

35th Anniversary

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SERVICE CENTER

THE ADVOCATE

FALL 2011

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A VITAL LINK

On Valentines Day 2007, a teen girl in St. Paul Minnesota found a gift-wrapped box on her doorstep. She opened the box and found the severed head of her beloved dog who had been decapitated with a chainsaw. The horrific act was committed by the teen girl's abusive boyfriend. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Pets often become pawns in the game of



power and control that batterers use to coerce, control and intimidate their victims.

The correlation between domestic violence, dating violence and animal abuse is significant. According to the U.S. Humane Society, 13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence. As a result, victims of domestic violence have been known to sleep in their cars for up to four hours while waiting for an

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GIRLS' NIGHT OUT!!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE CENTER PRESENTS GIRLS' NIGHT OUT!!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
6 – 9 P.M.

The River Street Jazz Café
North River Street, Plains

\$8 IN ADVANCE, \$10 AT THE DOOR

Free food buffet provided by the River Street Jazz Café

Piano entertainment provided by local artists

Carl Kleist & Tyler Mariano

Purpose

The purpose of the Domestic Violence Service Center is to work toward the elimination of domestic violence.

A VITAL LINK

opening at a pet friendly shelter. Domestic violence programs across the country have begun to establish pet-friendly safe houses, build on-site kennels, and develop foster pet programs for victims.



Twenty-five to forty percent of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they worry about what will happen to their pets if they leave.

The National Link Coalition is committed to educating professionals and community members about the interconnectedness of different forms of violence including: child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence and animal abuse. The interconnectedness of abuse is referred to as the Link. The National Link Coalition also works to educate veterinarians about suspected cases of domestic violence and child abuse when working with abused animals. Many times, a crucial first point of contact for victims of violence is at a veterinarian's office. The Link also encourages local domestic violence programs, animal abuse agencies, elder abuse organizations and child welfare agencies to work together in identifying other forms of abuse.

The Domestic Violence Service Center and the SPCA of Luzerne County are partnering to raise awareness about animal abuse and domestic violence in our community. DVSC and the SPCA will be providing outreach, education and training to veterinarians and professionals in the community about the link between animal abuse and domestic violence. For more information about the National Link Coalition and how to get involved visit, www.nationallinkcoalition.org.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT!!

DVSC's Girls' Night Out promises to be an evening filled with food, fun, and of course, shopping!

Vendors geared toward what every woman wants will be present for your enjoyment, including Silpada jewelry, Mary Kay, J. Sacavage Studios, 31 Gifts, *Common Scents in the Sticks*, *Ah! Some Chocolates*, van Hoekelen Greenhouses and more!



For more information on the event please contact Nina Dei Tos, DVSC Development Director, (570) 823-6799 x221 or

ndeitos@dvsclc.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

On Thursday, October 13, DVSC presented An Empty Place at the Table at the Luzerne County Courthouse. Keynote Speaker, Terry Renninger, spoke about his daughter, Rebecca, who was murdered by her estranged husband in 2009. DVSC Board of Directors President, Peggy Engle, Esq. also spoke about the agency’s 35th Anniversary and humble beginnings. DVSC celebrated long-time volunteers, Dr. Mischelle Anthony and Margaret Hargraves, for their dedication to the agency and support for victims of domestic violence.

Throughout the month of October, DVSC received a Resolution on behalf of Luzerne County honoring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, held teen dating violence programs within local schools, celebrated Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day at local hospitals, and held awareness programs in colleges.



Pictured from left: Terry Renninger, Peggy Engle, Esq., President DVSC Board of Directors, Paula Triano, DVSC Executive Director

TEMPLE B’NAI B’RITH DONATION

Members of the Social Action Committee of Temple B’nai B’rith, Kingston, recently donated over twenty backpacks filled with school supplies and a ‘back to school’ outfit for the school-age children currently involved in the programs at the Domestic Violence Service Center (DVSC). All of the items provided by the Social Action Committee were donated by members of the B’nai B’rith congregation over the last few months.

“The response from our Temple members for projects supporting the DVSC is always overwhelming,” remarked Rabbi Roger Lerner. “I am thankful to my congregation for their generosity, we are always happy to lend a hand to those in need, especially those right in our own backyard.”



Representatives of the DVSC gratefully accept the ‘back to school’ donation from the Social Action Committee of Temple B’nai B’rith. Pictured, from left, are Laura Houser, DVSC Counselor Advocate, Leslie Shire, Fran Goldman, Rabbi Roger Lerner, Dan Goldman and Nina Dei Tos, DVSC Development Director.

HOMELESS PREVENTION

The Domestic Violence Service Center is proud to partner with Luzerne County Community College on a Homeless Prevention Outreach program. The Homeless Prevention Outreach Program provides education to college students and professionals in Luzerne County about homelessness, homeless prevention and education. DVSC, LCCC and other community organizations are joining forces to raise awareness and hope about families and children affected by this tragic epidemic in our community.



