Domestic Violence Center
of Chester County

Celebrating 40 Years of Empowerment

Annual Community Report
2015-2016
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 only organization 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 Human Services 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 domestic violence. The directors of WRC, finding no organization in the area to which the victims could be referred, reorganized the organization as the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, focusing on domestic violence intervention and prevention.

Our Services:
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 outreach centers 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 outreach centers do not offer shelter facilities and their addresses are published. All services are free and confidential. Services include:

- 24 Hour Hotline
- Emergency/Safe House Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Adult Counseling
- Children’s Services
- Relocation Assistance
- Legal Counseling & Representation
- Social Change Advocacy
- 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 are 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.
Dear Friends and Partners:

Beginning in 1976 by a handful of dedicated, hard-working and committed volunteers who responded to the pleas of victims of domestic abuse, the Domestic Violence Center was founded. This year we celebrated forty years of victim survivor empowerment and impact through services, advocacy and community education. Through your generosity and with the work of our devoted champions Board, Staff and Volunteers, our accomplishments include impacting over 40,000 survivors and:

♦ 1980 we became a member of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a statewide network of sixty domestic violence organizations
♦ 1983 we opened our first emergency safe housing for survivors and their children
♦ 1987 our service expanded to include shared long-term housing
♦ 1997 we hired our first staff attorney and advocate for children
♦ 1998 we increased our housing options to include independent housing and services
♦ 2000 outreach offices were opened in the City of Coatesville and Kennett Square Borough
♦ 2005 we constructed thirteen three-bedroom townhomes for survivors and their children
♦ 2007 we received the GlaxoSmithKline Impact Award
♦ 2008 our CEO, Dolly Wideman-Scott received the Senator Robert J Thompson Public Service award and we opened an outreach office in Oxford
♦ 2010 and renewed through 2017, we received the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organization (PANO) certification seal of excellence
♦ 2012 we began the Lethality Assessment Program ( LAP), a partnership with our District Attorney’s office and local police departments to connect victims who are in greatest danger directly to one of our advocates
♦ 2015 we held a “Call to Action” in partnership with the United Way of Chester County and also received the J. Dewees Mosteller Community Service Award from the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce
♦ 2016 we received a $750,000 Community Development Block Grant and a $50,000 foundation grant to increase our independent housing from thirteen to seventeen units
♦ Your generous investments and partnerships have helped with promoting survivor safety, social change and domestic violence prevention. On behalf of courageous victims, we thank you.

Dolly Wideman-Scott, MS, CEO

James P. Shinehouse, President, Board of Directors

Freedom Through Empowerment
Survivors Speak

Every day at DVCCC our counselor/advocates listen to tragic stories from victims who have experienced abuse from the person who was supposed to love and protect them. Every individual who contacts us and wants our help receives a safety plan, counseling and, if necessary, legal help to rebuild their lives. The following quotes are from letters sent to counselors from clients they had helped. Their names have been changed to protect their identities.

From Anna:
I owe you my life, literally, and my children’s lives. Prior to coming into your office, I had pretty much given up hope on my situation at home with my abuser. It felt like there was no way out, and I remember many days just wishing I would not wake up... I was at rock bottom physically, emotionally, and financially living under a controlled situation where I felt fear in my own "home" every single day. I remember so many times telling you it was too hard, I was scared to leave, and many times saying I felt it was easier to just stay than to take my chances on surviving if I walked out. My self-esteem was completely depleted, and I don't think I felt I was strong enough to do much of anything. He had a way of convincing me I could never survive without him. I feel that you fought for me when I was impossible, and refused to fight for myself.

I don't know if you will ever realize how many lives you save!!! You saved mine, I would never be where I am today without you, and I am eternally grateful. When I think of you, especially when I feel defeated or afraid of how hard it is to stand back up, I think of you as my angel who gave me my life back. You had hope, where I had none, you were strong when I was at my weakest, and your dedication to making sure I turned out okay is beyond words. I'm sure your job is extremely discouraging at times, and overwhelming. It takes a special person to deal with women like me, who are fighting against you to help themselves, as I was when I came to you. My family will never forget what you have done for us, and I am so glad you never took no for an answer.

