

Please Join Us!

Celebration of *Peace*

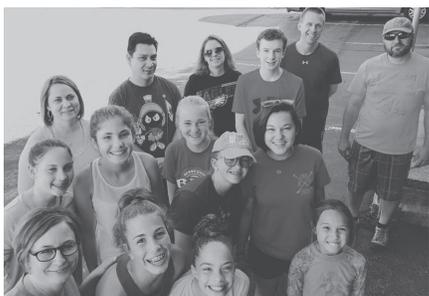
The Safe Berks Celebration of Peace will bring together advocates, donors and volunteers, all committed to building a Safe Berks!

Dr. Thomas F. Flynn, President of Alvernia University, will be honored with the Vision for Peace Award. "Dr. Flynn has been an advocate, ambassador and advisor to Safe Berks since his arrival at Alvernia," said Mary Kay Bernosky, Esq., Safe Berks CEO. "We are so grateful for our partnership with Dr. Flynn and Alvernia University."

Safe Berks will present Voices for Change Awards to Koinos Community Church, Sinking Spring, and The Power of the Purse of Berks County. For the past 10 years, Koinos has coordinated a huge annual collection effort for Safe Berks, providing hundreds of bags of needed items. The Power of the Purse, founded by Chiara Sockel Renninger and managed by the Berks County Community Foundation, has a mission to empower women by breaking down barriers to employment. Their grants have provided vital resources to Safe Berks clients as they work to rebuild their lives.

Special thanks to our Host Committee, led by Co-Chairs Helen and Stephen Najarian, and Susan and Michael Fromm.

We hope to see you on December 10!



VOICES FOR CHANGE AWARD WINNER
Koinos Community Church, Sinking Spring

You're Invited!
Monday, December 10
6:00-8:00 pm
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Reading
\$75 per ticket

To register: www.SafeBerks.org, click on Events

Questions: email Peace@SafeBerks.org or call 610-373-1206

To sponsor: Please contact Mindy McIntosh at 484-869-5293 or MindyM@SafeBerks.org.



VISION FOR PEACE AWARD WINNER
Dr. Thomas F. Flynn, President of Alvernia University
Photo courtesy of Alvernia University

Thanks to our Sponsors (So Far)!

- Alvernia University, Board of Trustees
- Boscov's Department Stores, Inc.
- Carpenter Technology
- Comcast Cable
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- EnerSys
- EthoSource
- Fulton Bank - Great Valley Division
- Gage Personnel Services
- Gallen Insurance
- Jerlyn Foundation
- Masano Bradley
- Penske Truck Leasing
- Performance Toyota
- Santander Arena
- St. Ignatius - Friends of St. Vincent de Paul
- VA Productions
- Visions Federal Credit Union
- VIST Bank

POWER of the PURSE in Berks County

VOICES FOR CHANGE AWARD WINNER
The Power of the Purse of Berks County, founded by Chiara Sockel Renninger and managed by the Berks County Community Foundation.

A Message From Our CEO



October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each year we commemorate this month with a variety of programs to educate our community and raise awareness of the realities of domestic violence. One of the most moving of these displays is our Silent Witness, which allows us to remember those whose lives have been lost to this scourge in our community. Our Silent Witness March and Dedication was held on October 23, beginning at Safe Berks and ending at Reading Area Community College for our program and dedication.

Tragically, this year we had three new victims to honor and remember, bringing the total to 59 Berks County residents killed by domestic violence since we began keeping these records in 1999.

Thanks to the victims' loved ones, as well as Sen. Judy Schwank, and Nicole Bowman, a leader of Moms Demand Action, for speaking at this moving event. While it will not prevent all domestic violence fatalities, we are very encouraged by the PA House and Senate approving House Bill 2060, the Domestic Violence Protection Bill. This common sense bill requires that within 24 hours of a misdemeanor domestic violence conviction, or entry of a Final Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order, abusers turn over their firearms to law enforcement or to a federally licensed firearms dealer.

We at Safe Berks have also suffered a very personal loss by the passing of Cindy Boscov. Cindy was a "doer," a roll-up-your sleeves, get-it-done type of volunteer. No task was too big nor too small. She was caring and thoughtful. When we moved into our new Center, she wanted to do her part to make it a "home." She donated her own works of art and hung them herself in our Safe House to make it more inviting and beautiful for the women, men and children who come to us.

Spending countless hours to get them "just right," her art inspires more than an appreciation, but also a reverence and an awe in our residential areas. It is like her loving care has imbued those hallways with a grace and beauty that transcends what we see. Cindy wanted to share the beauty and grace she saw in the world with the women and children we serve. She wanted them to know that they were beautiful, and that they deserved to live in beauty, in safety and in peace. I know that those who call Safe Berks home feel her presence and know she truly cared for them in the best way she knew how.

