

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities at Safe Berks

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (#SAAM). Throughout April, Safe Berks staff honored survivors, and shared awareness and prevention information at events and through social media. This photo was taken at the SAAM kickoff event; when Safe Berks staff planted 250 pinwheels outside our Chestnut Street location. These pinwheels symbolize local survivors of sexual assault and our dedication to support them. See Page 3 for more photos and information about SAAM.



16TH ANNUAL
Celebration of
Peace
2022



OLIVET
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF READING & BERKS COUNTY

WALK FOR NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

Saturday June 18, 2022 • 9 to 11 a.m.

Location: Corner of Penn Ave. & Park Road, Wyomissing,
look for large tent!

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

Cost: Free to attend; donations greatly appreciated

Questions: Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development,
MindyM@SafeBerks.org or 610-468-9637



PennState Health
St. Joseph Medical Center

Safe Berks is proud to honor Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center and the Olivet Boys & Girls Club of Reading & Berks County with our Voices for Change Awards! These amazing organizations have supported Safe Berks for decades, as well as providing crucial services to the entire community.

The Celebration of Peace begins at 9 a.m. We will honor our Award recipients, thank our generous Annual Sponsors, and hear the story of a courageous survivor. After the presentation, around 10:30 a.m., our Award winners will lead us as we Walk For NO MORE to the 400 block of Penn Avenue.

We are thrilled that this event will again kickoff West Reading's annual celebration of Art on the Avenue. We hope to see you June 18!

A Message from our CEO

Greetings to each of you and happy Spring!

Safe Berks staff have been extremely busy this Spring. April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (#SAAM) and our staff did a tremendous job of planning events, sharing information and webinars on social media, and collaborating with our many community partners to provide awareness aimed at prevention.

Special thanks to our Education & Outreach Department, who coordinated a special event called "Recognizing & Remembering Victims of Sexual Assault – Known & Unknown." During this event, Safe Berks staff planted 250 pinwheels outside our Chestnut Street location. These pinwheels symbolize local sexual assault survivors and our dedication to support them. They are also symbols of hope and healing.

Our new Community Outreach & Response Department (COR) delivered thousands of teal ribbons along with information about our free services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. These teal ribbons were distributed at hospitals, medical offices, restaurants, shops, and at many other locations throughout Berks County. Photos of our SAAM activities are shared on the Cover and on Page 3.

Thanks to the generosity of Hamid Chaudhry, Safe Berks Board member and owner of Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery, we held two new special events in March. Check out photos of both events on Page 5. Our Fundraising Dinner at the restaurant was a fun and festive evening for families and friends. More than 200 people attended and raised \$5,528 to help Safe Berks continue our work supporting survivors.

Also at Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery, our PeaceTrust, a leadership giving program, held "Cupcakes for a Cause." This new event provided an opportunity for high school and college students to learn more about Safe Berks. Special thanks to Andi Funk, leader of the PeaceTrust, and to Hamid for making this event possible. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sam, a college-aged survivor, for speaking to the group. After the presentation, all attendees decorated cupcakes that were shared with Safe Berks' Safe House residents.

Lastly, please save the date Saturday June 18 for our combined Celebration of Peace and Walk For NO MORE!

Wishing you a healthy, safe, and wonderful Spring!

Respectfully,



Safe Berks CEO Beth Garrigan
Photo by John Secoges, Photo courtesy of Berks County Living magazine

Safe Berks Seeking Volunteer Cooks!

Safe Berks is seeking volunteers to provide dinner to residents every evening of the week. Another option is to sponsor dinner from a local restaurant.

For more info, or to schedule a dinner, please contact Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development, at 610-468-9637 or MindyM@SafeBerks.org.

Thanks to all our volunteer cooks! Together, we are building a Safe Berks!



Special thanks to Sharon Mast for delivering a delicious meal to 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

Follow Safe Berks



Sexual Assault Awareness Month (#SAAM)



Victoria Simmons, left, Campus Response Specialist at Safe Berks, is shown in photo with advocates from Berks Teens Matter at Albright College's Take Back The Night event. This powerful night of solidarity for survivors, part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), included poetry and rewriting your story through narrative practice. Take Back The Night marches and gatherings began in the 1970s and spread around the globe, aiming to combat and prevent sexual violence. This event was one of many SAAM events on local college campuses.



