

LAST CALL to ALL Courageous Men of Westmoreland County to...



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

The 6th Annual Men's March to Stop Rape,
Sexual Assault & Gender Violence

WE INVITE YOU to become actively involved in Blackburn Center's mission ...
to raise your voice (as you move your feet!) in speaking out against
the social norms that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence.

Saturday, April 16, 2016

St. Clair Park, Greensburg

Registration: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Walk begins at 10:00 AM

Registration is \$5 for each participant.

Men, women, and children are welcome.

Includes free event t-shirt (while supplies last).

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.blackburncenter.org

or call 724-837-9540 x144

TO REGISTER ONLINE

www.blackburncenter.org/#!register-for-an-event/c4lg

In Westmoreland County, a project of



Underwriting Sponsor

Tuscano
A G E N C Y

Honorary Chairs:

Commissioner Ted Kopas

Commissioner Gina Cerilli

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LIVE UNITED



United Way of
Westmoreland County

Teams are encouraged! Form groups at work or school and walk as a team.

You may carry an identifying banner, but the banner must be pre-approved by Blackburn Center prior to the Walk.

www.walkamileinher shoes.org • Licensed by Frank Baird & Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®, a Venture Humanity, Inc. Project

Blackburn Center Hotline: 724-836-1122 or toll-free 1-888-832-2272

ENGAGING MEN AS ALLIES

Blackburn Center is reaching out to men in the community who support our organization, with an invitation to join a new initiative aimed at getting even more local men involved in our mission to end gender violence.

We have been fortunate to have significant support from men over the agency's long history. Most recently, our Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event has served as a catalyst for our outreach to men. We have been developing an initiative to build on that momentum, inviting men to become involved in a deeper way in actions focused on ending gender violence. One piece of this is the development of an allies group: men who are committed to the common purpose of ending gender violence.

Because gender violence is a complex problem, we need our allies to go beyond their current commitment — making donations, participating in the Walk — to bring our message into their everyday lives at home, at work, and in the community. We are confident that there are many men in Westmoreland County who have what it takes to make that commitment and thus work side-by-side with women to eliminate gender violence.

Blackburn Center has developed a position statement that articulates our commitment to engaging men as allies (see box). If you'd like to learn more about this, or find out what you can do to be involved, contact Bill at 724-837-9540 x142, or BillM@blackburncenter.org.

Engaging Men as Allies Position Statement

Blackburn Center is identifying a group of men to be active and ongoing volunteers in the agency's effort to end gender violence. This group of men will be identified as allies since they will be joining the over 40 years of work that women have been doing on this issue and with a recognition of the significant expertise women bring to the effort to end gender violence.

Men who have demonstrated a willingness to be involved in attempting to end gender violence in Westmoreland County will be asked to join the Men as Allies group. This group of men will be asked to commit to the four phases of being an ally:

- **Awareness:** knowing who you are and how your beliefs and behaviors impact the existence of gender violence in the culture;
- **Knowledge/Education:** learning about male privilege and assumptions about masculinity, as well as addressing the perceptions that men in our culture are raised with related to gender equality;
- **Skills:** being comfortable with and able to share this knowledge, and becoming equipped to challenge preconceived ideas supporting gender inequality and its linkage to gender violence; and
- **Action:** engaging in ongoing dialogue about these issues among men and in groups of men and women.

The Men as Allies group will serve as change agents, with a commitment to support systemic, cultural change through their work with women, and when they are interacting with other men. They will actively work to understand the world women experience, as well as their reaction to the female perspective. The Men as Allies group will take on the challenging issues (e.g., male privilege, ownership, language and assumptions) which often support the rape/violence culture. Individual members of the Men as Allies group will be asked to make a personal, professional and systemic commitment to change.

Blackburn Center recognizes that men joining the Men as Allies group will enter with varying levels of personal awareness and understanding of the issue. The agency will make training opportunities available to the Allies group to enhance their understanding and support their efforts towards ending gender violence.

