Dom<mark>estic</mark> Violence Center of Chester County

Annual Community Report



Our Vision:

The vision of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County is to eliminate domestic violence in Chester County.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County is to provide intervention, education, outreach, advocacy and programs to prevent, reduce and remedy domestic violence in Chester County.

Our Philosophy:

We believe that all women and children are entitled to a safe environment free from violence. We recognize that every woman is at risk, and we are committed to working collectively and cooperatively to end violence against women and their children in our community.

We believe that each woman has the ability and right to control her own life. We are committed to empowerment-based support services which affirm a woman's competence to make decisions.

We believe we must take an active role in increasing public awareness that domestic violence is a crime and in advocating systems change, in order to reduce tolerance for domestic violence in our community.

Our History:

Founded in 1976, DVCCC is the oldest agency in Chester County providing services exclusively for victims of domestic violence and their children and is the sole agency under contract from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to do so. DVCCC began as the YWCA Women's Resource Center (WRC), to serve as an information and referral service for Chester County women. Once this service became known, it started receiving a flood of calls from women in situations of violence. The directors of WRC, finding no organization in the area to which the victims could be referred, reorganized the agency as the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, focusing on domestic violence intervention and prevention.

Our Servíces:

DVCCC provides services to victims of domestic abuse and their dependent children throughout Chester County.
We offer services at our main site and at our four satellite sites in Kennett Square, Oxford, Coatesville and
Phoenixville. Our main building, located at a confidential address to assure client safety and privacy, is accessible
24 hours a day to serve victims and residents. Our satellite sites do not offer shelter facilities and their addresses are published. All services are free and confidential. Services include:

24 Hour Hotline ~ Emergency Shelter ~ Transitional Housing ~ Adult Counseling Children's Services ~ Relocation Assistance ~ Legal Counseling & Representation Community Education & Training ~ Volunteer/Intern Program

Non-discrimination Statement:

We are committed to an equal program service and equal employment opportunities. The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County's program services and employment will be designed to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, gender, color, creed, age, national origin, sexual identity, sexual orientation, disability, economic, social or marital status or political or religious beliefs.

Freedom Through Empowerment



<u>A Message from Our</u> CEO and Board President



Dear Friends and Partners:

Breaking the Cycle

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but it has a significant impact on the entire community. Victims can be of any age, gender, race, socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Victims have many faces—they are our friends, colleagues, family members, strangers we come into contact with every day. Shockingly, one in three teenagers experience violence in a personal relationship. One of our strategies to break the cycle of violence is to partner with schools and educate our youth about healthy relationships.

In 2014, we provided 63 dating violence programs to high school and college students in Chester County. The feedback from the students who received the education has demonstrated that they are listening. *"My class-mates and I learned a lot because of your presentation." "We learned so much about what to do if we feel unsafe." "The 1 in 3 statistic was shocking but with education and resources like the DVCCC, we can surely bring that statistic down!"*

We teach students that many victims of dating violence do not recognize that their relationship has the potential for deadly consequences and, without knowing the signs, many dismiss the potential danger. Missed warning signs include a partner:

- Telling you what to do because "I love you."
- Demonstrating possessiveness, needing to know where you are, who you are with.
- Verbally insulting you, showing explosive behavior, physically hurting you.

The rise in the number of domestic violence incidences is alarming and tells us that our work is critical. Our efforts to improve the community response to identify, address and prevent domestic violence are making a difference. We applaud many of our Chester County schools and colleges for being proactive in welcoming the domestic violence education.

On behalf of the courageous survivors of domestic violence we are grateful for your continued commitment and your support to help break the cycle and build a violence-free community for all of us.

Sincerely,

LAlly Wideman-Scitt

Judeth V. Bran

Dolly Wideman-Scott, MS, CEO

Judith V. Braun , RN, Ph.D., President, Board of Directors

Our Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2013-2014, DVCCC provided direct services to more than 3,100 individuals. In total, provided direct services to 2,915 new and continuing adults victims of domestic violence along with 270 of their dependent children. Direct services include our 24 hour hotline, adult counseling, children's services, emergency shelter, transitional housing, legal representation and advocacy. More specifically:

- 85 participants and 51 of their dependent children were provided with Emergency Shelter.
- 27 families were provided with transitional housing through our three programs.
- 845 participants were provided with legal options counseling.
- 260 participants received representation in protection from abuse orders.
- DVCCC Counselor/Advocates provided 11,632 hours of individual and group adult counseling.
- 3,261 hotline calls were answered.
- 270 new and continuing children were provided with 2,791 hours of counseling services, homework help and recreational activities.
- 123 community education programs were provided to groups reaching 13,350 persons.
- 52 new volunteers participated in a state required 45 hour training to provide domestic violence services. In total, volunteers provided over 5,000 hours of children, legal, housing and counseling services.

