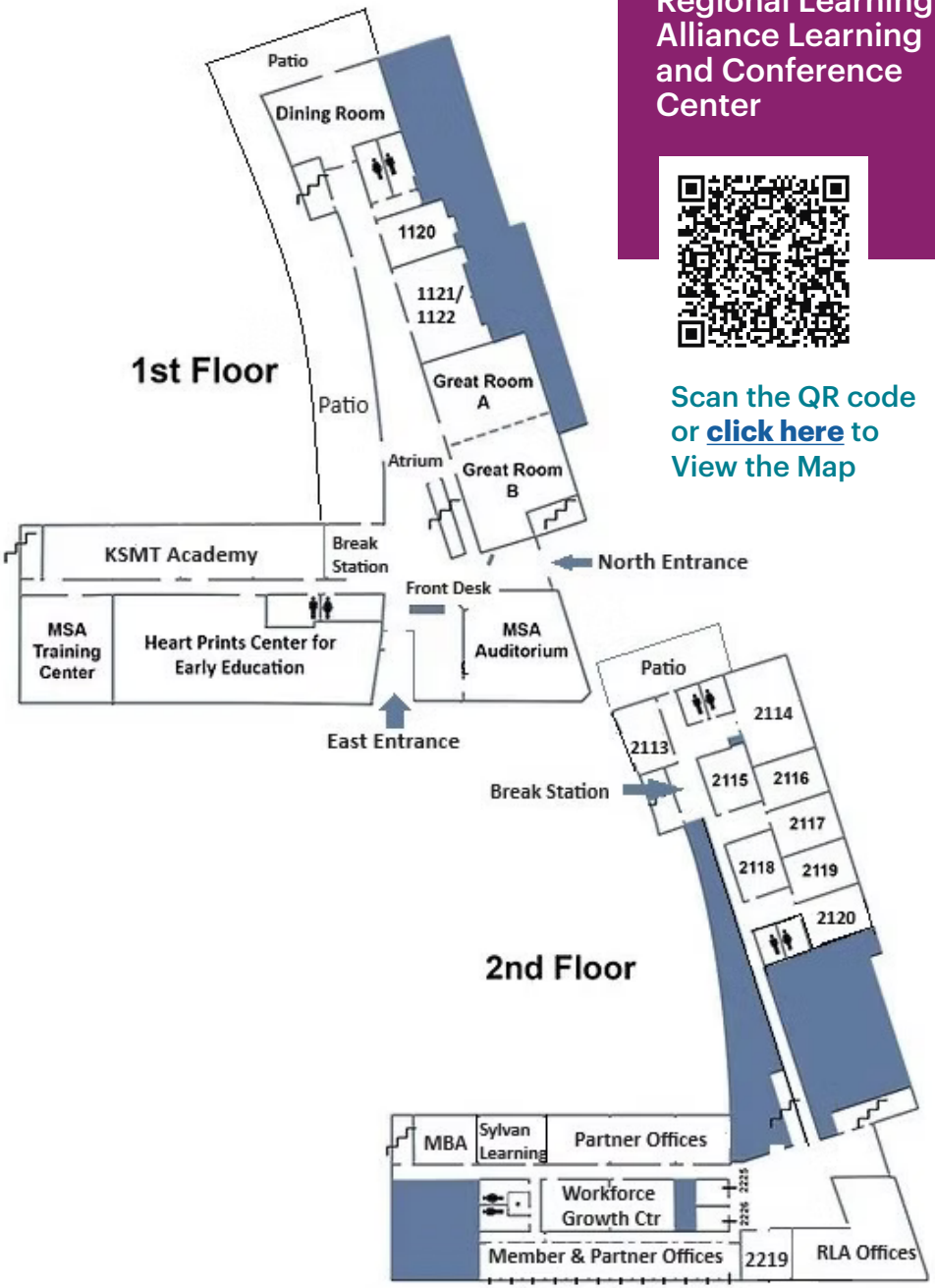
Bridging Clinic and Community: Innovative Responses to IPV and Survivor Support

Part II of this presentation includes promoting clinic, domestic violence program, and provider practice change to support survivors of intimate partner violence with a quality assessment/quality improvement tool, and, "Sleeping With One Eye Open": A Qualitative Investigation of Sleep Coercion Among IPV Survivors, Advocates, and Practitioners.