Approved by the Board September 21, 2015

If you, or someone you know, needs Blackburn Center's services, call the 24/7 Hotline: 724-836-1122 or 1-888-832-2272.

All of our services are CONFIDENTIAL, can be ANONYMOUS and are offered at no charge to clients.

- **24/7 Hotline**
- **Shelter for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence**
- **Counseling and Therapy**
- **Medical and Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment**
- **Support Groups**
- **Education & Prevention Programs**

Mission Statement

Blackburn Center advocates for the rights of all individuals to live free from domestic and sexual violence in their homes and communities by eliminating the root causes of this violence and providing for the well-being and safety of survivors/victims.

A Call to Action: Lift the Statute of Limitations!

In early March 2016, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office released a report on a grand jury investigation into child sexual abuse by Catholic priests and religious leaders. The report details decades of abuse and cover-ups by leaders in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, with hundreds of children victimized. While the grand jury investigation into these crimes is ongoing, one of the most disturbing conclusions of this report is that no criminal charges will be brought at this time, because either the alleged abusers are dead or the statute of limitations has expired. That means that hundreds of victims and their families will receive no justice. As a society, we must not tolerate laws that permit sexual predators to escape punishment for their crimes. We join our statewide organization, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR), in asking the Pennsylvania Legislature to remove the statute of limitations in sexual assault cases.

As the law currently stands in Pennsylvania, adult victims of sexual assault have 12 years to report their assault before the statute of limitations expires. Child victims of sexual assault — anyone who was under 18 years old when they were abused — have either 12 or 32 years to report their sexual assault, depending on their date of birth (before or after August 27, 2002).

While 12 to 32 years may seem like a long time, it is not uncommon for victims of sexual assault to wait years or decades to report their abuse. Sexual assault leaves victims feeling scared, confused, ashamed and humiliated. They may struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and addiction, and it often takes years for them to make a connection between their abuse and these issues. According to Delilah Rumburg, CEO of PCAR, "Delayed reporting is normal and should be expected." It follows that if delayed reporting of sexual assault is the norm, the statute of limitations for these crimes should be removed. This would be a significant step towards truly understanding the nature of sexual assault and its impact on victims. It would also allow for justice in any case where the crimes are not uncovered for decades after they happened.

If we are serious about protecting victims of sexual assault, then we must lift the statute of limitations on these crimes. This would allow for the reality of delayed reporting, and it would stop predators from escaping punishment just because their victim(s) didn't report their abuse within an arbitrary time frame. Join Blackburn Center and PCAR as we ask the Pennsylvania Legislature to remove the statute of limitations for sexual assault!

Reminders ...

Day of Giving

Watch for information about Day of Giving 2016 on Blackburn Center's Facebook page. Day of Giving is on May 3, 2016 from 8 a.m. to midnight.

United Way Campaign

All Westmoreland County United Way agencies need your help, now more than ever. The stronger they are, the stronger we are. Please consider directing your contribution to the Community Impact Fund or to Blackburn Center. Blackburn Center's donor designation number is 382.

2014–15 Annual Report

To reduce costs and environmental impact, we will be posting Blackburn Center's Annual Report on our website: www.blackburncenter.org. The 2014-15 report is now available for your review. Please let us know if you'd like a hard copy sent to you; call **724-837-9540, x104**.

In 1853, Esther Howland brought young girls into her Massachusetts home to hand-color valentines. She provided them with shelter and an opportunity to earn a livelihood. In that tradition, this specially created collector's card was designed by a Blackburn Center client.