Safe Berks staff delivered thousands of teal ribbons, along with information about our free services for survivors, as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We were honored to see advocates wearing these teal ribbons in hospitals and medical offices, in restaurants and shops, and at special events throughout Berks County. Staff also distributed thousands of coffee sleeves with information about SAAM to local coffee shops. These efforts encourage conversations, and every positive conversation helps end the stigma which has surrounded sexual violence. Ending the stigma surrounding sexual violence will help more survivors seek support. Discussion and awareness will also lead to the prevention of these crimes.



To kickoff Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), Safe Berks staff planted 250 pinwheels outside our Chestnut Street location at a special event called "Recognizing & Remembering Victims of Sexual Assault – Known & Unknown." These pinwheels symbolize local sexual assault survivors and our dedication to support them. Staff also participated in a training and discussion about issues of sexual violence in the military, and efforts to support survivors and end these crimes.

New Community Outreach & Response (COR) Department

The Community Outreach & Response (COR) Department was recently formed at Safe Berks to bring together programs designed to serve survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault out in the community. COR staff also provide educational and awareness programming to organizations throughout Berks County.

"We know that meeting with survivors where they are already comfortable helps to alleviate barriers in receiving services," said Stacey Jordan, Managing Director of Community Engagement at Safe Berks. "We are rapidly expanding our ability to place Safe Berks Advocates at partner sites throughout Berks County. Our trauma-informed and victim-centered support services help to empower survivors. We are truly grateful to our partner agencies for helping to make our free services more accessible to a greater number of local survivors."

The new COR Department is led by Co-Managers Meghan Sager and Marissa Pham. In addition to these new roles, Meghan continues to provide

oversight to the Medical Advocacy Partnership Program (MAPP), and Marissa continues to act as the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Coordinator. Other COR staff includes MAPP Specialists, Rapid Response/MAPP Advocates, and Community Response Specialists.

COR staff members provide on-site response to the following community partners: Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center, Bern Township, and downtown Reading facility; Reading Hospital Tower Health; Berks Community Health Center; Berks County Courthouse; Berks County Jail System; Children's Alliance Center of Berks County; Friend, Inc. Community Services, Kutztown; LGBT Center of Greater Reading; Easy Does It, Inc., Leesport; Clare of Assisi House; Berks Technical Institute; Reading Area Community College; Kutztown University; Alvernia University; Albright College; and Penn State University-Berks Campus.

Safe Berks Medical Advocates provide services and support to survivors at all healthcare facilities 24



The new COR Department is led by Co-Managers Marissa Pham, left, and Meghan Sager.

hours a day, 365 days a year. To request medical advocacy from Safe Berks, or other crisis services including shelter, call the Safe Berks 24-hour Hotline at 844-789-SAFE or text SAFE BERKS to 20121.

Safe Berks is always seeking new partnerships to assist more survivors. Please contact Stacey Jordan at StaceyJ@SafeBerks.org or 610-373-1206 ext. 141, to discuss collaborating with Safe Berks.

camp **SAFE** berks[®]

A Teen Alliance To End Violence

Camp Safe Berks Fast Facts

WHO: Berks County youth, ages 13-18
WHEN: August 1-5, 2022
TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Albright College
COST: FREE – including Meals & Transportation
TO APPLY:
 Visit www.SafeBerks.org/services/education-outreach/
QUESTIONS: Contact Delio Santana, Manager of Education & Outreach Programs at 610-370-7811 or DelioS@SafeBerks.org.

Camp Safe Berks – A Team Alliance to End Violence

Local teens are invited to attend Camp Safe Berks! This free day camp is provided by the Safe Berks Education & Outreach Department. This year, Camp Safe Berks will be held August 1-5 on the beautiful Albright College campus.

“Camp Safe Berks is a great opportunity for local teens because it brings youth and adults together to form alliances of support that promote peace and justice in our communities,” said Delio Santana, Manager of Education & Outreach Programs at Safe Berks. “Camp Safe Berks also provides a space where campers can engage in honest discussions and group activities designed to build acceptance of the differences in others, as well as gain deeper understanding of the role oppression plays in being a root cause of violence in our society.”

Camp Safe Berks is designed to ignite a passion within youth participants to not only spur their own personal growth and development, but also to become champions for social justice change throughout their community. The campers will also enjoy games, free time, and arts and crafts. After the Camp ends, Safe Berks staff will coordinate activities for the campers to reunite during the following school year.

