

speaKout

An Advocate for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Victims Resource Center services are funded in part by grants from:

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
 Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
 United Way of Wyoming Valley
 United Way of Greater Hazleton
 United Way of Wyoming County



www.vrcnepa.org

570.823.0766 Office
 570.823.9115 Fax

LUZERNE COUNTY

71 North Franklin Street
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
 Hotline: 570.823.0765

WYOMING COUNTY

119 Warren Street
 Tunkhannock, PA 18657
 Hotline: 570.836.5544

CARBON COUNTY

1001 Mahoning Street
 Lehighton, PA 18235
 Hotline: 610.379.0151

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It is a time to call attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community. Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives.

Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before age 18. Young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 were 2.5 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault.

On campus, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college.

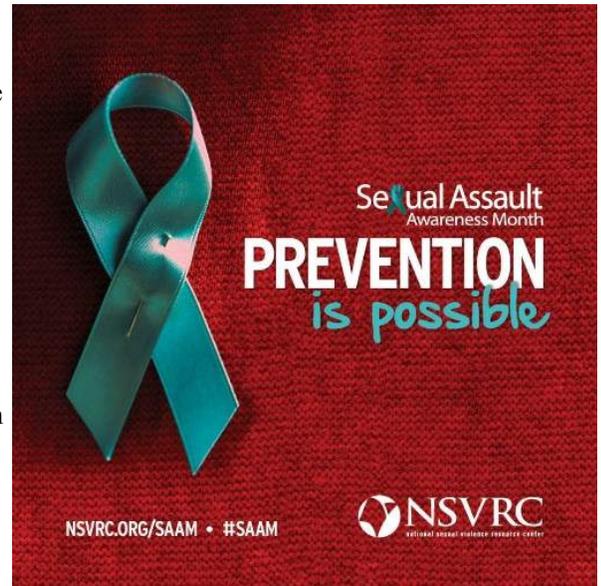
Prevention is Possible!

As individuals we can intervene to stop concerning behavior; promote and model healthy attitudes and relationships; and believe survivors and assist them in finding resources.

We must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions. Prevention is possible when everyone gets involved. The first step is increasing education, awareness, and community involvement. It's time for all of us to take action to create a safer environment for all.

Support is available for victims of sexual assault and loved ones. Victim Resource Center has someone available to speak with 24/7 no matter when the assault happens. Staff and volunteers are trained to provide information, support and resources, and may be able to accompany victims to medical facilities, police stations and legal proceedings.

Victims Resource Center also provides age appropriate awareness and prevention programs to children and adults of all ages. These programs include teaching adults to recognize warning signs of abuse and how to report suspicions; working with student groups to promote prevention; and help people of all ages learn how to speak up or intervene when they observe troubling behaviors.



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Victims Resource Center

31st Annual Geranium Sale

Proceeds benefit Victims Resource Center services for victims of crime, 24-hour hotline, and programs providing education, support and advocacy throughout Luzerne, Wyoming, and Carbon Counties.

Placing Orders:

If you are taking orders for a group, fill in the contact information on the sign-up sheets and hang in visible locations.

Complete the order form below and mail to the **Wilkes-Barre office**. You may call 570 823-0766, fax 570 823-9115, visit www.vrcnepa.org to order and pay on-line or email geraniums@vrcnepa.org to place your order.

71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701	Phone (570) 823-0766	Fax: (570) 823-9115
119 Warren Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657	Phone (570) 836-5844	Fax: (570) 836-3291
1001 Mahoning Street, Lehighton, PA 18235	Phone (610) 379-0152	Fax: (610) 379-0153

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016

Payment: *Payment must be made upon receipt (Payment by check is preferred). The cost of each geranium is \$3.75. Advance payments can be made. You can now order and pay on-line at www.vrcnepa.org. Please make check payable to Victims Resource Center-Geraniums.*

The official registration and financial information of the Victims Resource Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



