

CELEBRATING  
**40** YEARS  
*A Woman's Place*  
40 YEARS OF FLOURISHING

*To celebrate A Woman's Place milestone 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we look back with admiration on those who started the journey, as well as those who have brought us to where we are today.*

TO DO THAT, WE OF COURSE START WITH OUR DYNAMIC FOUNDING MOTHERS, PAT GARRETT (GROFF), DORIS PAYNE-CAMP, MJ KIRKPATRICK, AND BEVERLY FRANTZ.



These four women, deeply passionate about causes strengthening women's equality in the 1970's, saw the overwhelming need Bucks County had for an organization to confront domestic violence. Pat stated, "The four of us said to each other, 'We have waited long enough.' We decided right then that the time was now to see what could be done." *A Woman's Place* (AWP) was established and women were helped.

Ten years into the organization's work, Executive Director Beth Taylor wrote with a combination of sadness and gritty determination about how the tremendous accomplishment of AWP seemed at times to have affected only the tip of the iceberg in terms of needed shelter and counseling services. "I am proud and happy and get sort of teary eyes looking back. Then the phone rings and my sense of well-being is burst by the harsh reality of another woman's plight [...] although we've done so much, we have lots more to do."

Reflecting on AWP's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, executive director Barbara Webber wrote passionately about the tremendous success of AWP's initial mission to provide shelter and counseling services in Bucks County, but urged against complacency. Barbara looked ahead, writing, "we must continue to make our movement a laboratory for change, an alternative place where we can all be healed. We must balance our tension between social service and social change."

On our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1997, we were bold enough to imagine a future transformed by our work, with executive director Susan Hauser proclaiming, "Our real goal is not to celebrate in another 20 years." AWP also recognized a tremendous unmet frontier in our work: children and community education. As prevention specialist Darlene Furey wrote, "Children are growing up in a society where the prevailing sentiment is that violence

and sexism are just part of everyday life. This is where the work of social change *must begin.*"

And now AWP is turning 40. With the passage of time comes change, as it must. Ifeoma U. Aduba, AWP's Executive Director since 2012, is stepping down. Speaking at AWP's Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil, Ifeoma had this to say, "Each day, the mind-bogglingly brave staff and volunteers that I have had the privilege to lead stand up and act. Cloaked in our Vision and Mission and with our Values in their hearts, they stand up and act. In this work, there is no place for silencing the voice of even one woman or turning our backs on anyone who says she does not feel safe. There is no place for burying the truth so as to give our own personal pain or disappointment, our pride, a greater platform than the lives of those for whom we keep vigil tonight. No matter our role – volunteer, counselor, teacher, or Board member – the only right thing for us to do is to keep vigil and honor the lives that we remember here tonight in everything we do."

Ours has been a history of never being satisfied, and always expanding the scope of our impact, while carefully and zealously guarding the core of our work started by four brave women in a small apartment in 1976. As we celebrate AWP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we also celebrate the courageous commitment to pursuing true social change, and the vision of building a society where all individuals are safe and can flourish, manifested in a comprehensive approach that incorporates crisis response, long-term skill-building and empowerment, and prevention education. As we have grown, our impact has grown and with it our community's capacity for safe, healthy, positive change.

### 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.

# What Does It Mean To Be Safe?

Supporters enable Community Counselors to offer safety and empowerment to AWP clients

**For AWP's Community Counselors, speaking with clients about safety for themselves and their children is priority #1.**

"When I safety plan with a client, I say to them, 'You're taking control of your situation by being proactive. You will be prepared for whatever may come next,'" states Community Counselor Julie Bristol.

Safety planning is not about defending oneself or fighting back, it's about staying safe and getting out of a potentially violent situation as harmlessly as possible. Advice from AWP advocates can include warning clients not to back themselves into a corner or to stay out of the kitchen where sharp objects are stored. It can also be advising clients to store important documents and files where an abuser can't find and destroy them (another way abusers can make the victim dependent on them), or having a bag packed with a week's worth of clothes, medication, and their children's favorite toy or book to provide some sense of normalcy in case the victim needs to flee a situation immediately.