Approved for 1 CEU for Social Workers

Regional Learning Alliance Learning and Conference Center

Scan the QR code or **click here** to View the Map



WC&S Mission

We will strengthen our ability to meet the individual and evolving needs of those affected by domestic violence by investing in the growth of our people, deepening community engagement, and amplifying the voices of all survivors.

WC&S Vision

We exist to end domestic violence and create safe spaces for help, healing, and hope.

WC&S Values

Safety

Uplifting Others

Compassion

Courage

Excellence

Survivor-Centered Advocacy

Stewardship

Trauma-informed Services

Hotline Services

Our hotline operates 24/7 by phone, with text and chat services offered Mon-Fri, from 9am-5pm. Trained advocates provide emotional support, safety planning, and explain options to anyone who has experienced domestic violence (DV) from a current or former partner or those concerned about a loved one or coworker.

Wellness Team

The Wellness Team provides inclusive support and counseling services to domestic violence survivors to foster hope, resilience, and healing. Support groups help survivors to tell their stories and grow stronger through shared experiences. Therapy is also available for survivors who are interested in exploring their trauma in a more individualized way.

Legal Advocacy

Our non-attorney legal advocates help survivors navigate the legal system by providing court accompaniment, safety planning, emotional support, and connection to resources.

Emergency Shelter

WC&S' Emergency Shelter provides safety for adults and children in immediate, lethal danger. Services include safety planning, goal planning, and advocacy for housing, employment, health, & mental health. WC&S provides all basic essentials so that families can begin their journeys of healing. On-site housing for their pets is also available.

Immediate Needs Coordination (INC) Program

Our Immediate Needs Coordinators meet the urgent emotional, psychological, and physical health & safety needs of clients who are not staying in Shelter or have left Shelter. The INC Program also assists survivors with meeting their basic needs, such as transportation, housing, utility, food, and more.

Children's Advocacy Program (CAP)

Our Children's Advocacy Program (CAP) provides a safe, welcoming, culturally competent, and nurturing space where child survivors of DV can heal from trauma. Our goal is to help children explore their feelings in an open and positive environment, while their parent addresses housing, employment, and other needs to rebuild their lives.

Civil Law Project (CLP)

Civil Law Project attorneys provide eligible WC&S clients with free representation in cases involving Protection from Abuse (PFA), child custody, spousal support, divorce, and related appellate matters, as well as legal advice on immigration.

High-Danger Initiative

WC&S established a program to work with high-danger survivors who are most at risk for being killed by their partner or ex-partner. High-danger survivors who are identified by WC&S staff, the courts, and the county receive emergency, multi-departmental, and multi-organizational case management to meet their immediate safety and other needs.

Trauma-informed Outreach and Education

Medical Advocacy

The Medical Advocates work closely with area hospitals, clinics, and doctor's offices within both the UPMC and AHN health systems to provide crisis intervention, educational resources, and hands-on trainings. They also work with WC&S clients to advocate for their healthcare and health insurance needs.

Services for Refugees, Immigrants, & Limited-English Speakers(RIL)

This specialized team includes multilingual staff members who work at two levels – assisting individual clients on-site and in the community, and advocating improvements in systems to better serve RIL clients.

Children, Youth, & Families (CYF)

Children, Youth, & Families (CYF) Specialists consult with and coach CYF caseworkers who serve families experiencing intimate partner violence with a co-occurrence of child abuse or neglect. They provide individual and group services to adult survivors, including safety strategies, court accompaniment, case management, resources, provider relations, and more, and also work with the person using violence.

