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LIVING IN FEAR IS NO WAY TO LIVE.

Creating Some Zen at SWiC!

SWiC's services are expanding! With recent Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding, our agency has implemented a new service available for victims called *Creating Zen*, an evidence-based holistic program for healing after trauma, conducted by SWiC's collaborative partner Empower the Mind, LLC.

Classes provide an outlet for healing through trauma-informed yoga, cranial massage, counseling, and guided meditation. These methods create a gateway for survivors to address their physical, psychological, and emotional needs.



More Service Expansion From VOCA Funding!

SWiC has also filled two new staff positions to expand our services thanks to VOCA - a Crisis Intervention Specialist and Child Care Worker. The Crisis Intervention Specialist works with victims to help address circumstances that may prevent those who become homeless after abuse to live independently and free from abuse. The Child Care Worker provides childcare while their parent receives services. Parents are able to discuss issues related to abuse openly without risk of exposing children to inappropriate information.

Support the reauthorization of VAWA!!



The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is imperative to local efforts that **address critical services that SWiC provides** in our community!

Domestic violence is a community problem requiring a community solution, and VAWA funding in our county supports this approach to bring partners together to end violence against women.

Specifically, VAWA currently funds the following in our community:

- a SWiC legal advocate to accompany victims through the PFA process;
- a PFA attorney to handle cases referred by SWiC
- an Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR) prosecutor;
- a probation officer to monitor abusers; and
- a sheriff's deputy to ensure continued priority service of temporary PFA orders.

Thanks to the services made possible with VAWA funding, there has been a significant decline in the number of victims killed and no children killed in domestic violence-related incidents in the county in the *last 15 years*. It also helps us address obstacles rural communities, such as our own, encounter, i.e. lack of transportation, geographic isolation, fewer resources for educational attainment, etc.

Funding will end on September 30, 2018, and VAWA **must** be

reauthorized in order for future funding to be available.

The reauthorization will add provisions to the current law, such as expanded programs for youth education and prevention. It also toughens protections for victims using housing grants, and it establishes a Violence Against Women director position in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, among other additions to the law.

Reach out to your local officials and urge them to support this bill!

Find your elected official and
their contact information [here!](#)

Students Against Domestic Violence

SWiC Student Advisory Board forms for change in our community!

Bright and talented young minds have gathered at SWiC's campus since March to make a change in their schools and community. As a Student Advisory Board, students from around the county come together each month to provide meaningful input into the decision-making process of SWiC's child-serving systems.

The Student Advisory Board serves as a resource to SWiC by providing feedback on various topics and serves as an advisory board to the agency. Together, we ensure that services and supports in the community are truly meeting the needs of young people. The Board not only helps to improve the community, it helps build their personal advocacy and leadership abilities.

These students are able to help their peers, better child and young adult services within our agency, raise awareness and generate support in the community.

**The next Student Advisory Board meeting
is August 22, 2018 at 6 p.m.**

If you are a student or know a student who is interested in contributing their ideas and joining the Board, please contact Tori at 570-622-3991.



Set up for the first Student Advisory Board meeting in March 2018!

Give Back By Shopping at Boscov's

Friends Helping Friends Day is where your shopping supports our services for victims and their loved ones in our community! Purchase a shopping pass for a discount at Boscov's to be used on October 16 to help us make Schuylkill County a better place to live!

What: You can purchase a 25% discount shopping pass for \$5 through SWiC. This also enters you to win a \$100 or \$500 Boscov's gift card! *SWiC keeps the ENTIRE amount collected!*

When: Use your pass at Boscov's on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018** when you checkout

Where: Boscov's at the Fairlane Village Mall

To purchase a shopping pass, contact Tori
at 570-622-3991 or swicagency@comast.net



Volunteer Connection

We love and appreciate our volunteers here at SWiC! Get to know some of our committed advocates who dedicate their time and talents to instilling hope and promoting change in our community.

Volunteer: Barb Tokarz

How long have you been volunteering for SWiC?

I have been volunteering for SWiC for over three years.

What interested you in volunteering for SWiC?

I became interested in volunteering because I have had a family member who was a victim of domestic violence and have seen how it affects people's lives. I wanted to help others who are in this situation.

Why do you feel that SWiC is a great place to volunteer?

While volunteering, I have met some amazing people and have learned so much. Everyone is dedicated, friendly, and always ready to offer to help when needed. The staff and volunteers at the court house are caring people and even though the work is serious and touching, we still have fun while we do it.

Is there anything that you have learned through your time here at SWiC that you would like to pass onto others?

I have learned how important it is for women to have their stories heard and to be affirmed. It is very rewarding to know that I am able to help women on one of the most difficult days of their lives, when they have to appear in court to get a PFA.

Join our team of volunteers to share your talents and have some fun! There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available, and we are open to suggestions of how you'd like to use your skills to better our community.

For more information, contact Tori at 570-622-3991 and visit www.s-wic.org/volunteering.



WISHLIST

- Black garbage bags
- Lotion
- Bath towels
- Non-perishable snacks (for school lunches)
- Pillows



Schuylkill United Way

*SWiC is a partner agency of the Schuylkill United Way.
Thanks to the Schuylkill United Way and those who contribute for their efforts on behalf of area victims.*

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