We grieve for the loss of these beautiful lives, taken all too soon. We will miss them deeply.

Gratefully,

Mary Kay Bernosky



Cindy Boscov, dedicated volunteer, donated many beautiful pieces of art from her own collection and hung the art in our Safe House. Photo courtesy of Reading Eagle.



Safe Berks services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.

Toll Free Hotline:
844-789-SAFE (7233)
 or
Text SAFE BERKS to 20121
 Available 24/7/365

www.safeberks.org
610-373-1206
peace@safeberks.org

Follow Safe Berks





Educate • Advocate • End Abuse

KEEP BERKS SAFE



24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the US, equaling more than

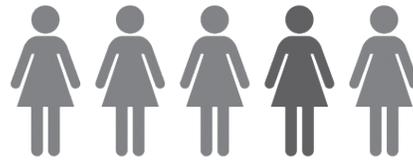
12 MILLION

men and women per year.



**1 IN 2
WOMEN**

have experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime and



1 IN 5 WOMEN

have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetime.

BUT IT'S NOT JUST WOMEN



1 IN 5 MEN

have experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime.

MORE THAN 2/3



of instances of rape are estimated to go unreported.

73.8% of men who experienced childhood sexual abuse

DIDN'T REPORT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

#METOO

A DAY IN THE LIFE

In just one day, more than 67,000 victims of domestic violence sought services from domestic violence programs and shelters across the US.



Leadership Berks Marketing Plan

The 2018 Leadership Berks class included a fabulous team of six professionals – Jennifer Ebersole, Safe Berks Director of Education & Outreach, Sherry Berriker, now a member of the Safe Berks Board of Directors, Craig Dodge, Kristin Nawoczenski, Lindsay Crist and Alyssa Conahan – who dedicated countless hours to creating a marketing plan for Safe Berks!

The infographic on Page 3, designed by Nawoczenski, was one of the marketing pieces developed by the team. The infographic has been printed onto a large sign and is displayed at Safe Berks events. The sign was sponsored by VA Productions, Inc. Safe Berks staff will continue to implement many other projects proposed in the marketing plan, including enhancements to the website, social media, our data bases, public relations and advertising.

Seeking Volunteers to Wrap Gifts & Cook!

Do you like to wrap holiday gifts? Safe Berks would appreciate your help! For the second year in a row, Safe Berks will coordinate a gift-wrapping table at the Berkshire Mall every day from December 1 to December 24.

“Last year, the response from our volunteers was absolutely amazing,” said Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development. “We raised more than \$10,000 to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We are hoping to have another very successful gift-wrapping effort this year.” To volunteer, please email: giftwrap@SafeBerks.org

Safe Berks is also seeking groups to cook dinners on weeknights for Safe Berks residents. “These special dinners bring a lot of happiness to our residents,” said McIntosh. “Groups or individuals can bring their own food, cook the food we have, or a combination.” Anyone interested in cooking can email MindyM@SafeBerks.org or call 484-869-5293.



The Leadership Berks team donated a day last year to wrap holiday gifts for Safe Berks! Clockwise from far left: Sherry Berriker, now a Safe Berks Board member; Craig Dodge; Kristin Nawoczenski; Lindsay Crist; Alyssa Conahan; & Jennifer Ebersole, Safe Berks Director of Education & Outreach.



Thanks to the Board of Directors of My Gut Instinct who recently visited Safe Berks and cooked a fabulous meal for residents featuring Chicken Primavera and Spaghetti! My Gut Instinct is a non-profit which promotes preventive health care and holistic wellbeing.

Education & Outreach



Thanks to all the Camp Safe Berks campers, parents, staff & volunteers who gathered at the first Camp Safe Berks reunion! Special thanks to Calvary United Church of Christ, Reading, and Pastor Steve Ohnsman, Safe Berks Board Member and Camp Safe Berks facilitator, for inviting Safe Berks to hold the reunion in the beautiful church. The campers will continue to meet with each other and their adult allies through the year, building alliances to increase peace and social justice in their schools and communities. For more info about Camp Safe Berks 2019, email: [Jennifer Ebersole, Director of Education & Outreach, at JenniferE@SafeBerks.org.](mailto:JenniferEbersole@SafeBerks.org)



A group of dedicated Safe Berks volunteers and staff have been spending every Tuesday and Thursday evening together, throughout the Fall, to attend the Safe Berks 66-Hour Training. This training is required before volunteers or staff can provide direct service to Safe Berks clients, who are survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. This training is also required prior to a college student beginning an internship at Safe Berks. For more info, or to sign up for the next Safe Berks 66-Hour Training, email: [Jennifer Ebersole, Director of Education & Outreach, at JenniferE@SafeBerks.org.](mailto:JenniferEbersole@SafeBerks.org)

Safe Berks Announces Two Promotions



Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development



Danielle Palermo, Director of Counseling

Mindy McIntosh was recently promoted to serve as Director of Development. In her new position, she directs and coordinates fundraising efforts, special events, and volunteer activities.

