

One Morning— One Mission 15th Annual Celebration of Peace & Walk For NO MORE!

After waiting 18 months, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Safe Berks community gathered in person on June 19, to rededicate ourselves to our mission of ending domestic violence and sexual assault.

During the Celebration of Peace, **John and Lisa Gallen** were honored with the *Vision for Peace* award. John and Lisa, and their company Ethosource Office Furniture, have helped Safe Berks and other non-profits throughout the years, by sharing generous gifts, including designing and furnishing many facilities used to serve the public.

The United Way of Berks County and **Blankets of Hope** were honored with the *Voices for Change* awards. For decades, the United Way of Berks County has provided essential assistance to Safe Berks. We are honored to be one of their 35 partner agencies. Blankets of Hope has provided hundreds of new blankets and dozens of twin-size beds to Safe Berks clients. These generous donations provide warmth and comfort to our residents, and also travel with them to their new homes.

Donna, a courageous survivor of domestic violence and a former Safe Berks client, shared her story of survival. Donna also shared the happiness she has found in her new home and job and encouraged others who are suffering from abuse to reach out for help. After she spoke, hundreds of supporters stood up to cheer for her.

Special thanks to our Host Committee, led by **Ann and Don Moll**, for everything they did to make the day a great success! Thanks to all our **Annual Sponsors** and **Breakfast Sponsors**! See pages 3 and 4.

After the presentations, the award winners led hundreds of advocates, including 23 Walk for NO MORE Teams, down Penn Avenue, and we said together: NO MORE domestic violence! NO MORE sexual assault!



Safe Berks surprised John and Lisa, ardent fans of legendary local artist Keith Haring, with a framed and engraved print of a Keith Haring work, presented by Keith's sister, right, Kay Haring!



Tammy White, left, President of United Way of Berks County, and Jean Morrow, Senior Vice President, Leadership United, United Way of Berks County, celebrate receiving the Safe Berks Voices for Change award!



Marc Goldstein, right, founder of Blankets of Hope, and Mike Dautrich, of Blankets of Hope, celebrate receiving the Voices for Change award!



Special thanks to our T-shirt Sponsors, CBL Custom Apparel and White Star Tours!

A Message from our CEO

This summer has been a season of joy and sorrow.

Hundreds of people gathered together on June 19 at our 15th annual Celebration of Peace and Walk For NO MORE. It was a fabulous day, filled with joy!

We are so grateful to all our volunteers, donors, sponsors, staff, board members, PeaceTrust members, advocates, family, and friends who supported these events. We created several new fundraising records, and every dollar we raised will help us continue our mission of serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

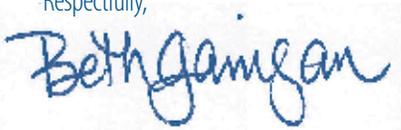
Another great joy was awarding the *Vision for Peace* award to John and Lisa Gallen, and the *Voices for Change* awards to United Way of Berks County and Blankets of Hope. These amazing award winners have done so much to help Safe Berks and the entire Berks County community, it was our honor to recognize their generosity and service.

Sadly, this summer also brought terrible sorrow. Berks County experienced several crimes, described by authorities as acts of domestic violence. These senseless acts of violence included fatalities – beautiful lives lost, children left to grow up without their parents.

On Oct. 18th, we will gather at Safe Berks for our annual Silent Witness March and Dedication. We will march silently to Reading Area Community College, where we will honor and remember all the beautiful lives lost to domestic violence in Berks County. For more information about this event, or to attend, please email Delio Santana, Manager of Education and Outreach Programs, at DelioS@SafeBerks.org.

We will never stop our relentless commitment to prevent abuse and as we move forward, our services will expand to assure our ability to reach victims where they are and provide the services they need. We have experienced this growth already and to accommodate our expanding services and staff, we have opened a second location at 147 N. 5th St, Reading, which will provide staff with the space necessary to continue our lifesaving work. Please see Page 5 for more information about this exciting new development! In closing, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your support. Thanks to you, Safe Berks continues to grow.

Respectfully,




Safe Berks CEO Beth Garigan

Safe Berks Seeking Volunteer Cooks!

Safe Berks is seeking volunteers to prepare and deliver dinner to residents, every evening of the week. Another option is to sponsor dinner for Safe Berks residents from a local restaurant. This also helps local restaurants, who were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are so grateful to all the volunteers who have provided dinners for residents. Together, we are building a Safe Berks!

For more info, or to schedule a dinner, please contact Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development, at 610-468-9637 or MindyM@SafeBerks.org. Together, we are building a Safe Berks!



Thanks to the Girls Leadership Club at 3rd & Spruce Rec Center, led by Heather Boyer, and Amanda Wilson, for recently providing dinner for Safe Berks residents!

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

Counseling
610-373-1206, ext. 606
Legal Services
610-373-1206, ext. 107
Peace@SafeBerks.org

www.SafeBerks.org

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2020/2021
Celebration of Peace
and Walk for NO MORE

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WHAT'S NEXT





Camp Safe Berks – A Teen Alliance to End Violence!

During the week of July 26 to 30, 16 local teens participated in a fun, educational and memorable experience — Camp Safe Berks! For the first time, Camp Safe Berks was held at the beautiful DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Reading. This free day camp focused on issues of social justice, and how teens can create positive change in their schools and communities. Camp Safe Berks, offered by the Safe Berks Education and Outreach Department, included games, art activities including tie-dyeing shirts, guest speakers, a visit from an ice cream truck!

