



a Woman's Place

ON THE ROAD TO FLOURISHING

Your Spring Newsletter

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SPRING 2016

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How Your Gift is Making Sandy's Dreams Come True

Supporters enable A Woman's Place client to take back her life

Sandy: I'd love to go back to school and become a nurse. That's my dream.

AWP: Do you believe your dream will come true now?

Sandy: I do. I believe it will. I know it will come true.

The journey that Sandy has taken, and the confidence and belief in herself that she now possesses, that's thanks to you.

Sandy: When I first met my husband, he was perfect. He said all the right things. Everybody liked him. He was funny. I fell in love.

But it wasn't long before I began to see the red flags. He would become jealous, show up at my work and park across the street, watch the building. He checked my phone messages and went through my mail. I had never experienced that type of behavior in a relationship, so I didn't really understand what was happening. I stayed with him.

The control became worse after we married. He pressured me to leave my job and focus on him and our children; he caused me to lose touch with the rest of my family and my friends because he felt that they were wrong for me. The way he talked to me left me alone, alienated, and hurt. He told me I was worthless. I was alone, alienated, and it hurt... bad.

In 2014 we became homeless and began living at a campground. I told him I was leaving and went with my children to my mother's house. But soon after he took the children to live in another state. In an effort to stay with my children, I moved there too. That was the beginning of the end. He began to talk down to my son, the same way he had talked to me. But that I couldn't take. I finally told him our relationship was over, that I didn't deserve his treatment and I left.

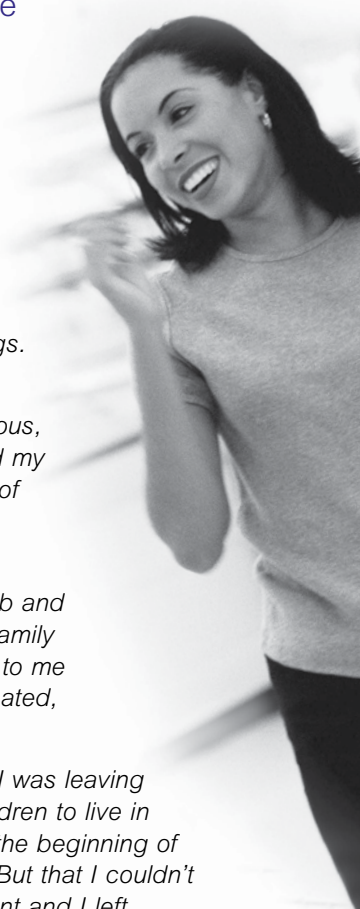
I filed for a Protection from Abuse order. I came to A Woman's Place (AWP) for individual counseling and the support group. Now here I am today talking about it, stronger than I was back then. I know I was strong for leaving the situation. Getting the support and finding out who I am and taking the time to understand myself... it really has made me stronger. I have a better understanding now that I don't deserve what was given to me. I'll never put myself in that situation again. I love myself. I didn't before. Now I know I don't deserve to be treated in a way where I feel worthless. I know I'm worth more than I could ever imagine.

To learn more about how the programs in *The Safe Options Project* keep AWP clients and their children safe, please contact Linda Thomas at lthomas@awomansplace.org or 215.343.9241, ext. 122.

Want to receive e-newsletters with the latest AWP info? Scan the QR code below (or visit www.awomansplace.org) and click **Get Our Newsletter** at the bottom right.



Your gifts enabled Sandy to engage with AWP's counselors and other survivors, and to gain the strength and confidence she needed to know what was right for her. You are making her dreams a possibility! To make a donation for the futures of all AWP clients, use the enclosed envelope, visit www.awomansplace.org/donate, or call 215-343-9241. Thank you!



Women Taking Charge

New program for clients fosters self-reliance and thriving lives to make our community stronger

The Empowerment Project's *Women Taking Charge* is an innovative, full-year program designed to promote economic security for survivors of domestic violence and provide them with comprehensive education, mentoring, and supportive counseling. Thanks to overwhelming community support for this program, the first class of participants has completed the 12-week classroom portion of *Women Taking Charge* and is poised to achieve their goals and make a positive impact on the world.



Women Taking Charge graduate Janine Knox with her mentor Ann Russell.

Women Taking Charge participants receive training in financial literacy, goal setting, employment and career development, decision making, education options, legal consultations, healthcare access, and civic engagement. Encouragement and guidance continues for an entire year through one-on-one success mentoring, individual counseling, and team building.

To learn more about how *Women Taking Charge* and The Empowerment Project are strengthening AWP clients and our community, please contact Ann Ciliberto at aciliberto@awomansplace.org or 215.343.9241 ext. 114.



Women Taking Charge graduates celebrate their achievements with cake! Completing the program together fosters a sense of comradery and motivation.



A Woman's Place
ON THE ROAD TO FLOURISHING
THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Generous friends like you invest in survivors through programs like *Women Taking Charge*. Without you, these accomplishments would not be possible! To donate, use the enclosed envelope, visit www.awomansplace.org/ donate, or call 215-343-9241. Thank you!



Community Cooperation Brings Remarkable Renovation to AWP's Emergency Shelter!

A stunning change for those seeking safety and security

Your support keeps AWP's Emergency Shelter open 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Opened in 1978, the twelve-room facility has the capacity to house eight families at a time, is consistently filled, and is always ready to accept the next resident awaiting the opportunity to reside within its safe walls. On average, the Emergency Shelter provides housing for over 100 women and children annually.

Generous community donations of time and goods have allowed for periodic painting, landscaping, and cleaning projects that have created welcoming surroundings for those calling the shelter home over the past 38 years. However, those years of wear and tear had taken their toll and an overhaul was needed.