ORDER FORM

Name _____ Email _____

Organization _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GERANIUMS: Total Number Red: _____ Total Number Pink: _____ Total Geraniums: _____	Office Use Only by Dozens _____ _____ _____	Total Amount Due: _____ Amount Included: _____ Balance Due: _____	Office Use Only Due _____ Included _____ Balance _____
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Pick-up and Delivery:

PICK-UP: Geraniums will be available for pick-up at the location you specify. Information about times will be sent to you closer to the date.
DELIVERY: Please **CIRCLE** preferred time (**morning or afternoon**) and location of delivery. We will make every effort to accommodate you. Any special directions or instructions should also be noted on the order form.

(please check one)

- | | | |
|---------|----------|---|
| Pick up | Delivery | _____ _____ VRC Office, 119 Warren Street, Tunkhannock – Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Pick up and Delivery is between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm |
| _____ | _____ | _____ _____ Plains Ambulance, Maffett Street, Plains – Wednesday, May 4, 2016 & Thursday, May 5, 2016
Pick up and Delivery for Wednesday is between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm
Pick up and Delivery for Thursday is between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm |
| _____ | _____ | _____ _____ VRC Office, 1001 Mahoning Street, Lehighton – Thursday, May 5, 2016
Pick up and Delivery is between 11:30 am and 4:00 pm |



INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS: _____

PCAR Calls for the Removal of the Statute of Limitations



ENOLA— The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape has called for the removal of the statute of limitations for sexual assault cases.

A report filed March 1 by the Attorney General’s office regarding the sexual abuse of hundreds of children in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown reinforces the urgency in removing these limitations and providing an opportunity for justice to be sought.

“It is exasperating and maddening to know that people who have sexually abused children—children they were trusted to protect —will go unpunished because of outdated and ineffective legislation,” PCAR CEO Delilah Rumburg said. “We have had enough. Too many children and families have had their lives, health, education, relationships and faith damaged. Pennsylvania cannot continue to keep laws on the books that allow institutions the ability to cover up crimes and leave children in the care of people known to hurt them.”

The experience of sexual assault leaves victims feeling confused, scared, embarrassed, shamed and humiliated. This is why it is normal for survivors of sexual assault to wait years and decades before telling anyone what was done to them.

“Delayed reporting is normal and should be expected,” Rumburg said. “Law enforcement officials must be given the ability to take action when victims are ready, to protect those victims and to protect our entire community.”

Child sexual abuse leaves a long-term impact. Many survivors experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and problems with drugs and alcohol. It is common for victims to struggle for decades before making the connection between childhood abuse and addictions, self-harming behaviors and depression that they may experience.

Sexual violence is a serious and common problem, with significant costs to people, families and communities. Prevention is possible, and removing the statute of limitations is one step toward creating an environment that respects the real nature the crime and its impact on victims.

It is time that we demand the removal of the statute of limitations for sexual assault.



The Shoe Project:

Real Stories of Real Victims

The Shoe Project embodies the experiences of sexual assault survivors, bringing to life the crime of sexual violence. The

stories attached to the shoes are those of mothers, sisters, partners, brothers, sons, daughters, friends and neighbors.



In Carbon County, *The Shoe Project* will be on display April 11-15 at Blue

Mountain Health System, Palmerton Campus.

In Wyoming County, *The Shoe Project* will be on display at the Tunkhannock Library throughout the month.

The Shoe Project will be on display in Luzerne County at the following libraries during April: Osterhout Free Library, 71 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre; Pittston Library, 47 Broad St., Pittston; West Pittston Library, 200 Exeter Ave., Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Rd, Dallas; M.S. Kirby Library, 35 Kirby Avenue, Mountain Top.

In addition, *The Shoe Project* will be part of a display at Barnes & Noble King’s/Wilkes Book Store, South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre. It also will be featured at King’s College, Wilkes University and Penn State University – Wilkes-Barre, on April 12 and at Luzerne County Community College on April 14.

