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2014 Pennsylvania Fatality Report
97 victims + 44 perpetrators = 141 deaths

In 2014, the number of victims included 59 women and 38 men. The youngest victim was an infant, who died 20 days after being delivered by emergency C-section, after her mother was shot and killed. The oldest victim killed was 92. Perpetrators used firearms to kill more than half of the victims.

Luzerne County ranks fifth amongst the top 10 counties with the most domestic violence fatalities. Fifth - amongst 67 counties. We know that one death is too many. And Luzerne County had 61 deaths since 2004 due to domestic violence.

Please help us work toward the elimination of domestic violence. The need is real. At a time when budgets have been reduced or eliminated. With your assistance, we can continue to help victims when they are most vulnerable. Call us at 570-823-7312 to ask how you can become involved.

The purpose of the Domestic Violence Service Center is to work toward the elimination of domestic violence.
domesticviolenceservice.org
A Very Special Thank You

Service to the community was always a part of Arnold Rifkin’s life. And, after selflessly giving to countless organizations in our community, including the Domestic Violence Service Center, Arnold’s life ended peacefully on August 3, 2015 at age 90.

IN MEMORY:
Arnold was as accomplished as he was selfless and charitable. For 20 years, Arnold worked side-by-side with his Dad. And, in 1968, Arnold succeeded David as president of A. Rifkin Co. The company grew under Arnold’s leadership. Arnold was responsible for creating 12 U.S. patents while designing new products for the company.

Philanthropically, Arnold Rifkin served as general chairman of the Cancer Society Drive and as incentive chairman of the United Way. Arnold served as President of Temple B’nai B’rith for three terms and as a trustee. He served as Vice President of the Jewish Federation and on the JCC Board. In 1972, he was a member of the executive board of the Flood Emergency Committee of the Wyoming Valley Jewish Community. In 1980, he joined the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University and served as its treasurer for three years. He has served on the boards of the Sordoni Art Gallery at Wilkes and at Friends Hospital in Philadelphia.

Together, Arnold and Sandy donated the residence known as Rifkin Hall and the lobby of the Evans Residence Hall at Wilkes University, a room at the Domestic Violence Service Center, a children’s corner at the Osterhout Public Library and an expansion of the SPCA pet cemetery. They were also responsible for donating the original dialysis machines at General Hospital and the 3.9 acres of land used to build the Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley.

At the Jewish Community Center, they donated a resource center, housing a library and museum and the JCC kitchen. They also endowed the annual Ben August Three-Mile Run. Sandy and Arnold are founders of the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel. In 1986, Sandy and Arnold received the Community Service Award from the B’nai B’rith Lodge.

In 1992, Arnold was named Small Businessman of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce.

Arnold’s family has continued to carry on his community service mission, and has been incredibly generous to the Domestic Violence Service Center. We cannot thank them enough for the difference they have made in the lives of victims and children who have needed our help. Sandy, Arnold’s wife of 66 years, would stop by DVSC’s shelter and frequently say, “let me know if you need anything”, helping staff with monetary gifts and items that kept the center running, and clients comfortable. At the holidays, shelter clients enjoyed turkey dinners, compliments of Mr. and Mrs. Rifkin.

It is with the most sincere appreciation and respect that we honor Arnold Rifkin. Upon his passing, Arnold and Sandy have bestowed a $30,000 gift to DVSC so that we may continue in our mission, working toward the elimination of domestic violence.

Watch your mail, e-mail and our website for next year’s exciting events!
We have new opportunities for sponsors, and activities planned that you won’t want to miss!
www.domesticviolenceservice.org
The Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation recently awarded a $50,000 grant to the Domestic Violence Service Center (DVSC) for their Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and well being of the people of the region and particularly those most vulnerable and most underserved of the population.

Northeastern PA Health Care Foundation grants funding to support health care needs including, but not limited to health education, community wellness, payment for medical care of uninsured and underinsured regardless of the facility of treatment, and to improve the complete physical, mental, and social well-being of the residents of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties.

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On behalf of the domestic violence victims we serve, we thank you!