During the 2015 *Chocolate Lovers' Fantasy*, charitable Goodwill Auction Appeal donors pledged over \$13,900

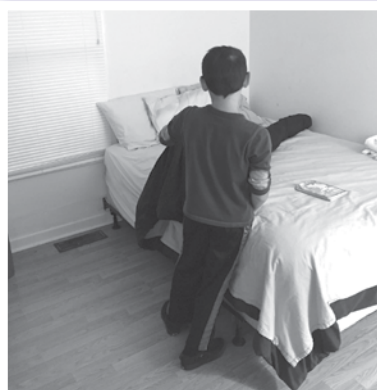
to fund renovations. Your generous donations inspired John Ordway of Jules Thin Crust and the team at Fred Beans Family of Dealerships to launch their own fundraising campaigns in support of the effort, while Richard E. Brown, Associates Architects, and contractor John Prajzner donated their time and talents to ensure the success of the project.

And what a success! Your tremendous generosity produced amazing results.



A clean, open kitchen with new appliances creates an efficient and visually pleasing kitchen.

New floors and beds and fresh paint offers welcoming bedrooms for clients and their children.



Your generosity created a feeling of warmth, peace, and joy for shelter residents!

Together, We Are Preventing Future Violence

Your donation brings positive changes to Bucks County's youth



An important way your support of AWP makes our community safer is through *The Prevention Project's* outreach in area schools. *The Prevention Project's* dedicated staff and volunteers teach students about healthy friendships, the benefits of positive communication, safe dating, and the issues of domestic violence, providing younger generations with the knowledge and skills to stop the violence before it starts.

AWP intern Grace Schmoyer speaks to Holicong Middle School students about dynamics of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, resources in Bucks County (including AWP), and how to support yourself or a friend through a bad relationship.

Often, *The Prevention Project* programs serve as a reminder to students who may have grown up with (or are still experiencing) domestic violence that they are not alone and that there is a name for what happened in their home. Your support makes it possible for thousands of students in Bucks County to receive positive messages about healthy relationships and their own self worth.

AWP's Young Adult Advisory Board

AWP's *Young Adult Advisory Board* (YAAB) is a group of passionate and dynamic youth leaders dedicated to raising awareness about dating violence and creating a safer Bucks County. In February, the YAAB team ran a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month campaign at Central Bucks East High School and collected 694 signatures on their healthy relationships pledge, a terrific accomplishment. YAAB's message included statistics and information that was inclusive of all types of relationships.

YAAB members work independently to meet goals and prepare for monthly meetings during which they share what they've been working on, brainstorm future projects together, and learn more about the inner workings of a community benefit organization like AWP. This is a great leadership opportunity and the chance to work together to bring about positive change in Bucks County.

For more info on *The Prevention Project*, YAAB, or to arrange a presentation for your school or group, please contact Christina Baer at cbaer@awomansplace.org or 215.343.9241 x110.



YAAB members celebrate the 694 healthy relationship pledges they collected during the 2016 TDVAM campaign. Way to go!

It's your support that brings AWP staff and volunteers in contact with our community. To make a gift that will educate youth about choosing healthy, nonviolent relationships, please use the enclosed envelope, visit www.awomansplace.org/donate, or call 215-343-9241. Thank you!

AWP thanks our 2015-16 Season Sponsors for all they make possible through their generous sponsorships of AWP's fundraising events.



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 In Full Swing 215 340 0120
www.awomansplace.org

Return Service Requested

Remember to designate AWP

A Member Agency



of Bucks County

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within PA 1 800 732 0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

— PA Commission of Charitable Organizations



A class of Direct Service volunteer trainees advocate for NO MORE domestic violence, raising their voices for a society where all individuals are safe in their relationships.

Volunteers Make a Difference

The dedicated work done by AWP volunteers ensures that the impact of the organization's mission is felt throughout Bucks County and beyond. There are a wide variety of positions available guaranteed to make a difference in the lives of both the volunteers and AWP clients. To learn more about the many ways volunteers keep our community safe and our relationships healthy, please contact Lark

Irwin at lirwin@awomansplace.org
 or 215.343.9241, ext. 124, or visit
www.awomansplace.org/volunteer



Volunteers at the 2016 Chocolate Lovers' Fantasy helped manage a successful event that raised over \$105,000 to support AWP's programs.

Vision...

A Woman's Place envisions a society where all individuals are safe in their relationships and can flourish.

Mission...

A Woman's Place is a community-based social change organization committed to the empowerment of women and to ending intimate and domestic violence for all.

Values...

To accomplish our vision of a society where all individuals are safe and can flourish, the programs, services, and decision making at all levels of A Woman's Place are rooted in and guided by the following values:

Courage: A Woman's Place acts bravely and boldly, not withstanding fear.

Creativity: A Woman's Place encourages the creation of meaningful new ideas, interpretations, and rules.

Equality: A Woman's Place believes each and every one of us must collaborate to create a new society based in equal power and rights.

Integrity: A Woman's Place is of sound moral character and adheres to ethical principles.

Respect: A Woman's Place is considerate and honors the worth and dignity of all beings and resources.

Social Justice: A Woman's Place analyzes structural social inequalities in order to promote justice.

A Woman's Place Newsletter is published twice a year by A Woman's Place to inform supporters and partners of news and events at the organization. For additional information, please contact hgiampapa@awomansplace.org. Newsletter written and edited by Heather S. Giampapa, Michael Hicks, and Jacalyn A. Hartzell. Design and printing by CP Commercial Printing.