Victims Resource Center’s Clothesline Project and the Blowing in the Wind Project, will be on display at Luzerne County Community College on April 1-4 and throughout the month on the first floor of the Kirby Health Center, 71 N. Franklin St. The Clothesline Project will be on display at Penn State University-Wilkes-Barre, during April.

The Clothesline Project is a visual display of T-Shirts with messages and illustrations that have been designed by women survivors of violence, or by friends, and/or families of survivors.

The shirts displayed here were made by survivors of violence, or by friends, and/or families of victims from Wyoming, Carbon and Luzerne Counties.

The Blowing in the Wind was conceived and also, embraced by a group for male survivors of child abuse. This project is now a heartbreaking testimonial to their victimization. Sheets and pillowcases have now become a courageous and therapeutic medium for their important messages.



April 10-16 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week

This year's theme—Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.—underscores the importance of establishing trust with victims. Trust is of particular concern in communities that feel isolated from or invisible to mainstream service providers and the criminal justice system, including boys and young men of color, victims of human trafficking, individuals who are geographically isolated or who live in economically deprived areas, older adults, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and others. By meeting victims where they are, and by listening to and understanding their specific needs, we can help restore victims' hope for healing and recovery.

The significant increase in the Fiscal Year 2015 Crime Victims Fund allocation provides a tremendous opportunity—and responsibility—to ensure that those who need support the most receive it. All victims must have the ability to access services when they need them. To provide this access, we must reach victims as early as possible to expedite those first steps toward help, empowerment, and recovery.

Northwest Students Design Safety App for Domestic Violence Victims



Northwest Area students recently participated in a contest to create a mobile app which was conducted by Penn State University's IST department. Theoretically, the app they created would allow an interpersonal violence victim to inconspicuously contact authorities for help.

Among over 139 entries, Northwest was selected as one of 20 teams that will move to the second round and present their product at Penn State University Park.

Standing left to right: Joshua Wales, Don Hopper, Zach Schwartz, Maggie Dow and Mr. Bloom

Businesses Show Support for VRC

Jeans for a Cause Benefits Victims Resource Center

First National Community Bank (FNCB), locally-based for over 100 years, recently presented representatives from the Victims Resource Center in Wilkes-Barre with a \$780.00 donation resulting from a bank wide “Jeans for a Cause” dress down day in November.

“The Victims Resource Center provides extremely valuable services to residents in our community and we are proud to support their efforts,” said FNCB Senior Vice President, Human Resources Officer Don Ryan.

The support of the Victims Resource Center is part of FNCB’s larger Community Caring initiative. As a true, local community bank, FNCB is making a difference through volunteerism, donations and outreach programs.

First National Community Bank, locally-based for over 100 years, continues as Northeastern Pennsylvania’s premier community bank — offering a full suite of personal, small business and commercial banking solutions with industry-leading mobile, online and in-branch products and services. FNCB remains dedicated to the communities they serve with an on-going mission to be: Simply a better bank™. For more information, visit www.fncb.com.

The fundraising effort encourages employees to make a small donation in exchange for the opportunity to wear jeans to work one Friday every month. FNCB provides a corporate match of all donations collected.



Left to right: Patrick Barrett, FNCB Senior Vice President, Regional Commercial Lending Manager; Tara Montini, FNCB BSA Investigator; Victims Resource Center Executive Director Janet MacKay, MSW, LSW; and Tiffany Bienkowski, FNCB Credit Administration Support Coordinator.

When everyone is involved
PREVENTION IS POSSIBLE



nsrvc.org/naam
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Sexual Assault
Awareness Month



Victims Resource Center received \$5,000 from the Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation in support of Prevention Education Programs. This donation was recommended by Mindy Cronk, Sales Manager of W.W. Grainger, Inc.’s Wilkes-Barre location. Pictured are: Mindy Cronk- Sales Manager, Grainger, left, and Janet MacKay, Executive Director, Victims Resource Center.