**EMPTY PLACE AT THE TABLE**

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Kimberly Wallace of Lenoxville, a domestic violence survivor, recently spoke at DVSC’s Annual Empty Place at the Table. The event took place at the Luzerne County Courthouse on Thursday, October 23rd at noon. Kimberly discussed the subtle signs of power and control that started when she was dating her abuser, and how the violence grew over the years until he almost killed her and their son. She acknowledged and thanked DVSC for all the help they gave her as she was leaving her situation and how the agency empowered and encouraged her decisions every step of the way.

Empty Place at the Table is a memorial to victims who have lost their lives to domestic violence in Luzerne County.

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**DVSC WISH LIST**

- Blankets
- Pull Ups
- Diapers & Wipes
- Crib sheets
- Pillows
- Alarm clocks
- Umbrellas
- Plastic cups
- Silverware
- Towels & Washcloths
- Personal Care Products
- Twin Fitted & Flat Sheets
- Women’s pajamas, sweatpants, sweatshirts
- Underwear & Socks
- Basic First Aid Items (Band-Aids, medical tape, wipes)

*only new items can be accepted

Contact the shelter at 570.823.6799 for more information.
A Big Round of Applause!

Your generosity is overwhelming! Thank you to all of the individuals and companies that continue to help us work toward our purpose: eliminating domestic violence.

Albert Adomitis, Jr., Milagros and Sene Alday, Paul and Donna Antony, Mary Ellen Aton, Mountain Peaks Newspaper, Alexis Baey, Senator Lisa Baker, Paul Bannek, Deborah Barbose, Belrick Corporation, Andrea Barone, Brenda Bartlett, Amy Belcher, Booty Beltrami, Hazleton Shaft Corp, Jill Bemetski, Dr. Vincent Bobby, Jeff and Maire Box, Nicole Brandt, Mia Briceno, Wilkes University, Bob Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Anne Brown, Pastor Linda Bryan, George Buckley, Trish Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Burik, Kate Button, Button Oil and Propane, Steven and Elizabeth Cappellini, Representative Michael B. Carroll, Ted Casey, Sherry Castrine, McCann School of Business, Jade Chi Mei Liu, Ed Ciariimbi, Fellerman & Ciariimbi, Jim Clemente, Snyder & Clemente, Bob Clements, Jesse Clinton, Snowden Lane Partners, Elayne Clothier, Joe Coccia, Coccia Ford Lincoln, Sally Connor, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Coop, Jennifer Corbett, Joan Cordero, Jessica Cronauer, Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre, Allendi Cruz, Heather Ann Cupp, Celeste Curley, Jane Danish, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Jean, Denion, Gary DeSanto, Llewellyn’s, Inc., Deborah DeVito, Jack Digwood, Elite Spine and Sports Physical Therapy, John and Tina Dowd, Mr. and Mrs. Doxsey, Lew Dryfoos, Dryfoos Insurance Agency, Jill Earley, Joseph and Carly Ellman, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett, Paul Emrick, Morgan Stanley, Peggy Engle, Esq., Mary Erwine, Erwine Home Health, Dr. Anthony Falvello, Erik Farmer, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Feinstein, Sandra Feldman, Greg Fellerman, Fellerman & Ciariimbi, Vanessa Ferber, Raymond Ferrario, Mike Filchak, Physician’s Resource, Chris Fink, Finky’s Contracting, Dominick Fino, Fino’s Pharmacy, Bill Framel, Kronick Kalada & Berdy, Laura Frank, Eddie and Tim Genetti, Elestan Realty Company, Jenn Giariimbi, Alesia Gibson, Dan Goldman, Paul Griffiths, Bethany Guarilia, Nicole Gustinucci, Bill Haines, Jason Harten, Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, George and Florence Hayden, Thomas Hess, Servpro, Leslie Hollock, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Kristy Hummel, Elaine Hungarter, Dr. Patricia Ihnat, Mary Catherine Ihnat, Kelly Impaglia, William Irwin, Georgia Jenkins, Beverly Johnson, Deborah Jones, Susan Kaulau, Visiting Angels, Allyson Kamus, Diane Kane, Diane Karasinski, Dr. & Mrs. Richard Kaufer, Cathy Kaufman, Norma Keating, Martha Kellow, Edie Kosicki, Richard and Patricia Kruczek, Abbe Kruger, Maura Krugh, Paul and Kathleen Lantz, A. Rifkin, Karen Larson, Mike and Tish Last, Professor Mark Leffler, Rabbi Lerner, Jerry and Connie Lisman, Megan Lloyd, Daelene Long, Susanne Luchetti, Jerry Mahon, Market Share Development, Mike Manci, The Manci Agency, Lindsay Mascaro-Ptaszenski, JP Mascaro and Sons, Richard Mayoeh, Keri McDermott, Shawn McNamara, McNamara’s Hearing Solutions/Miracle Ear, Lawrence Medico, Medico Industries, Charles Medico, Louis Cohen & Son, William and Mary Medico, Nancy Medico, Naomi Meyer, Robert Mohr, Selena Montgomery, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Mrs. Hannko’s Class, Hazleton Area High School, Steven and Rhondi Nachlis, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nadler, Rania Neddooff, Annette Nogic, Quentin Novinger, Maryann Novitsky, Mark Oley, Santarelli Concrete and Block, Richard Pancygrau, Edward Pane, Margaret Porambo, Palmerton Concourse Club, Rachel Pugh, Chris and Tom Pugh, Janet Purcell, Dawn Rattigan, Dan Reavy, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Reidinger, Terry and Teresa Renninger, Suburban Propane, Beth Rensa, Karry Richardson, Arnold and Harriet Rifkin, Sandy Rifkin, Judy Rogers, Edward Rome, Richard Rome, Ellen Ross, Kost Tire and Auto, Steven Rothstein, Karen Rotondaro, Mark Rubando, Giant Floor and Wall, Bruce and Melissa Saidman, Barb Sauls, Tracy Senchak, Tracy’s Styling Salon, Dr. John and Mrs. Catherine Shaskas, Jennifer Shoemaker, Dr. Farook Shroff, S. Shubosky, Dr. Richard Silberman, DDS, Elizabeth Simeone, Wawa, Daniel and Linda Sloan, Bernard and Bernadette Slusarz, Joseph Solano, A Pickett Construction, Patrick Son, Vitrius Technologies LLC, Daniel L. Son, MD, Susan Spry, Ron Stavish, Stavish Painting, Constance Stern, Sanford Sternlieb, Jewish Community Alliance, Kathleen Talipan, Robert Tambur, Isabella Restaurant, Zane Taney,
A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!