"Whether I'm safety planning with a client who is staying in his or her home or with a client who is ready to leave, the overall umbrella of what I'm helping him or her with is empowerment. I want them to know that they can handle this. We prioritize a list to create attainable goals and not overwhelm them. I help them understand that they have the skills they

will need in any situation so fear doesn't control them, so they can get their power back," says Julie.

"I love being able to help a client see how courageous what she's doing really is," continues Julie. "I had a client who was going to court and was fearful of the questioning she would face from her abuser's lawyer. I have a Wonder Woman logo on my laptop, and I quickly traced the image onto a piece of paper and gave it to the client. She later told me that just holding onto that piece of paper inspired her and reminded her of the power she herself represented. She was a Wonder Woman, just like all AWP clients are. I love that my job helps them to see that in themselves."

**To find out more about how Safety Planning is creating stronger women and men in our community, please visit [www.awomansplace.org/safeoptions](http://www.awomansplace.org/safeoptions) or contact Linda Thomas at [lthomas@awomansplace.org](mailto:lthomas@awomansplace.org) or 215-343-9241, ext. 122.**

**It is only through your generosity that AWP's Community Counselors can empower and encourage clients throughout Bucks County. To make a donation for the safety and survival of those experiencing emotional, physical, and psychological violence, use the enclosed envelope, visit [www.awomansplace.org/donate](http://www.awomansplace.org/donate), or call 215-343-9241. Thank you!**

Safety planning has been a part of AWP's mission since its establishment in 1976. AWP's Founding Mothers, Mary Jane Kirkpatrick, Patricia Garrett (Groff), and Doris Payne held monthly National Organization for Women (NOW) meetings, and while promoting a meeting on domestic violence, they began receiving calls from women in need of DV resources and even shelter. At that time, Bucks County was void of a place for these women to seek assistance, as well as a system to address the overall problem. A storefront at 108 N. Main Street in Sellersville soon became the first home of A Woman's Place, while the apartment located in back was transformed into Bucks County's first domestic violence safe shelter. Today, AWP proudly continues the work of these pioneering women as we strive to fulfill their vision of a society where all individuals are safe in their relationships and can flourish.

## Peace Works Camp Turns 5, Thanks to You!



Peace Works Camp is AWP's week-long summer camp that employs activities, games, and crafts to build campers' positive self-esteem, promote healthy relationships, and encourage teamwork. Peace Works Camp is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, with an Advocate-in-Training program for students in grades 6-8, and teen and adult camp counselors.

Based in Doylestown for its first five years, you'll soon have the chance to help expand the reach of Peace Works Camp to benefit children in Lower Bucks, as well. Stay tuned for AWP's #GivingTuesday Peace Works Campaign on November 29 to see how you can make an investment in safe and healthy futures for children in Bucks County.

**Please visit [www.awomansplace.org/givingtuesday](http://www.awomansplace.org/givingtuesday) to see how your gift will make an impact in Lower Bucks!**

Community support brings about friendships and summer fun





# 2016 annual BREAKFAST

& Community Recognition Ceremony



**CELEBRATE THE ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED IN 40 YEARS OF SAFETY, EMPOWERMENT,  
AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ON NOVEMBER 29**

Be a part of AWP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration by joining us for AWP's *Annual Breakfast & Community Recognition Ceremony* at The Fuge in Warminster on Tuesday, **November 29**. This year's breakfast will be bigger, better, and bubblier than ever – and with more bacon!

Join AWP as we toast 40 years of flourishing (that's right, lots of toast...and a sparkling cider treat!). This year's event features a new breakfast venue rich in fascinating history – The Fuge in Warminster. This amazing space is the perfect spot for guests to embark on a unique mission tour highlighting AWP's powerful programs and the impact your support enables us to make in our community. Attendees will be immersed in AWP's history while learning firsthand about its dynamic future.