STANDING FIRM: The Business Case to End Partner Violence

By empowering employers through consultation and training, STANDING FIRM is changing workplace culture and systems so that survivors may move toward financial independence and closer to a life free from abuse.

Education (Schools & Community)

WC&S delivers training and presentations on DV awareness and dating violence prevention to students in middle school through college, criminal justice professionals, human service providers, clergy members, corporations, and other professional groups.

Battering Intervention Program

The Battering Intervention Program is for individuals who need help with changing their violent and abusive behaviors. This off-site program serves multiple communities and offers education and tools to help those who use abuse understand and take accountability for their actions.

Systems Advocacy

WC&S is committed to transforming the systems that impact domestic violence survivors and those who use harm, partnering with systems such as the courts, police departments, child welfare organizations, healthcare providers to create safer, more responsive pathways to support.





Advancing **Safety**, **Hope**, and **Healing**.

We are proud to support the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, STANDING FIRM, and this year's Supporting Survivors Summit. We applaud their dedication to empowering survivors, preventing violence, and creating a stronger, safer future for our communities.

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2026
SUPPORTING SURVIVORS SUMMIT

Uniting through Community

STANDING FIRM®

A national program of Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh



Domestic violence comes to work.
STANDING FIRM helps you to respond.

Together, we will build a network of equity, safety, and support for survivors and your organization.

DV is Costing your Workplace & Workforce

1 in 4 women, **1 in 7** men, **1 in 2** LGBTQIA+, and **1 in 2** persons with disabilities experience & report partner violence in their lifetime.

99%
of all partner violence cases include financial abuse.

1 in 6 women & **1 in 17** men have experienced stalking in their lifetime; nearly half before age 25.

53% of people surviving partner violence report losing at least one job because of the violence.

27% of workplace violence incidents are related to partner violence.

Healthcare costs for people experiencing physical abuse are **42%** higher than peers.

83%
of partner violence survivors report that the abuse impacted their ability to do their job.

50%
of victims missed one or more days of work.

Our Services

Consultation Services

- Custom Plan for Success
- Policy Review/Creation
- Address/Mitigate Risk

Training

- eLearning Modules
- Live/Recorded Webinars
- Customized Training Available
- Training Solutions for all Levels of Employees

Membership

- Join our Employer Alliance
- Premier Membership Portal
- Monthly/Quarterly Newsletters
- Discounts to Events

Resources

- Resource Library
- 24 x 7 Hotline

Who We Are

Deep Industry Experience
17 years of helping organizations create a supportive workplace culture for survivors by driving systemic change.

Expertise
We are committed to providing innovative solutions encompassing inclusion, financial equity, employee retention, and compliance.

Contact Us

412-894-4568

contactsf@standing-firm.org

standing-firm.org

Call to Action: Strengthen the community response to DV: partner with STANDING FIRM® today!

ECKERT SEAMANS

Our Community. Our Commitment.

The Women's Center & Shelter's 2026 Supporting Survivors Summit brings the community together for a day of vital education, equipping attendees with the knowledge to help break the cycle.

As a sponsor of the Summit's education track, Eckert Seamans is honored to help ensure survivors, nonprofit professionals, and students can access this critical programming — because awareness and education are where lasting change begins.

Eckert Seamans is proud to stand with the Women's Center & Shelter. Here's to a community that shows up for every survivor — wherever they are on that journey — today and always.

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What you **do** builds a better future.

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CELEBRATING SURVIVORS

We are proud to support the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh and honor the strength and courage of survivors of domestic violence.

K&L Gates LLP. Global Counsel. Learn more at klgates.com.

Education is Empowerment



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Available on the iPhone App Store

Learn more & become an advocate: brightskyus.org

Jones Day proudly supports the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh's 2026 Supporting Survivors Summit. We applaud the organization's mission to help meet the needs of those affected by domestic violence by investing in their growth, deepening community engagement, and amplifying the voices of all survivors.

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