IN YOUR COMMUNITY

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the staff at DVSC were very busy spreading the word about the impact that domestic violence has in our community. Their presence at King’s College, Northeast Counseling Services, Geisinger, Lehigh Valley Hospital, Hazleton, Commonwealth Health and Gnadden Heutten Hospitals, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference, took a proactive approach to help halt domestic violence before it has a chance to begin.

Luzerne County was also chosen by PCADV as one of 7 markets throughout the state of Pennsylvania where the “No More” Public Service Campaign, featuring Andrew McCutchen, Josh Harrison and Neil Walker of the Pirates and Cody Asche of the Phillies aired throughout the entire month of October in the RC 14 Movie Theaters. The PSAs are similar to the NO MORE commercials featuring past and present professional football players that aired during NFL games last fall. They feature baseball players saying NO MORE to such acts as disrespecting women, stalking, looking the other way, and making excuses.

DID YOU KNOW?

DVSC served 2110 victims and their 131 children throughout Luzerne and Carbon Counties in 2014/2015.

2015-16 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

DVSC’s 2015-16 Annual Campaign kicks off on November 16th. As we begin our 40th year of helping victims of domestic abuse, their children and their families, we encourage you to please be as generous as you can. The need has never been greater, as state budgets are still under review and funding has been reduced. Your gift will assist the agency in continuing to provide vital services to survivors of domestic violence, at a time when it is most needed.
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Turn Your Used Cell and SmartPhones Into Support for DVSC!

Do you have old cell phones that you have been holding onto? Not sure what to do with them? Free up some drawer space! Donate your old cell and smart phones to DVSC, and help support victims of domestic abuse and their families!

Call us at 1-800-424-5600 to find out how you can help!