



Enlightener

*Mission: To support and empower those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault,
To develop a community where there is no acceptance of or tolerance for either*

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Shelter Renovations

Agency revamps and upgrades shelters to make homes for those in need.

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center shelter became a reality when a group of concerned citizens, some of them battered women, realized that there were no services for domestic violence victims in Warren County. The agency was incorporated in 1980 and a single staff person was hired. That person spent her time in the community raising awareness of the program and acting as an information and referral source.

As victims of abuse began to seek protection through the legal system, greater attention was focused on the agency since it was the only agency

and State Police departments and social service agencies began contacting the agency to lend assistance in handling domestic violence victims. In 1984 the Board of Directors saw a gap in services for sexual assault victims and incorporated this service into their program.

At this time three to five families a month were seeking shelter only to be told that we could house them temporarily in a motel. In 1985 the need for a shelter was established. Concerned citizens and business people of Warren County saw the need for a shelter and established a shelter building committee. Builders, trades people, professionals and individuals came together as a group to build the Morningside shelter – entirely from donations.

Since that time nearly 2,000 women and children have been sheltered here. As you can imagine, the shelter



received a lot of use and parts of it were beginning to show signs of wear. There was yellow caution tape in the kitchen, advising clients not to use the microwave, and the air conditioning units stopped working on the hottest day of the summer with pregnant clients in residence. The roof leaked and the washer and dryer stopped working.

In 2007 the agency was lucky enough to receive grants and donations to renovate the shelter's most pressing needs. To date the kitchen has been completely renovated. Clients now have a new clean well organized space complete with a new range and hood, combination refrigerator freezer, island cook top and sink, and a new high temperature sanitizer. The new countertops beautifully compliment the ceramic tile floor and the fresh crème color wall paint. The laundry room now offers an additional washer and dryer along with fresh paint on the walls. Thanks must be given to Mary Trubeck, the architect who donated her time to design the lovely new kitchen that allows more than one person to cook at the same time. Along with the kitchen renovation we have upgraded our
(continued on page 2)



in Warren County designed to aid victims of domestic violence. Clients began contacting the agency seeking information, referrals, assistance in filing restraining orders, counseling, accompaniment to legal proceedings, support, and emergency shelter. Local



("Shelter Renovations" continued)

alarm and purchased new mattresses. Our shelter is now up to code and handicap accessible.

We are currently in the process of repainting and re-carpeting the shelter. We are so grateful to Kathy Frank, the interior decorator who donated her time to pick out colors that are warm and inviting to both clients and staff. Between now and the end of the year this grant will also allow us to replace both furnaces, purchase furniture, upgrade our phone service, purchase a new van to

transport clients, replace the roof, and perform miscellaneous carpentry and concrete work. For this project we are very grateful to our Facilities Manager, Robin Sielski for her patience and relentless pursuit of perfection as she deals with the many contractors who are performing the work!

The Michael P. Bergeron Foundation provided the funds to totally renovate our children's playroom. Melissa Grainger, our Children's Advocate has been busy updating the space with new colors, textures and activities to

meet the varied needs of our clients' children. Using an interesting pallet of colors she has been able to make a remarkable transformation of the space.

And finally, words cannot begin to thank Mary Trubek and Patty Swayne for their hours of volunteer work renovating the two upstairs bathrooms at the shelter. They spent days removing wallpaper, smoothing out the walls, spackling and painting. Their efforts are so very much appreciated!

Holiday Drive Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated toys, gifts and other items to the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County over the holiday season. Words cannot quite capture the gratitude that was expressed by the recipients of the many and generous holiday gifts. As one of our shelter residents said, "I was so overwhelmed by the gifts that I burst into tears when I received them." Children who otherwise would not have received presents, once again believe in Santa Claus. A mother of six children remarked, "This is the first Christmas they've ever really had." Your caring and generosity made it happen.

As one of our gift recipients said, "Life is truly beautiful and our community a better place to live because of good-hearted people like you." I couldn't agree more. On behalf of the staff and Board of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center, our clients and their children, thank you for making the holidays brighter for many families in our community.