For information on tickets or sponsorships for AWP's *Annual Breakfast & Community Recognition Ceremony*, visit [www.awomansplace.org/breakfast](http://www.awomansplace.org/breakfast) or contact Jaimie Geddes at [jgeddes@awomansplace.org](mailto:jgeddes@awomansplace.org) or 215-343-9241, ext. 103.



## Let's Get Empowered!

Join The Empowerment Project's monthly programs for a healthy dose of community togetherness and reinvigorated determination!

### Leaning In At AWP Adults & Teens

Tap into the group's ongoing inspiration and encouragement to face challenges and achieve your goals while creating a better world for everyone.

third Wednesday of every month  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Delaware Valley University

### The Write Stuff Adults

Allow the gentle spirit of writing to heal hurts, articulate dreams, and guide you as you write the future you always imagined for yourself.

second Thursday of every month  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Doylestown Mennonite Church

### Book Talks Adults

Connect, enjoy lively discussion, and share your joy of reading as we discover new authors, stories, and ideas.

fourth Monday of every month  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Doylestown Bookshop

### Empower U Growing Stronger Teens

Enhancing teens confidence through physical activity, healthy relationships, and positive self-image.

every Tuesday  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Central Bucks Family YMCA



THE HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT OF AWP STARTED WITH THE ORGANIZATION'S FORMATION. AWP IS PROUD TO BE A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, FORMED WHEN WOMEN'S CENTERS AND GROUPS FROM AROUND THE STATE JOINED FORCES IN HARRISBURG IN 1976.



**A Woman's Place**  
40 YEARS OF FLOURISHING

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**Return Service Requested**

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## New Childrens' Programs Aim to Comfort and Heal



Community support allows AWP to offer impactful new therapeutic programs to children and caregivers living with the effects of domestic violence



### EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY:

- A new collaboration with Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Perkasio provides a shared avenue for physical as well as emotional growth between child and caregiver

### CARE:

- The Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement program rekindles, nurtures, and builds a healthy bond between caregiver and child by healing wounds and correcting negative associations

### A WINDOW BETWEEN WORLDS:

- Trauma-informed art therapy classes for children that provide a window for self-expression, confidence building, and help with the healing process by offering a supportive, creative environment in which children can tell their stories

Children can be deeply affected by witnessing and living with domestic violence. Unhealthy lessons can be learned, such as violence gets you what you want; you must be the aggressor or the victim; victims are to blame; and women are weak. Parents who are the victims of domestic violence often feel inadequate as a caregiver and face the loss of the child's respect.

During the 2015-16 Fiscal Year, AWP provided 102 children with 1,155 hours of supportive services. We are thrilled to report that thanks to the generosity of donors such as you, AWP continues to offer innovative ways to provide support and empowerment to the children we serve.

Thanks to a Bucks Innovation and Improvement Grant (BIIG) from Foundations Community Partnership, three powerful new programs are being implemented to rejuvenate children and caregivers alike. Equine Assisted Therapy, Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement

(CARE), and A Window Between Worlds represent a major step forward in research-based, trauma informed therapy for children and families coming to AWP for healing.

This triad of new programs, prompted by donor enthusiasm, has been a massive boon to the Children's Advocacy Program at AWP.

For more information on AWP's Children's Advocacy Programs and other programs in AWP's The Safe Options Project, please contact Linda Thomas at [lthomas@awomansplace.org](mailto:lthomas@awomansplace.org) or 215-343-9241, ext. 122.

Your support allows AWP to continue to not only be a safe haven for compassionate care, but also a bold innovator in shaping a future where children and families can flourish. To donate, use the enclosed envelope, visit [www.awomansplace.org/donate](http://www.awomansplace.org/donate), or call 215-343-9241. Thank you!