From Patricia:
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 they 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.
Our Staff

Leadership Team
Dolly Wideman-Scott, MS, CEO  
Sandra Lewis, MHS, FDC, Director of Counseling Services  
Angela Halse, Esq., Director of Legal Services  
Terry Moody, Director of Development and Communication  
Karen Stahl, CPA, CTFA, Chief Financial Analyst

Counseling Team
Katherine Bennett, 2nd Shift Counselor/Advocate  
Donia Bradley, Relief Counselor/Advocate  
LaShea Briggs, 2nd Shift Counselor/Advocate  
Kathleen Carter, Relief Counselor/Advocate  
Kimberly Dent, Phase III Counselor/Advocate  
Jeanne Fisk, Transitional Housing Family Counselor  
Brielle Hanafin, Oxford Crisis Counselor/Advocate  
Michelle Harris-Alexander, Relief Counselor/Advocate  
Michele Nolan, Phoenixville Crisis Counselor/Advocate  
Amelia Rayburn, Children’s Counselor/Advocate  
Graziella Sanga, Oxford Crisis Counselor/Advocate  
Angela Shelton, 3rd Shift Counselor/Advocate  
Jenny Steinen, Relief Counselor/Advocate  
Amanda Winkey, Coatesville Counselor/Advocate

Legal Team
Cindy Carpenter, Legal Advocate/Counselor  
Zeneida Cartagena, Legal Advocate/Counselor  
Fredda Maddox, Esq., Civil Legal Attorney  
Yasbeth Solano-Pailles, Legal Advocate  
Clara Vazquez-Lopez, Legal Advocate

Development
Garbo Goodkin, MS, Associate Director of Donor Engagement

Finance
Kendrick DeFriest, Administrative Assistant  
Vicki Szostkiewicz, Financial Analyst

Pictured at right: DVCCC was represented by several staff, Board members and volunteers at Domestic Violence Advocacy Day in Harrisburg.  
Photo provided courtesy of Altoonian Photography

The Board of Directors for 2015-2016

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Freedom Through Empowerment
Our Accomplishments

The direct services provided by DVCCC include our 24 hour crisis hotline, emergency safe house/shelter, adult and children’s trauma-informed counseling, children’s services, housing programs, legal representation and advocacy and community outreach. Services are provided at our main confidential location, and at outreach offices in Coatesville, Kennett Square, Oxford and Phoenixville.

2015-2016 Estimates and Outcomes

Every year we plan for the upcoming fiscal year in part by creating estimates for services to be provided and victims to be served.

- We estimated we would serve 1,700 adult victims, 150 children, and 50 significant others. At the end of the year, we served 3,301 adult victims, 300 children, and 112 significant others.
- We estimated we would provide 1,368 days of shelter to adults and 2,732 days of shelter to children. At the end of the year, we provided 1,658 days of shelter to adults and 2,667 days of shelter to children.
- We estimated we would provide 10,000 hours of counseling and advocacy to adult victims and 600 hours to children. At the end of the year, we provided 10,433 hours of counseling and advocacy to adults and 1,212 to children.

In addition:
- 92 participants and 61 of their dependent children were provided with Emergency Shelter.
- 38 families were provided with transitional housing through our three programs. In total, 4,325 nights of shelter were provided to victims of domestic violence and their dependent children.
- 836 participants were provided with legal options counseling.
- 256 participants received representation in protection from abuse orders.
- 3,261 hotline calls were answered.
- Volunteers provided over 3,400 hours of service.
- 132 community education programs were provided to groups reaching approximately 12,700 persons. This included 63 presentations to schools and youth groups about dating violence awareness.

A major accomplishment was the grant received from the Chester County Dept. of Community Development (DCD) to help fund our 4 new single bedroom apartments. Pictured from left to right: DCD Director Pat Bokovitz; Commissioner Terence Farrell, Commissioner Kathi Cozzone; DVCCC Board President Jim Shinehouse, DVCCC Dr. of Communications Terry Moody; DVCCC CEO Dolly Wideman-Scott; DVCCC Board Member Eric Roe, DVCCC CFO Karen Stahl; Commissioner Michelle Kichline; DVCCC Board Members Lisa Trucksess and Matthew Holliday.

Freedom Through Empowerment
The LAP is collaboration between the District Attorney’s office, law enforcement and the Domestic Violence Center (DVCCC). A police officer responding to the scene of a domestic violence incident uses a brief eleven question risk assessment called the Lethality Screen to identify victims at high risk of homicide. Victims of intimate partner violence that screen in as “high risk” based on the Lethality Screen are put in immediate telephone contact with DVCCC who provides the victim with advocacy and safety planning.