Photo first row, from left, Tom Leary; President LCCC, Jolene Miraglia, DVSC, Second row; Yanira Font, DVSC, Caitlyn Kudey; DVSC intern

CRANBERRY QUILT GUILD SUPPORTS DVSC

The members of the Cranberry Quilters Guild held a “Baby, Kids and Moms Too Shower” at their monthly meeting on October 24, at the Faith UCC church hall in Hazleton. The meeting space was transformed into a “shower” atmosphere with balloons, games and refreshments. As members welcomed Nina Dei Tos, the Development Director of the Domestic Violence Service Center, they learned of the work done by the center and what it takes to run a successful program. She was later presented with many items that are needed to help support the work of the center.

A collection of everything, from diapers and wipes for the babies, and toothbrushes and books for the older children to shampoo, soaps and handmade totes to carry it all was presented. The hope of the Guild members is that each of these items will help ease the situation ahead for these families in need.

The Cranberry Quilters Guild meets each year from March through November. Meeting new quilters and learning all about the quilting world is not the only aspect of the Guild. Giving back to the community through service projects such as this, plays a major role in what defines the Guild.

THANK YOU

Clarence and Morage Michael, Sundance Vacations, Abbe Kruger in honor of her daughter, Sophia's birthday, Rachel Pugh, Barbara and Frederick Sauls, Kingston Fireman's Community Ambulance Association, Richard Henry Construction Inc., in memory of Rebecca Renninger, Peggy Engle, Esq., Walmart - Lehighon Store Location, Sam's Club, Wilkes-Barre, Michael and Trish Last, Sherry Davidowitz and Family, Arnold and Sandy Rifkin, Bill and Sue Bitterman, Wells Fargo, Community Partners Program, Misericordia University, GFWC Northeastern Club, Tracy Eslinger, CEO Summer Meal Program, Luzerne Intermediate Unit, Kayla Truett, Connie Barchock, Temple B'nai B'rith Social Action Committee, Hanover Homes, Courtdale United Methodist Church, Bedwick & Jones Printing Inc., Misericordia University Campus Ministry, Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Parkway Storage, WIC Nanticoke office, Avon by Anna, Verizon, June Roman, Empire Cleaners, Pat Krushnowski, Charlene Wildes, Bruce Riley & Misericordia University, Hanover Area High School, Cranberry Quilters Guild.



Pictured left to right, with some of the items donated are: Judy Yeager, committee member, Nina C. Dei Tos, DVSC Development Director and committee members, Betty Rosato and Linda Wagner.

Silver Sponsors

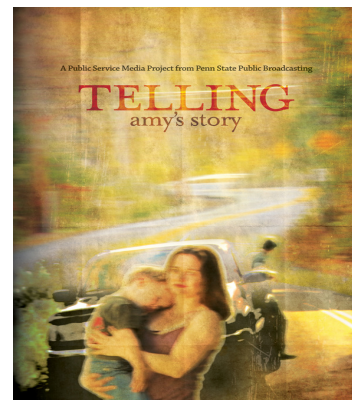
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A SCREENING OF TELLING AMY’S STORY

The Domestic Violence Service Center, in partnership with Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon, and Verizon Wireless HopeLine are teaming up to raise awareness of services available to victims of domestic violence and help at-risk individuals develop skills needed to create healthy relationships. “Telling Amy’s Story” is a documentary hosted by actress and activist Mariska Hargitay, and told by detective Deirdri Fishel. The film follows the timeline of a domestic violence homicide that occurred on November 8, 2001.



DVSC invites you to a screening of “Telling Amy’s Story.” The screening will be held on December 6 at 6pm at Wilkes University on the 2nd floor in the Henry Student Center. Please RSVP to Nina Dei Tos, DVSC Development Director at 823-6799 ext 221 by December 1, 2011.

AROUND THE WORLD

- United States* - the Security and Financial Empowerment Act (SAFE Act) was introduced to Congress on October 27, 2011. The SAFE Act would ensure that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking have the financial independence to break free from their abusers. The Act would allow victims to take up to 30 days off from work to seek legal and medical assistance, attend court hearings and receive assistance with safety planning.
- New York City* - Futures Without Violence will run a campaign billboard “Awaiting Instructions” in NYC’s Times Square. The campaign teaches young people the importance of respect for women and girls. The campaign will run through November 2011.
- NNEDV*—The National Network to End Domestic Violence is launching a Media Advocacy Project to improve media coverage of domestic violence issues and provide tools and resources for journalists about domestic violence.



A Crucial Clutch - PurplePurse.com, sponsored by the Allstate Foundation, is a website that encourages people to speak openly about domestic violence and provides survivors with financial resources and tools.

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY DONATION

On Friday, October 21 representatives from Misericordia University held a Cereal Drive for the women and children in DVSC’s emergency shelter and transitional housing program. Every year, Misericordia University faculty, students, and student organizations donate much needed cereal for the women and children at the center. DVSC relies on the support of community members and organizations like Misericordia University to provide supportive services and resources to individuals affected by domestic violence. DVSC would like to thank everyone at Misericordia University for their generosity and for making the Cereal Drive a great success.



Pictured from left: Diane Morreale, Misericordia University, Bruce Riley; Misericordia University, Mike Hilstolsky, Misericordia University, Sue Lazur; Misericordia University, Jolene Miraglia, DVSC.



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