– Tracey Johnson
Holiday Drive Coordinator



Warren

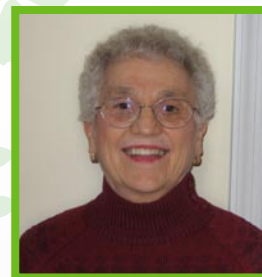
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Volunteer Spotlight

Ann Colangelo started volunteering with our agency 15 years ago. During that time she has answered the hotline, substituted for caseworkers, coordinated the volunteer hotline calendar, and attended Family Court. Ann is committed to providing every victim with compassion, professionalism, and the highest level of victim service. In 1951 Ann graduated from Scranton State Hospital where she earned her RN degree. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Health and Education from Jersey City State College. She worked in hospital and industrial settings and spent 20 years as a school nurse in Liberty Elementary and Belvidere High schools. Ann has been married to Dominick Colangelo since 1952. She has four children and seven beautiful grandchildren. Currently Ann is recuperating from knee replacement and is back working out at Gibson's Gym three times a week. We thank Ann for her dependability, enthusiasm, wisdom, and kindness to all of the victims that she serves.



2007 Accomplishments

2007 was another year of change for the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center. We changed our name and updated all of our informational materials. We now have a safety planning pamphlet to help victims develop a plan to get themselves and their children to a safe place. We have palm cards



in both English and Spanish that are discreet and contain all the necessary hotlines to call for help. We have a pamphlet that explains how to talk to a loved one who may be the victim of interpersonal violence. And we have an informational brochure on our Domestic Violence Response Team that explains how to activate the response team if you are a victim and how to become a volunteer advocate. For a supply of these pamphlets please call our business office at 908-453-4121.

In 2007 we trained our largest domestic violence class ever. With support from Warren Hospital and Atlantic States we provided training to 30 staff and volunteers. The graduates will support our hotline, shelter, and outreach programs. Many of these graduates have already started the 40-hour sexual assault training class. We hope that these graduates will continue with their training and work with us as Sexual Assault Response Team advocates. Our goal is to have a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Team in every town in Warren County. If you would like to train to be an advocate, please call Sheila Garry Avery at 908-475-8581 for a volunteer application.

Our special fundraising events exceeded all expectations this year. The Art of Chocolate raised \$17,000 and the Culinary Carousel raised \$76,000 in support of our programs and services. With this financial support we were able to provide shelter to 52 women and children. We answered 3,500 hotline calls and responded to 5,000 counseling calls. We accompanied nearly 1,000 victims to court, legal hearings, and medical appointments. We provided 336 community education programs that reached nearly 72,000 Warren County residents. As a result of our shelter program clients knew more ways to plan for their safety and knew of more resources for help. Upon leaving the program victims had this to say:

"Fabulous staff always willing to lend a listening ear, informative, respectful."

"Everyone was awesome and helped me completely in every way possible."