Thirty-six of forty-two Chester County municipal police departments are trained in implementing the evidenced based LAP. Quarterly each police department Chief and our District Attorney receives a LAP progress report developed by DVCCC. The 2014-2016 LAP outcomes are shown below.

The slight decline in the number of screenings in 2016 is an indication of the success of the program. “For the 15 cases East Brandywine reported since October of 2013, we have not had one return domestic call to any of the residences. For one of the cases we had responded 10+ times for domestics before the DVCCC counselors got involved through LAP.”  
Chief Mark Kosci  
East Brandywine Township  
DVCCC Advisory Board

DVCCC delivered certificates of appreciation and purple bracelets to all of the LAP participating police departments during October Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Pictured at left are officers from the West-town/East Goshen Department.
Agency Events and Community Support

The Chester County Rally to End Domestic Violence was hosted by Downingtown Mayor Josh Maxwell (pictured at right) at Kerr Park on October 18, 2015. Local and state elected officials, representatives of law enforcement, DVCCC staff and supporters all came together to say “No More!” to domestic violence in our community.

Left: Gage Strength Training held a special event during Domestic Violence Awareness month to raise funds for DVCCC. This was one of many events held in October to support our mission.

Above: Mayor Matthew Fetick presented a proclamation to Legal Advocate Clara Vazquez-Lopez after declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Kennett Square.

Above: Sgt. Rodger Ollis helped DVCCC Counselor/Advocate Amanda Winkey put up awareness ribbons in Coatesville. Ribbons were also displayed in Downingtown, West Chester, Oxford, Kennett Square, and Phoenixville.
The Chester County Half Marathon was held for the second year to honor the memory of Jacinda Miller and bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence. In 2016 a portion of the proceeds were donated to DVCCC. Pictured at left: A billboard with Jacinda’s photo advertised the need for volunteers for the event.
Thank You to our generous donors and supporters!

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Abbott, Frances and Francis
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McCormack, Rosemary and Brenden
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McDowell, Etha and
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Miller, William and Elizabeth
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Neary, John P.
and Elaine Coia
Neeb, Michael and Patricia
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Olstead, Jane
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Osborne, Peggy
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Perrone, Nora
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Rappaport, Brad and Martha
Rayburn, Amelia
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Reeder, Sara
Reinfeld, David
Reinhart, Leonard
and Deborah
Reinhart, Russell
Individuals ~ Cont.

Rengert, George and Arlene
Renzulli, Patricia
Resides, Frank and L. Jane
Rice, Kathleen
Richman, David
Riehl, Ester
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Roe, Eric and Alice
Roe, Mary
Rohrer, David
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Rothman, Fred and Meryle
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Sanders, Julia
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Chester County Women's Commission
Chester County Youth Orchestra
Crime Victims' Center of Chester County
GFWC The New Century Club
Hershey Mill Bridge Club
Honey Brook Womens Club
Jenginuity LLC
Junior New Century Club Of West Chester Inc.
Kennett Run Charities
Moms Club Of Pickering Valley
NGA Concordville
NGA Kennett
Oxford Area High School
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Southern Chester County
Women's Golf Association At Loch Naim
The Mushroom Festival Inc
The Needlers
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United Way Of Greater Attleboro/Taunton
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West Chester Area Education Association
Weston Women's Network
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Women In Motion Dining Club

Communities of Faith

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Baptist Church of West Chester
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Faith Circle of First Presbyterian Church
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Grove United Methodist Church
Hopewell United Methodist Church
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Presbyterian Women Of First Presbyterian Church Of West Chester
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Communities of Faith ~ Cont.
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St. Francis-in-the Fields Episcopal Church
St. Paul's Baptist Church
United Methodist Women Of West Chester
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Westminster Presbyterian Women

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Chester County Department of Community Development
Chester County Health Department
County Of Chester
PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
PA Department of Human Services
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
US Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women
PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence

In Kind
A Taste Of Olive
Acers, Sharon
Adams, Judy
Air Ventures Hot Air Balloon Flights
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Anderson, Gina
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Applebrook Golf Club
Baptist Church of West
Chester Women’s Group
Barr, Cheryl
Becco Restaurant
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Berry, Bob
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Home Depot
Home Depot/Frazer
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Janssen Biotech
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<td>St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Women’s Club</td>
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<td>Standen, William</td>
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<td>Students Assisting Affected Women at West Chester East High School</td>
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<td>Sunset Hill Jewelers</td>
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<td>The Eagle Tavern</td>
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<td>The Johnson Family</td>
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<td>The Meat House</td>
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<td>The Sherwin-Williams Company</td>
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<td>Twenty9</td>
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<td>Unruh, Turner, Burke, and Frees</td>
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<td>Vernon,ianne</td>
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<td>Word of Life Fellowship</td>
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<td>Yanis, Monica</td>
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<td>Young, Carl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zing</td>
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<td>Zito, Ed and Carrie</td>
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### In Honor and

#### In Memory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Anne Englund</td>
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<tr>
<td>VanSpirell, Meghan</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of Carol Phiel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fischetti, Lisa Vila</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of Karen Stahl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obara, Noelle and John</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of Mayor Josh Maxwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas, Angela</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of Lisa Truckess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egan, William and Maureen</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of Brian Petty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty, Alan and Deborah</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of Linda Mahan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palmer, Alan</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of MaryAnn Fullerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okraszewski, Anita</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of Shari Enger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martel, Louis and Alisa</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of Theresa Paradiso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacobs, Arthur and Storm, Sandra Langr, Nancy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DVCCC Legal Advocate/Counselor Cindy Carpenter was honored by the Chester County Women’s Commission (CCWC) at their 2016 Empowerment Award Ceremony. Cindy was recognized for her many years of enhancing opportunities for women. Above: Cindy was presented with the award by Commissioner Terence Farrell and CCWC President Denise Baker.

Every attempt has been made to assure accuracy of donor recognition. Should there be comments or refinements, please call (610) 431-3546.
Domestic Violence Center of Chester County  
**Statements of Activities**  
**Years Ended June 30, 2016 and 2015**

DVCCC received an unmodified opinion from our independent auditors, BBD, LLP.

### Revenue and Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$648,381</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>$646,734</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>970,396</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>870,466</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>49,927</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>50,691</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Client service income</td>
<td>20,968</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>12,571</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>4,929</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,604</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>13,334</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13,935</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in beneficial interest in assets</td>
<td>(2012)</td>
<td>(1035)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Held by community foundation</td>
<td>5,652</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>1,711,575</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,603,223</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

**Program services**

- Adult counseling: 326,690 (19%), 318,875 (20%)
- Children’s services: 92,442 (6%), 81,136 (5%)
- Independent living—scattered sites: 109,965 (7%), 105,307 (7%)
- Emergency and bridge housing: 293,166 (17%), 274,479 (18%)
- Phase IV housing: 62,129 (4%), 58,587 (4%)
- Legal services: 413,675 (25%), 389,091 (25%)
- Public Educaton: 40,248 (2%), 33,278 (2%)

**Support services**

- Management and general: 205,191 (12%), 192,199 (12%)
- Development: 132,052 (8%), 115,972 (7%)

**Total expenses**

- 1,676,558 (100%), 1,568,924 (100%)

**Changes in net assets before other changes**

- 35,017
- Other Changes—Debt forgiveness: 260,000

**Net Assets**

- **Beginning of year**: 2,570,266
- **End of year**: 2,865,283

- **Beginning of year**: 2,535,967
- **End of year**: 2,570,266

“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.
At a glance, our revenue and support does not tell the story. FY 2016 was an extremely challenging year due to the six month state budget impasse that weakened our ability to provide the best services for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. During these six months of no public income (roughly 57% of our budget) DVCCC was fortunate to have cash reserves, foundation, United Way and individual support to pay operation and personal costs without any forced employee furloughs or layoffs. Our community support was extraordinary – we received donations of necessities for our clients and office needs —including baby food, office supplies, paper products, bed linens, pillows and toiletries. We were very careful with our spending during this six month period; we did not hire new employees and operated with the basics. For DVCCC the budget finally passed prior to the organization incurring debt and decreasing lifesaving services for survivors.
Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

24 Hour Hotline Numbers
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
socialmedia@dvccc.com

Outreach 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

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

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United Way of Chester County