

## Quick Notes

### Free Information Packets

TWC's Legal Department offers free information packets.

See page 3 for available packets!

### Check out what's been going on!

See page 3 for pictures from recent events!

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month is coming in April!

Make sure to keep visiting our website for upcoming events:

[www.thewomenscenterinc.org](http://www.thewomenscenterinc.org)

Don't forget to support TWC & purchase your Grocery Cards *online*\*

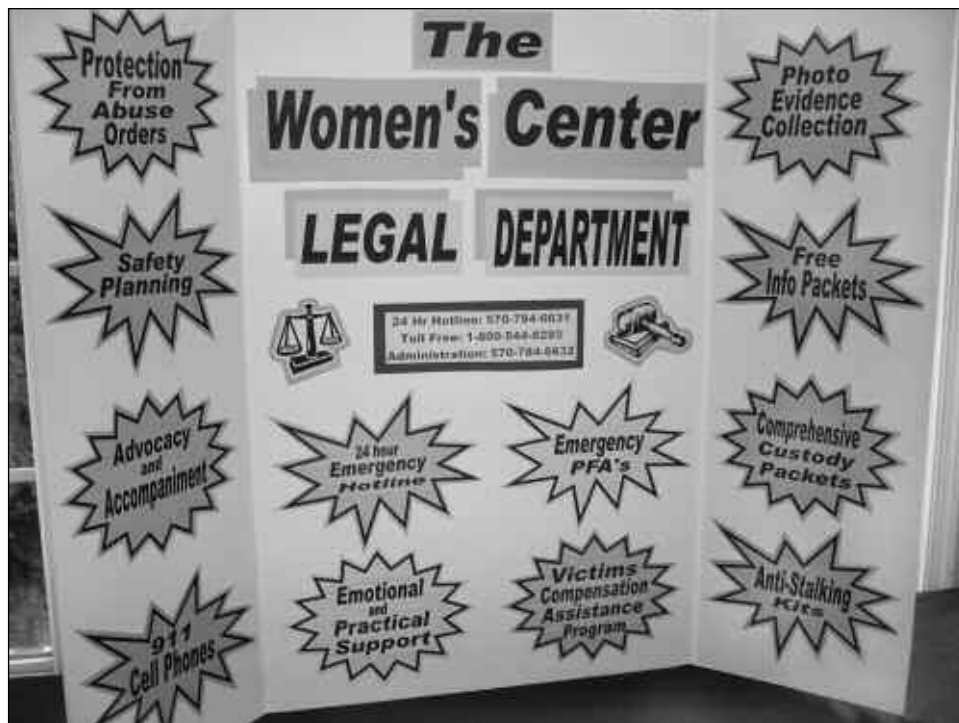
### Ride for Shelter

Coming July 2010

More information soon

[www.thewomenscenterinc.org](http://www.thewomenscenterinc.org)  
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## Technology: New Risks for Women.



Advancements in technology make many things easier for people today. Turn-by-turn directions have been made possible with the *Global Positions Systems* (GPS), and we can make a phone call or access the Internet from almost anywhere. As the popularity of this technology increases, the cost becomes more affordable for everyone.

With all the benefits communications technology provides to each of us, it's easy to overlook the fact that *domestic violence perpetrators can take that same affordable technology and adapt it to create new tools to monitor, stalk, control and harass their victims.*

GPS devices designed for travel can monitor where a vehicle is, where it has been and how long it stopped at each location. It can provide the address of where the car stopped and the names of

nearby businesses. As GPS technology advances, the devices are smaller, more durable and more affordable. GPS technology has been tailored to meet the specific needs of people such as travelers, parents, sportsmen and even abusers. Most new cell phones have GPS imbedded in them, making it easier for an abuser to *monitor, stalk, control and/or harass their victim.*

Tech savvy abusers can also use a cell phone to their advantage *if they happen to be the account holder for the cell phone service.* Certain phone companies will allow an account holder to block numbers and disable calls and text messaging during certain times. In most cases, the account holder has complete control over what services and features are added to the phone. A tech savvy abuser can use these services against the person they seek to control.

(Continued on Page 2)



## OUR MISSION

The Women's Center Inc. of Columbia / Montour provides direct services for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, prevention activities, advocacy and leadership to the community, aimed at eradicating domestic violence and sexual assault.

## BOARD OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER DIRECTORS

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*Ex. Officio*

## Technology: *New Risks for Women.*

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Technology has also made stalking more feasible for an abuser. One in four victims report that their stalker uses technology, such as computers, GPS devices or hidden cameras to track the victim's daily activities. Stalking may also take on a form such as *assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, animal abuse* or as *unwanted cards, calls, gifts or visits.*

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact as *a significant risk factor for femicide* (homicide of women) in abusive relationships. Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate and prosecute.

Unlike other crimes, *stalking is not a single easily identifiable crime but a series of acts*, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalkers fit no psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

For stalking in our area, The Women's Center's Legal Department provides anti-stalking kits and emergency 911 cell phones to victims. The anti-stalking kits include information and resources to assist with safety planning, gathering evidence and documenting incidences of stalking which can then be turned over to law enforcement.

