



PROJECT WOMAN

Protect Educate Empower

Newsletter Fall 2021

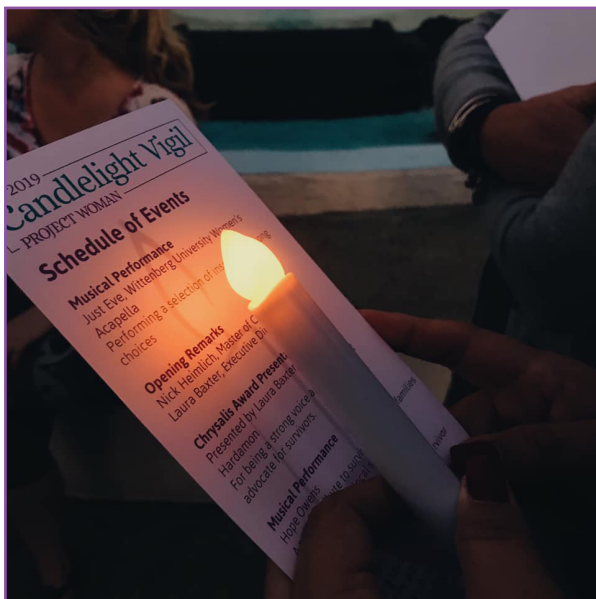
Project Woman Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

2021 Candlelight Vigil PROJECT WOMAN

The 2021 Candlelight Vigil will be on Thursday, October 7, at 7 p.m. Held outdoors at our offices on 525 East Home Road, weather permitting, there will be space for social distancing.

“We light candles (battery-operated) in support of and remembrance for those traumatized by domestic violence,” said Programs Director Audrey Ferryman. “We also recognize the community members who have supported survivors and worked to end domestic violence.”

The event will feature speakers and other activities. We will also reveal the awardee of our annual Chrysalis Award, which is given to an outstanding advocate for ending violence against women, children and men.



Project Woman's Diva Night Out

On Thursday, October 14, Project Woman will bring its signature fundraiser to COhatch: The Market, 101 S. Fountain Ave, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. to raise funds for our emergency shelters.

“We’re grateful that we have been able to keep our shelters open during the pandemic,” said Laura Baxter, executive director. “This is despite experiencing as much as a 174% increase in occupancy.”

The event will feature entertainment, spa services by reservation at the door, an online auction, and a DIVA! drink created by The Market Bar especially for the event. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

Due to the generosity of sponsors, the event will be free and open to the public, although a \$5 DIVA Ticket will get you spa services and vendor specials. Donations are also welcome at the door or online at www.projectwomanohio.org.

“Project Woman and all survivors continue to be grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and community allies,” noted Katherine L. Eckstrand, communications and community engagement director. “DIVA honors them as it supports and celebrates survivors.”

A variety of safety measures will be in place at the event. Check our website at <https://projectwomanohio.org/news-events/diva-night-out.html> and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ProjectWoman for continual updates and posting of auction items.



NEED HELP? Call 800-634-9893, Project Woman’s 24-hour Crisis/Help Line.
WANT TO HELP? Go to <https://projectwomanohio.org/> to donate online.

Project Woman Undergoes COA Re-accreditation



Project Woman is proud of being accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for over 10 years and of holding the honor of being the only COA accredited domestic violence/sexual abuse entity in our area.

This year, we are undergoing COA’s rigorous, multi-month re-accreditation process. This process provides a framework for Project Woman to continuously examine and improve the evidence-based best practices that support our clients and our community.

Accreditation means we have met and maintain COA’s high standards in 14 critical areas:

- Administrative & Service Environment
- Financial Management
- Governance
- Human Resources
- Performance Quality Improvement
- Risk Prevention
- Training and Supervision
- Case Management
- Clients’ Rights
- Crisis Response & Information Services
- Domestic Violence Services
- Housing Stabilization and Community Living Services
- Mental Health and/or Substance Use Services
- Program Administration

Project Woman is honored that our critical work of providing services to those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault has been recognized by accreditation and then re-accreditation by COA. We are grateful to those who have supported and championed our mission to end domestic violence and sexual assault by providing services and programs to protect, educate, and empower. Achieving COA’s re-accreditation standards ensures our programs and services continue to meet the highest national standards.

Project Woman Performance & Quality Improvement Data

Each quarter, Project Woman offers a PQI report that is an integral part of our organization. We strive to create a culture of continuous improvement, to streamline service delivery, administrative functions, and better serve survivors and the community. An important function of this report is to provide information to our stakeholders- both strengths and opportunities. Below is just a snapshot of our Year End Report, beginning July 1st, 2020 through June 30th, 2021. To view the entire report and plans for improvement, please visit our website at www.projectwomanohio.org.

Output:	2020-2021	2019-2020
# of Clients Served	1496	1727
# of Crisis Line Calls	1489	1348
# of Shelter Nights	9864	8095

Outcomes from survivors responses on the Attorney General Survey:	Result	Target
“I know more ways to plan for my safety”	98%	95%
“I know more about community resources/services available”	100%	85%
“I understand I am not responsible for the abuse I experienced”	98%	85%

Teen Group Receives National Purple Ribbon Award



Bringing Awareness to Students (B.A.T.S.) received a Purple Ribbon Award for Outstanding Fundraising Event by Theresa's Fund, a national domestic violence support and resource organization. Entries were judged by a national panel of professionals

from the field.