Survívors Speak



"I am a survivor of domestic violence. When I came to DVCCC I thought I had finally hit rock bottom, being a single mother of two children and eight months pregnant with my third child. I left my home with nothing more than I could carry. I did not realize at that time, that this was not the end, but only the beginning. DVCCC welcomed me and my children with open arms. They provided a safe place for us. Without the worry of being abused, I was able to focus on having a healthy baby. I have since gone back to school, graduated with a 3.9% GPA, and passed the state exam. I am now a Certified Nursing Assistant. My children were able to complete school without being transferred

in the middle of the school year. They are now getting the education the need to be successful in life. The program has allowed me to put my life and decisions into perspective. I now realize how the choices I make affect not only my life, but the life of my children, family and friends. The Emergency and Bridge experience has been not only a learning experience, but a humbling one as well. I am thankful for everyone who has made this possible. DVCCC has given me a second chance not only to have life, but to actually live." Survivor from West Chester, PA.

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In 2013 DVCCC CEO Dolly Wideman-Scott was named by the March of Dimes as one of three Chester County Women of Achievement for her work in public service. (Pictured in middle at right.)

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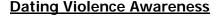
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Community Education

Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

Over this past year we have strengthened our relationship with Chester County law enforcement. In 2012 DVCCC worked with the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) to launch the Maryland model "Lethality Assessment Program for First Responders." The purpose of this program is to improve the way local law enforcement personnel communicate with victims on a domestic violence call, focusing on the fact that more understanding and proactive steps are needed for victims who are facing danger every day. This initiative decreases lethality risk in certain highly dangerous domestic violence cases by immediately connecting victims at high risk of homicide with the life-saving services of DVCCC. To date, DVCCC has trained 25 police departments in Chester County with the LAP program and is in the process of offering training to the remaining departments. As a result, we are noticing an increase in calls to our hotline.



"Preliminary Results in Landmark National Survey on Teen Dating Violence Finds Disturbingly High Rates of Victimization and Perpetration by Both Girls and Boys. Rates of victimization and perpetration of teen dating violence not influenced by socio-economic status or geographic location." (National Survey on Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence, NORC at University of Chicago.)

Key findings report:

- ⇒ Approximately two-thirds of both teenage boys and girls report being both victim and perpetrator of adolescent relationship abuse (ARA).
- ⇒ Nearly 20% of both boys and girls are reporting themselves as victims of physical abuse and sexual abuse in dating relationships,.
- ⇒ More than 60 percent of dating teens report being both victims and perpetrators of psychological abuse.

These statistics drive our commitment to provide dating violence awareness education to the youth of Chester County with the hopes of ending domestic violence in the next generation.





Community Support & Involvement

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

At DVCCC we are deeply grateful that the community of Chester County continues to embrace our mission through fundraising, awareness events and volunteering. A few examples are highlighted on this page.



"Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" organized by Christina Whinnery was a fundraiser that brought men together to show their support for ending domestic violence.



The **Freedom Fashion Show Fundraiser** presented by Joanne and John Caulfield of Mas Mexicali Cantina was held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



For the past several years, employees of **ING (now VOYA)** have been coming in for a day to remodel or brighten up the rooms in our Emergency Shelter and Bridge Transitional Housing.



The Big Wheel Bike Tour/Fundraiser was held in downtown West Chester. Pictured above, DVCCC Volunteer Amelia Rayburn.

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Every attempt has been made to assure accuracy of donor recognition. Should there be comments or refinements, please call (610) 431-3546.

<u>Agency Events</u>



The 2nd Annual Evening of Remembrance and Recognition was held on October 1, 2013 at the United Methodist Church in West Chester, PA. The evening events were held as a time to remember victims lost to domestic abuse, as well as recognize those in our community for their efforts to help end the senseless violence. The 2013 Empowerment Awards were given to East Fallowfield Township Detective Samantha Harper, HIAS Executive Director Judith Bernstein-Baker, DVCCC Volunteer Linda Slavin and Kim and Steve Fuimano for supporting our mission. *(Pictured at left with Senator Andy Dinniman and District Attorney Thomas P. Hogan.)*



In October, 2013, DVCCC held its second annual **"Pars Fore Purple"** golf outing on a beautiful sunny day at Kennett Square Country and Country Club. While on the course, golfers enjoyed cold beverages and snacks, as well as some on-course games and friendly competition. At the end of the day, golfers gathered for dinner and recognition for their efforts. Proceeds benefited victims of domestic violence and their dependent children.







<u>Pictured above:</u> DVCCC Board Member Karen Elrod and her guests celebrate a successful event.

The "*Night at the Derby*" fundraiser held April 26th, 2014 at the beautiful Mendenhall Inn, proved to be an outstanding success, in fact our most successful fundraising event ever! Guests enthusiastically embraced the Derby theme, with bowties and hats galore! They enjoyed a gourmet dinner as they cheered on their favorite horse in videotaped races throughout the evening. Tracy Davidson, Emmy-award winning broadcast journalist and anchor for NBC10, was the guest speaker for the evening.