Teens from throughout Berks County met new friends and built strong bonds with others who share a passion for ending all types of oppression and building a

peaceful community where each person is treated equally. Campers explored the existence of inequality and violence in our society, and how youth can participate in significant social change. Discussions included how to build alliances — across race, gender, socio-economic groups, sexual orientation, and age lines — in order to create positive change.

Throughout the year, Safe Berks will offer meetings and activities for the campers to reunite, have fun, and share ideas. **For more information about Camp Safe Berks, please contact Delio Santana, Manager of Education and Outreach Programs, at DelioS@SafeBerks.org or 610-370-7811.**



Members Gather Virtually in Spring 2021

PeaceTrust members gathered at two virtual events in the spring of 2021. These events provided opportunities to connect, network, share valuable information, and celebrate the 15-year anniversary of PeaceTrust!

On May 5, we held the PeaceTrust event, “Safety As We Age,” via Zoom. During this event, guest speaker Rochelle Wanner, Protective Services Supervisor at the Berks County Area Agency on Aging, shared information about services available to help ensure the safety of loved ones as they age.

The PeaceTrust event, “Technology in the Wrong Hands,” took place May 17 via Zoom. This event featured Natasha Turczynski, Primary Prevention Specialist at Safe Berks, who led the discussion on stalking and other ways abusers harass victims

using the internet and social media, as well as safety planning tips.

Safe Berks plans to hold a PeaceTrust Luncheon, where members can gather in person, in Spring 2022. Stay tuned for details on that festive event!

PeaceTrust, a Women’s Leadership Giving program at Safe Berks, was founded in 2006 by Carolyn Holleran and is now led by Andi Funk. Members of PeaceTrust donate funds to support Safe Berks and our free 24-hour services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Each PeaceTrust member commits to donating \$500 to Safe Berks each year for five years. There are also opportunities for new Junior members to join by donating \$300 per year, and for young women to become “Link” members with a \$100 donation.

Thank you to these restaurants for providing a delicious breakfast at the Celebration of Peace!



RAWDEN JOINT VENTURES

MAX CREMA'S
COFFEE ROASTERS

“We are so grateful to all our PeaceTrust members for their generous, ongoing support of Safe Berks,” said Beth Garrigan, Safe Berks CEO. “We know our services are more crucial now than ever. We greatly appreciate how our PeaceTrust members provide a network of community supporters who share a passion for our relentless commitment to prevent abuse and build a peaceful community.”

If you or someone you know would like to support Safe Berks as a PeaceTrust member, please visit www.SafeBerks.org/donate/peace-trust/ or contact Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development, at 610-468-9637 or MindyM@SafeBerks.org.

Safe Berks Opens Second Location! Legal Services Team and Some Administration Move to New Offices

When the Safe Berks facility on Chestnut Street in Reading opened its doors in 2012, then known as Berks Women in Crisis, it marked the first time all services were offered under one roof.

However, due to the growth of the organization, the Safe Berks Legal Services team and some administrative staff have a new office location.

"In the past nine years, our services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault have expanded greatly as we work every day to save lives," said Beth Garrigan, Safe Berks CEO. "Due to the expansion of our services, we have created and filled many new positions. Through all of this, we realized we have just simply outgrown our home at 255 Chestnut Street."

"I am thrilled that we have secured a second location at 147 North 5th Street, Reading," said Garrigan. "This new location will house our Legal Department and some of our Administrative staff. The Legal Services staff are now closer to the Berks County Courthouse, where they spend much of their time serving clients. We are truly grateful to Penn State Health St. Joseph and John and Lisa Gallen and the Ethosource team for donating, delivering, and setting up the furniture for these new Safe Berks offices."

"Every day I am amazed by the dedication of our staff," said Garrigan. "They are constantly enhancing the



Five of the 12 staff moving to the new location are shown in photo, from right: Diane Ellis, Esq., Director of Legal Services; Jennifer Sawyer, Legal Advocate Coordinator; Laura Burke, Legal Advocate; Rachael Cohen Hamilton, Grant Writer; and Kurt Wichman, Esq., Staff Attorney

services we offer survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This second location will allow our staff the space needed continue their lifesaving work."

Safe Berks will hold an official ribbon cutting ceremony at the new site. Stay tuned for further details!

FAST FACTS

Address:

147 North 5th Street, Reading

Office hours:

Weekdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

To request Legal Services call:

610-373-1206 ext. 107

Office Phone Number:

610-373-1206

Office Email:

Peace@SafeBerks.org



Beth Garrigan, Safe Berks CEO, left, and Mereliss Colon Ortiz, Safe Berks COO, celebrate the Celebration of Peace and Walk For NO MORE!



Team Captain Maria Mateo, Safe Healing Project Counselor at Safe Berks, who led one of the largest teams, Ni Una Mas, Ni Una Menos, which translates to Not One More, Not One Less.



Thanks to Senator Judy Schwank, right, and Shawn Gamble, Field Representative in the office of Congressman Dan Meuser, for supporting Safe Berks and survivors!

Special thanks to our photography sponsor TAYPAC Photography!

SAVE THE DATE!

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Safe Berks Silent Witness March & Dedication

Monday, October 18, 2021

For more information, contact
Delio Santana, Manager of Education &
Outreach Programs, at 610-370-7811 or
DelioS@SafeBerks.org.

More information will be available closer
to the date of the event, at
www.SafeBerks.org, click on Events.

*To reduce the risk of COVID-19 and protect the
public health, we will follow all CDC guidelines.*

Legal Team & Some Administrative Staff Move to New Location! See Page 5

The vision of Safe Berks is: Berks County is free from domestic violence and sexual assault.

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

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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

Safe Berks
255 Chestnut Street
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