Project Woman nominated B.A.T.S. for their Capture Kindness event held last November at Springfield's COhatch. Emceed by local artist, Joel Shear, it raised awareness about teen bullying and encouraged community spirit with a photo contest and entertainment by local youth. The group donated some of the proceeds to Project Woman for their Hope Bags.

"Survivors may come to our shelter with only the clothes on their backs," said Laura Baxter, executive director. "These Hope Bags provide needed toiletries and other items to help ease their stay at the shelter."

B.A.T.S. was started in summer 2020 through WellSpring's prevention programming by middle and high school students concerned about issues affecting teens and wanting to make a difference in their lives.

"B.A.T.S. is thrilled to be recognized nationally for our work with Project Woman," stated Noah Chesshir, the group's president. "We learned so much working with Project Woman about domestic violence and how bullying largely targets females."

Theresa's Fund began in 1992 to support domestic violence services in Arizona and later nationwide. In 2014, it started DomesticShelters.org, the first online, searchable database of resources, programs, and shelters. Their Purple Ribbon Awards is the first broad program honoring heroes of domestic violence prevention. Awardees were recognized September 15 at a virtual awards celebration hosted by screenwriter, actress and filmmaker Angela Shelton.



L-R: Katherine Eckstrand, Maddie McCutcheon, Noah Chesshir, Dina Heaphey-Rulli

Project Woman partners with TCC Gives "More than a Phone"

MORE THAN A PHONE Project Woman has made a connection with TCC Gives and their "More Than a Phone" program to bring smartphones to survivors of domestic violence. This program provides smartphones with 4 months of talk, text, and 8GB of data so that survivors have reliable technology for communication and safety purposes. Having a phone is necessary in today's world to apply for jobs, search for housing, and stay connected with friends and family. Abusers often try

to isolate survivors from support networks by destroying their phones, tracking their location, or monitoring their communication with others. Providing survivors with this resource once they flee from abuse allows them to begin their new journey and feel secure while doing so. Project Woman is grateful to have made this connection to better serve survivors in our community. TCC Gives partners with 50 shelters across the country to bring "More Than a Phone" to survivors. To learn more visit morethanaphone.org.

Survivors Speak:

"I feel like you [PW] saved my life. I will forever be grateful." - Survivor

"I went from totally dependent to independent!! Thank you!" - Survivor

"I may have given up if it weren't for calling because you just listened and then I realized it would be okay." - Crisis Line Caller

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Who is the Council on Accreditation (COA), and why is their accreditation important to us?

COA is an independent organization that developed a rigorous set of standards of excellence in evidence-based, best practices for non-profit domestic violence organizations. During accreditation, a COA team evaluates our operations, programs, policies and procedures, and environment using these standards.

Accreditation is important for several reasons. For one, the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services requires it for us to maintain certification as a community mental health provider. It also ensures that we are continually measuring ourselves against a high standard and engaging in continuous improvement. Our Performance and Quality Improvement Committee includes staff from all areas who determine priorities, monitor progress, share ideas, and ensure outcomes are met.

Ultimately, accreditation is important to our community, clients, funders, and partners. Our COA Accredited status is a “gold seal of approval” that our operations have achieved a level of excellence. Re-accreditation takes a lot of work. I want to recognize the Project Woman TEAM, whose heroic effort and firm commitment to the MISSION, has made this possible. They deserve all the credit and all the THANKS!

Our Stakeholders Speak:

“We share Project Woman’s mission to end domestic violence and sexual assault. It is comforting to know that survivors of these crimes have an organization to care for them and their needs beyond the services of the criminal justice system. With services ranging from emergency shelter to trauma management and care, Project Woman fills a much-needed gap in caring for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.” --Lee Graf, Springfield Chief of Police

“Project Woman provides essential services to Clark and Champaign County survivors of domestic and sexual violence. They are instrumental in reducing barriers and bridging gaps so survivors can receive the assistance and services they need to overcome challenges and live safe, independent, violence free lives.” --Shelley Marsh, MA, deputy director, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

THANKS to our 2021 DIVA! Night Out Sponsors:

<p>Diamond Sponsor</p>  <p>ASSURANT®</p>	<p>Platinum Sponsors</p>  	
<p>Gold Sponsors</p> <p>Clark State College Patrick and Tiffany Field Jill Gianola PJ and Lisa Miller Physicians & Surgeons for Women Richwood Bank Shore Creations (Katherine L. Eckstrand) Wallace and Turner, Inc.</p>	<p>Silver Sponsors</p> <p>A & E Powder Coating C & N Contractors, Inc. Clark Shaefer Hackett Community Health Foundation KTH Parts Industries, Inc. Eddie and Laurie Leventhal Mega City Fire and Security Stephan A. Moberg, Esq. Mary Alice and Steve Neely The Bridge Group The Marsh & McLennan Agency Woeber Mustard Company</p>	
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