McIntosh joined the Safe Berks staff in 2017, serving as Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator. In her first year she expanded volunteer opportunities by coordinating a Safe Berks gift wrapping table at the Berkshire Mall during December, as well as growing the number of volunteer groups who cook dinner for residents on weeknights. She also took on a leadership role in the two largest annual fundraising events, the Celebration of Peace in December, and the Walk for NO MORE in June.

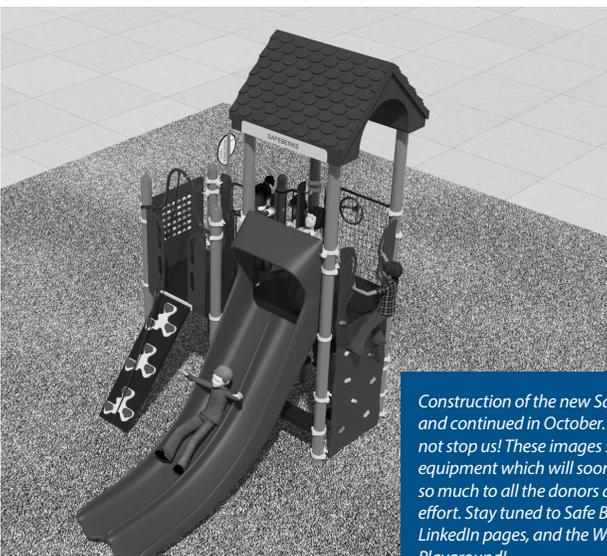
Prior to working at Safe Berks, McIntosh served the Children's Home of Reading (CHOR) for 24 years, in such roles as Development Registrar, Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator, and Development Supervisor.

Danielle Palermo was recently promoted to serve as Director of Counseling. In her new position, she will supervise and mentor counseling staff, provide counseling to clients, and coordinate individual and group counseling opportunities. She will continue to strengthen the Safe Berks commitment to trauma-informed, empowerment counseling.

Palermo has been working in the counseling field since 2013. She served as a therapeutic support worker at Alternative Consulting Enterprises, and then as a lead behavior support worker at New Story. In these positions, she worked with children and adolescents to develop positive social, emotional, and behavioral skills. She joined the Safe Berks team in 2017, first serving as a Safe House Case Manager, and then working as a Counselor. In December 2018, Palermo will receive her master's degree in social work from Widener University.



Thank you to Jan's Circle of Friends for their recent grant to help fund our Nature Explore Garden! Arianna Sanchez, left, Children's Advocate, and Danielle Palermo, Director of Counseling, attended a conference to learn how to best utilize our garden. Education Specialist Kirsten Haugen visited to provide training to 10 staff members. The Nature Explore Garden provides opportunities for survivors – children and adults – to enjoy positive experiences with nature, reduce stress and promote healing from trauma.



Construction of the new Safe Berks Playground began in September and continued in October. So many rainy days slowed us down but did not stop us! These images show different views of the new Playground equipment which will soon be ready for the children to enjoy! Thanks so much to all the donors and volunteers who helped with this major effort. Stay tuned to Safe Berks Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & LinkedIn pages, and the Winter Newsletter, to see the new Safe Berks Playground!

Welcome New Staff!



Lisa De La Cruz, Community Educator



Oumar Kallo, Children's Alliance Center Coordinator



Vanessa Salazar, Safe Healing Counselor/Advocate

The vision of Safe Berks is to eliminate domestic violence & sexual assault in Berks County.

- ▶ Crisis Services
- ▶ Residential Services
- ▶ Education & Outreach
- ▶ Counseling
- ▶ Systems Advocacy
- ▶ Legal Services

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SAVE THE DATE

Monday, December 10, 2018 • 6 to 8 pm
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Reading, PA

Celebration of

Peace

CELEBRATING

Voices for Change Award Winners

Koinos Community Church & The Power of the Purse of Berks County

Vision for Peace Honoree

Dr. Thomas F. Flynn, President, Alvernia University

To register visit www.SafeBerks.org, click on Events.

Gifts to Safe Berks

The Give Now button, located on our website at www.safeberks.org/donate/donate-now/, is a convenient way to support Safe Berks. Receipts are generated immediately via email. The official registration and financial information of Safe Berks may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does imply endorsement.

Contact Us

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Reading, PA 19602

www.SafeBerks.org
P: 610.373.1206 | F: 610.372.4188
Email: Peace@SafeBerks.org

Toll Free Hotline:
844-789-SAFE (7233)
Or Text SAFE BERKS to 20121



United Way of Berks County