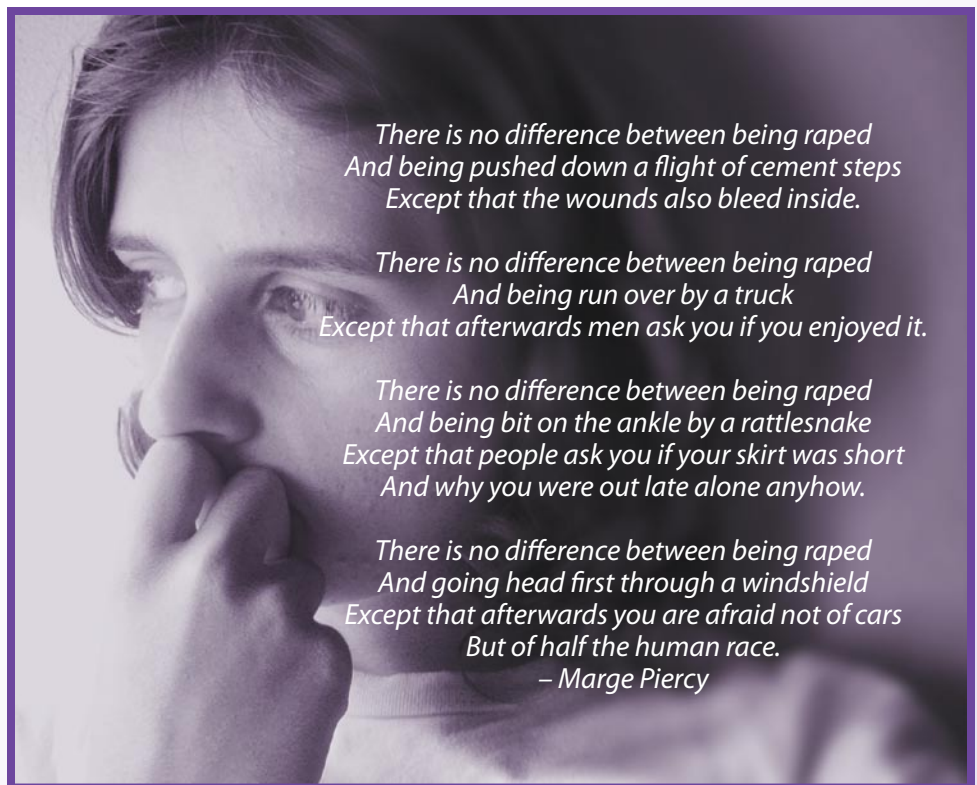
"Everything was really wonderful. The workers were very attentive with us. It seems like there is almost no necessity for improvement."

"You did more than I could ever imagine. I am so thankful for everything you did for me and my kids. In 2 months we got more love support and care and we did in 8 years from family or my ex-husband. Love you all."

"Though I was only here for a day I feel as though I can have a life of my own. I made new friends. Thank you so much."

The agency saw the retirement of several helpful and influential Board members – Georgette Molloy, Casey Raffa, Sharon Cooper, Wayne Ferguson, and Dave Ball. New Board members in 2007 include Bryon Grigsby, Debra Bowlby, and Robert Stiles.

A discussion of 2007 would not be complete with out a very special thank you to our donors. 



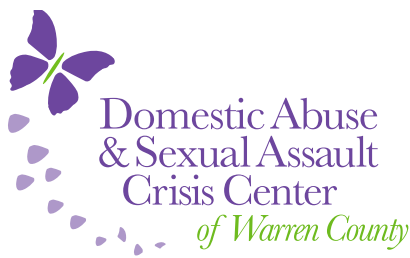
*There is no difference between being raped
And being pushed down a flight of cement steps
Except that the wounds also bleed inside.*

*There is no difference between being raped
And being run over by a truck
Except that afterwards men ask you if you enjoyed it.*

*There is no difference between being raped
And being bit on the ankle by a rattlesnake
Except that people ask you if your skirt was short
And why you were out late alone anyhow.*

*There is no difference between being raped
And going head first through a windshield
Except that afterwards you are afraid not of cars
But of half the human race.
– Marge Piercy*

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



Domestic Abuse
& Sexual Assault
Crisis Center

of Warren County

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2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

APRIL

- **April 6:** Art of Chocolate, The Skylands at Randolph, 1 - 4 pm
- **April 28:** Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event; Denim Day

OCTOBER

- **Oct 1:** Candle Light Vigil (location and time TBD)
- **Oct 20:** Culinary Carousel, Hawk Pointe Golf Club, 6 -9:30 pm

NOVEMBER

- Holiday Drive

*For information on our events please go to our website:
www.besafewc.org*



Domestic Abuse
& Sexual Assault
Crisis Center

of Warren County

Contact information and phone numbers:

Hotlines: 866-6BE-SAFE
908-453-4181
908-453-2553 (TTY)

Office: 908-453-4121

Outreach: 908-475-8581

Fax: 908-453-3706

Website: www.besafewc.org



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