Community Groups Show Support for VRC



The Greater Federation of Women's Clubs West Side donated art supplies to the Victims Resource Center. The supplies will be used by children receiving support services from the VRC.

Seated from left, Deidre Miller-Kaminski, president, GFWC-WS; Linda McGeehan, Home Life chairman; Irene Mackiewicz, club member; Janet MacKay, executive director, VRC
Standing, Ginny Zdanowicz, Home Life co-chairman; Marge Gushka, club member; Laurie Coleman, Christina Maher, Melinda Remley, VRC staff

**Preventing
Child Abuse:
It's
Everyone's
Responsibility**



JLW Mountain Laurel Lions Club donated \$2,700 from the proceeds of their Bingo fundraiser to VRC. From left are: Darlene Walkowiak, president, JLW Mountain Laurel Lions Club; Patrick Rushton, Victims Resource Center; Kerriann Iskra, co-chair, JLW Fund Raising Committee; Amy Shanahan Pavia, co-chair, JLW Fund Raising Committee.



Show your support! Display a Teal Ribbon Car Magnet during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Magnets, as pictured here, can be purchased for \$5.00 each at any VRC office.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

Williams- Brian Hollister and Jimmy Sheridan* Carbon County Commissioners* Candice Alaimo* Reverend Cheryl Cavalari* CDO* Coach, Kopko, Shorts, & Reid L.L.P.*Hazel Dorsey* Eastern Insurance Group* Emmanuel United Church of Christ* Fraternal Order of Police- Wyoming Valley Lodge #36* General Federation of Women's Club - West Side* Roslund Elementary School staff* Candice L Hoffman* J L W Mountain Lions Club* Deidre L. Kling* Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Women* Nicholson United Methodist Women* P & G Mehoopany Employees Federal CU* Edward Pane* Panther Valley Elementary School* Our Lady of Fatima Parish- St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception* Jada Swinski* Tunkhannock Chapter #74 OES* Verizon Telecom Pioneers #7- Wilkes-Barre Club* Carl T. Vojtek* Marcia Wazeter* Ruth B. Aqua* Brenda Bartlett* Charles G. Blewitt* Christ United Church of Christ* Kathleen Churnetski* Citterio USA Corp* Jessica R. Cowell* Eugene and Marilyn Crossin* Duryea Lions Club* Donna H Fontanella* John C. Gaudio, M.D.* Lilly Gioia* Harold's Pharmacy* Keith Herstek* Christine and Dale Hughes* Kathryn Jenkins* Aaron Kaufer* Kim and Donna Dyszlewski* Debra Lozano* Janet MacKay* Robert McGonigle* Metz Family Foundation* Mile Hill Auto Parts, Inc.* Jeanne Miller* Florence Anne Mokris* Paul and Rosemary Mullock* Navient Solutions, Inc.* Lisa Ninotti* Prudential Financial, Inc.* Margarita Rose* Christine Rothery* Karen Shaw* Susan Spry* Laurie Tevlin-Klemow* Tunkhannock Rotary Club* UGI Utilities, Inc.* John and Linda Vozniak* Wright Twp. Police Officers Association* Gretchen S. Yenas* Maureen and Gerald Zaboski* Sandra Feldman* James and Maria Glenn



Gift Card

YES! I/We want to help support services to survivors of crimes in Luzerne, Carbon and Wyoming counties.

Amount of my gift

_____ \$1,000 _____ \$500
_____ \$250 _____ \$100
_____ \$50 _____ Other _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____



To make a credit card donation on-line visit:

www.vrcnepa.org

Or mail to: Victims Resource Center
71 North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

_____ Please contact me about a VRC speaker for my community group, workplace, place of worship, school, etc.



VRC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The official organization and financial information for VRC may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling (800) 732-0999 within Pennsylvania. Registration does not imply endorsement.