> Save the date for the 2015 DVCCC Gala: "A Hollywood Evening With the Stars" Friday, May 1, 2015 at the Mendenhall Inn

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER OF CHESTER COUNTY

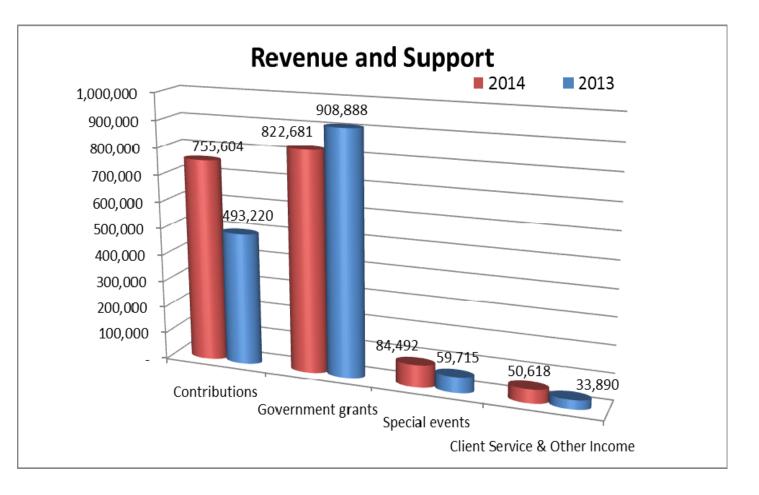
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

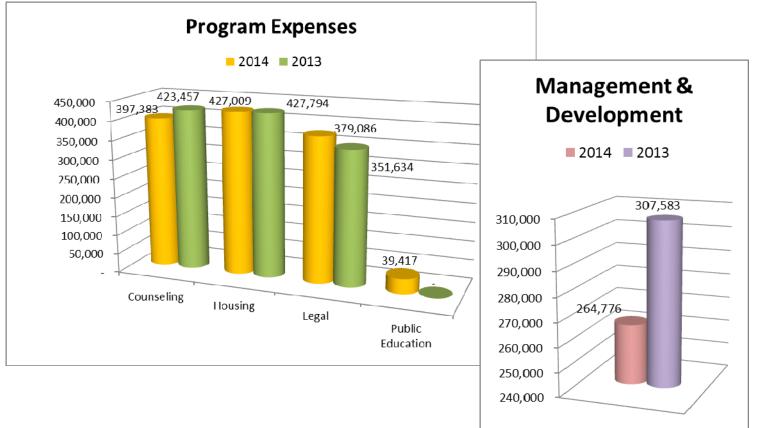
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2014 AND 2013

	Totals					
		2014	%		2013	%
REVENUE AND SUPPORT						
Contributions	\$	755,604	44%	\$	493,220	33%
Government grants		822,681	48%		908,888	61%
Special events		84,492	5%		59,715	4%
Client service income		26,132	2%		12,591	1%
Investment income		4,264	-		4,152	-
Rental income		14,034	1%		13,566	1%
Change in beneficial interest in assets						
held by community foundation		6,188	-		3,581	-
Net assets released from						
restrictions		-			-	
Total revenue and support		1,713,395	100%		1,495,713	100%
EXPENSES						
Program services						
Adult counseling		325,752	22%		334,524	22%
Early care/childrens' services		71,631	5%		88,933	6%
Independent living		115,885	8%		84,779	6%
Emergency and bridge housing		248,130	16%		266,001	18%
Phase IV housing		62,994	4%		77,014	5%
Legal services		379,086	25%		351,634	23%
Public Education		39,417	3%		-	-
Support services						
Management and general		165,706	11%		201,395	13%
Development		99,070	<u> </u>		106,188	7%
Total expenses		1,507,671	100%		1,510,468	100%
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		205,724			(14,755)	
NET ASSETS						
Beginning of year		2,330,243			2,344,998	_
End of year	\$	2,535,967		\$	2,330,243	_

"The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County is a tax-exempt 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization supported by those who believe in our mission"

Audited financial statements are available upon request.





Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

<u>24 Hour Hotline Numbers</u> 888-711-6270 (Toll Free) 610-431-1430 (Local) 610-431-7262 (TTY)

Administrative Offices

PO Box 832 West Chester, PA 19381-0832 Administration: 610-431-3546

www.dvccc.com

Follow us on Social Media



Email us domesticviolencecenter @dvccc.com



Satellite Offices

Coatesville 1001 E. Lincoln Highway Coatesville, PA 19320 610-384-2774

Kennett Square La Comunidad Hispana 731 W Cypress Street Kennett Square, PA 19348 610-444-7550 Ext 233/243

> <u>Oxford</u> 35 N. 3rd Street Oxford, PA 19363 610-932-8557 Ext 211







Official registration and financial information of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999 Registration does not imply endorsement.