Stalking kits costs The Women's Center approximately \$12 each, *but are provided to victims free of charge.* Community members who wish to support victims of stalking can donate items used in the kits, such as: *disposable cameras, whistles and latex or sterile gloves.*

We also greatly appreciate the donation of *old, used or broken cell*

*phones* (which will be distributed to victims for use as emergency 911 phones or recycled to help fund various advocacy and educational programs), or a *monetary donation* to offset the cost of producing anti-stalking kits. If you would like to donate any of the above items, *please bring them to The Women's Center's administrative building and please indicate that your donation is for the anti-stalking kits.*

The Legal Department also specifically assists victims with filing *Protection From Abuse Orders.* Our agency works with an experienced family law attorney to represent victims at their PFA hearing. In addition, our legal staff is available to *help victims develop personalized safety plans and provide advocacy and accompaniment to police, hospital and civil court hearings* pertaining to domestic and sexual violence.

TWC also established *The Harding Legal Fund* in 2009, to provide victims with financial assistance for legal proceedings such as divorce and custody. *If you'd like to make a donation to The Harding Legal Fund please mail your donation to our administrative building:*

### **The Women's Center, Inc.**

*The Harding Legal Fund*

111 North Market Street

Bloomsburg, PA 17815

The legal staff offers appointments at our Bloomsburg office *Monday-Fridays 9:00a.m. -5:00p.m.* and at our Danville office *Tuesdays 9:00a.m-1:00p.m. and Thursdays 9:00a.m. -5:00p.m.* Counseling at our shelter is available for both adult and child victims at no cost. Victim safety is our number one concern at TWC. For additional information please contact the Legal Coordinator at (570) 784-6632.

**FREE INFORMATION PACKETS AVAILABLE**

Contact our Legal Coordinator today to receive **FREE** information packets regarding:

- Abuse of Technology
- Cell Phone Harassment
- Child Support
- Choosing an Attorney
- Civil Justice System
- Community Resources
- Criminal Justice System
- Criminal Offenses Common to Domestic Violence Situations
- Divorce
- Firearms & Domestic Violence
- Identity Theft/Fraud
- Immigration
- Landlord/Tenant
- PA Law Protecting Utility Customers with Protection Orders
- Personal Property
- Protection From Abuse Orders
- Phone/Internet Safety
- Photographs for Evidence
- Renters Rights
- Safety Planning
- Schools & Safety Issues
- Self-Defense & Rape Prevention
- Sexual Assault
- Spousal Support
- Stalking
- VCAP (Victim's Compensation Assistance Program)
- Working: Entering the Work World & Safety at Work
- Your Credit & Domestic Violence



Volunteers prepared dinner for TWC's 2009 Participant Christmas Party. This year, volunteers donated **195.5 hours** to this annual event!



The Women's Center, Inc. Executive Director, Kathlene Russell, gave a beautiful welcome to all in attendance at this year's Participant Christmas Party.



The Women's Center sells Giant & Weis grocery gift cards to help us raise money. *Ten percent* of the face value of each card is *donated to TWC*. Buy a \$100.00 card - *you get \$100.00 - and TWC gets \$10.00!* That's \$110.00 in value for each \$100.00 invested.

[www.thewomenscenterinc.org](http://www.thewomenscenterinc.org)

To Contact The Women's Center:  
*Administration*      *Hotline*  
**570.784.6632**    **570.784.6631**  
*Toll Free*                      *Fax*  
**1.800.544.8293**    **570.784.6680**  
*24-hours / 7 days*  
**email: [womenctr1@verizon.net](mailto:womenctr1@verizon.net)**  
**[www.thewomenscenterinc.org](http://www.thewomenscenterinc.org)**

**Yes!**

**I would like to support The Women's Center.**

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes. Please *include* my name in a list of public donors.
- No. Please *do not* include my name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Donor

Please Remit To: The Women's Center  
 111 North Market Street  
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815



111 North Market Street  
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815



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## February 2010 Newsletter

**Current Resident or**

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**The Women's Center would like to extend a sincere *Thank You* to all of the generous businesses, organizations and community members who have made contributions to help us better serve victims and their children:**

Margaret Garcia • Terri Fortuna • Jan Swan • Wendy Bolinsky • Magee Foundation • Alica King Redfern  
Joan Ecker • Lisa Mael • Sandra Latour • Judy Polites • Danielle Kemper • Ann Kielbasa  
Trinity United Methodist Church • Rosa Hummel • Heather Siestopff • Jennifer & Michael Smather  
Malti Kamath • Jan Dubbs • Eileen Kovach • Bloomsburg VFW • Donna Campbell  
First English Baptist Church • Bloomsburg Hospital Gift Shop • Florence Thompson  
Philadelphia F.C.U. • Melanie & Mark Ruk • Ray Grieser • First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsburg  
Jan Swan • Pat Fox • Village Reality • Sandra Strine • Cheryl Winn • Carol Hunt  
Maramonne Houseknecht • GMC ED • Amy Ryman • Balzano's • Ann Marie Sutton • Nandini Sengupta  
Good Shepherd United Methodist Church • Mary McCarthy • Lori Harding & CICU GMC  
Phoenix Rehab • David Y. & Evangeline L. Go • Tim Pelton • Monique Harmon

**THANK YOU!**

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