For more information or to apply, visit www.SafeBerks.org/services/education-outreach/, or contact Delio at 610-370-7811 or DelioS@SafeBerks.org.



Safe Berks has a Gift Registry at Boscov's Department Store! This is a great way to support Safe Berks and an awesome local business at the same time. Here is the link: <https://www.myregistry.com/boscovs-registry/wishlist/safe-berks-reading-pa/2359375>
Thanks for your support!



Sincere gratitude to the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 13 for choosing to highlight Safe Berks at their statewide Women's Conference held March 4-6, and for donating \$10,000 to Safe Berks! This exciting news was announced the last night of the Conference, which was held at the Hershey Lodge. Francine Scoboria, right, Communications Coordinator, and Victoria Simmons, center, Campus Response Specialist, participated in the Conference and shared information with more than 300 people from across Pennsylvania who attended the Conference. Victoria delivered the keynote address, highlighting the history and mission of Safe Berks.



Safe Berks & The LGBT Center of Greater Reading
Michaela Yurchak, Community Response Specialist at Safe Berks, provides on-site response and office hours at The LGBT Center of Greater Reading, 640 Centre Ave., on Wednesdays 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., and on Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Michaela, right, is shown in photo with Michelle Dech, Executive Director of the LGBT Center. Michaela provides advocacy and support services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Thanks to the LGBT Center for making this possible and for our strong partnership. To contact Michaela to schedule an appointment during these hours or at another time, email MichaelaY@SafeBerks.org or call 610-373-1206 ext.104.



Do you shop on Amazon? If you shop through Amazon Smile a small percentage of the money you spend can benefit Safe Berks! If lots of people do this every time they shop, it can really add up over time! The link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/> Then you log in, and choose your charity of choice. Safe Berks is one of the options. It should work exactly the same as your regular Amazon account. We also have a Charity Wish List on our Amazon Smile page. Together we can build a Safe Berks!

Safe Berks Fundraising Dinner!

The Safe Berks Fundraising Dinner was a great success and raised \$5,528 to support our work serving survivors! More than 200 people attended this new event, which was held March 11 at the Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery. Special thanks to Hamid Chaudhry, owner of the restaurant and a member of the Safe Berks Board of Directors, for generously providing this event. Everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner and the opportunity to connect with family and friends.



Thanks to these fabulous volunteers from 3rd & Spruce Recreation Center, Reading, and their leader Heather Boyer, center, and to all the wonderful volunteers who donated their time and effort to make this event a great success!



Safe Berks Board member Aneasa Jordan and her son, Jay Jay Jordan.



From right, Beth Garrigan, Safe Berks CEO, Stacey Jordan, Managing Director of Community Engagement at Safe Berks, Hamid Chaudhry, owner of the Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery and a member of the Safe Berks Board of Directors, Meg McCallum, Assistant District Attorney, Berks County, and her daughter, Grayce McCallum, volunteer.

FUNDRAISING DINNER RAISED
\$5,528!



From left, Shawn Gamble, and Michael and Diane Duff.



Delio Santana, center, Manager of Education & Outreach Programs at Safe Berks, and his family.



Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development at Safe Berks, and Hamid Chaudhry, owner of the Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery.

Cupcakes for a Cause!

Thanks to everyone who attended the Safe Berks Cupcakes for a Cause event March 28 at the Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery! This event provided an opportunity for high school and college students to learn more about Safe Berks. Everyone who attended decorated cupcakes, and the delicious cupcakes were shared with Safe Berks residents. Special thanks to Andi Funk, leader of PeaceTrust, a leadership giving program at Safe Berks, for her help with this event. Heartfelt gratitude to the brave survivor who shared her story. Thanks also to Hamid Chaudhry, owner of the Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery and a member of the Safe Berks Board of Directors, and the amazing restaurant staff, for making this event possible.



Andi Funk, right, leader of PeaceTrust, a leadership giving program at Safe Berks, and her mother, Annie delCollo.

SAVE THE DATE!

Celebration of Peace & Walk for NO MORE

Saturday June 18

**Corner of Penn Ave. & Park Road,
Wyomissing**

Voices for Change Honorees

**Penn State Health St. Joseph
Medical Center**

**Olivet Boys & Girls Club
of Reading & Berks County**

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

Questions, contact Mindy McIntosh,
Director of Development, at 610-468-9637
or MindyM@SafeBerks.org.

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

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

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Educate • Advocate • End Abuse

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