The Special Occasion Card: A Greeting with a Purpose

For 17 years, Blackburn Center has offered a meaningful way for you to mark important occasions and celebrate special people in your life through our *Special Occasion Card*. This year's card, designed by a Blackburn Center client, features a verse from Jared Leto:

"Some people come into our lives, leave footprints in our hearts and minds and we are never the same again." – Jared Leto

For each \$25 gift to Blackburn Center, we will send a card to the person you specify and will include your personal message inside the card. For any level of giving, your name and the name of the person or occasion you honor will be included in the fall edition of our newsletter, and your name will appear in Blackburn Center's Annual Report. (If you prefer, we will list you as "anonymous.") We have enclosed a remittance envelope in this newsletter for your convenience. Please consider this way to touch the lives of thousands of people in our community as you touch the lives of those you honor. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for sharing in our mission.

Planting the seeds of promise to nurture a bouquet of hope.

NEEDS LIST Your contributions have a direct impact for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

A donation of items from the needs list throughout the year helps Blackburn Center sustain the shelter program, and helps to maintain the support groups the agency provides for women and children. In addition, some of these items are made available to women – and their children – who are establishing their own homes and need support with basic household items.

Please put the items below that are in **bold** at the top of your shopping list, and help Blackburn Center manage donations by bringing new items. If you have used items

to donate, the agency can provide a list of thrift shops in the area that make items available to Blackburn Center shelter residents at no cost to them.

For more information about donation opportunities, contact:

Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
P.O. Box 398, Greensburg, PA 15601
724-837-9540
HYPERLINK <http://www.blackburncenter.org>
www.blackburncenter.org

PLEASE NOTE:

Deliver donations to Blackburn Center's administrative offices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please call if you cannot bring your donation during regular business hours. We can make other arrangements if necessary.

■ KITCHEN

Can openers – handheld

Coffee (regular)

Coffee creamer

Condiments

Cooking oil

Dish drainers

Dishpans

Dishwasher detergent

Food items:

*any canned food, and other non-perishables, etc.**

Tall kitchen garbage bags

Paper products:

paper towels

Paper towel holders

Skillets

Zip-lock bags:

2 gallon sizes

**Food items we especially need include: all kinds of soups, condiments (mustard, mayonnaise, and catsup), jelly, cake and brownie mixes, canned tuna, canned chicken and other meats, canned or bottled juices.*

■ BATHROOM

Bath mats

Garbage bags:

8 gallon size

Paper products:

toilet paper

Towels: *durable, bath and hand towels and washcloths*

■ PERSONAL CARE

Hotel-size items are no longer needed.

Hairbrushes

■ BEDROOM

Bed pillows

machine washable & durable

Bed-in-a-bag sets

Garbage bags: 8 gallon size

Pajamas: Women's sizes

S, M, L & 3X:

Children's sizes

girls 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

boys 2, 3, 5, 10 & 12

■ MISCELLANEOUS

Bras: *all sizes*

Brooms

Clear plastic bins:

(approx. 23 3/4" L x

16 3/8" W x 12 3/8" H

– 66 qts.)

Diapers: Sizes 3, 4, 5, 6+

Fabric softener sheets

Flashlights

Gasoline cards:

(GetGo or Sheetz)

Gift cards:

(Giant Eagle or Walmart)

Laundry detergent

Laundry baskets

Markers:

washable

Mops

Mr. Clean Magic Erasers

Outdoor garbage bags

Phone cards

Sweat suits:

all adult sizes

Telephones

Tool kits

Underpants:

boys & girls, all sizes;

women's sizes,

5, 6, 7, 8, 9



PO Box 398
Greensburg, PA 15601-0398

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 648
Greensburg, PA

Blackburn Center Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides 24-hour hotline services, counseling, advocacy and support groups to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, incest, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and all other types of crime; emergency shelter is available to survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children. Blackburn Center also provides community education, school student awareness programs, and in-service professional trainings throughout Westmoreland County.

Contact Information

Office 724-837-9540

Fax 724-837-3676

Hotline 724-836-1122

Toll Free Hotline 1-888-832-2272

Website www.blackburncenter.org

Blackburn Center is funded in part by United Way of Westmoreland County, PA Department of Public Welfare funds, including Title XX and Act 44 funds, foundations and local contributions.

A copy of official registration and financial information for Blackburn Center may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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