

Building Safety. Building Community. Building a Future.

Whether we realize it or not, we all know people who are being abused. That's not hard to grasp when you recognize that every minute of every day, 24 people experience Intimate Partner Violence.

Over the past six years, Women's Center & Shelter has been forced to turn away thousands of Intimate Partner Violence victims because all of our 36 beds were full. We know that 75 percent of domestic violence fatalities occur when the victim attempts to leave the relationship or after the relationship has ended. When no beds are available, we always try to find alternative arrangements. Tragically, that isn't always possible.

Turning away victims of Intimate Partner Violence simply isn't acceptable. Which is why we've launched the Shelter from the Storm capital campaign to imagine a bigger, better Women's Center & Shelter.

WC&S has been privileged to help thousands of families rebuild their lives. We know we make a difference – but only with your help. Find out how you can become part of the solution at www.shelterfromthestorm.us.



Shelter from the Storm

THE CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE ACCESS, SECURITY & HOPE



Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh



Where to
find help
should be.

Women's
Center &
Shelter of
Greater
Pittsburgh

For over 41 years, Women's Center & Shelter (WC&S) has not only created awareness of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), we've worked tirelessly with community partners to create innovative programs, services and solutions to address the nightmare of IPV.



Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh



The signs
of domestic
violence
aren't always
obvious.

When things seem hopeless, turn to a leader in domestic violence issues and advocacy.

It's not enough to simply acknowledge that Intimate Partner Violence exists. It's time to do something about it. We are.



The RUSafe Mobile App

A free dangerous relationship assessment App for both Apple and Android devices, RUSafe invites the user to answer a series of questions about her/his relationship. The App then calculates the responses and, if there is cause for concern, it will enable the user to directly call our 24-Hour Hotline or the nearest domestic violence services using GPS technology. If the user is in

immediate, lethal danger, they can call 911 directly from the App.

WC&S worked with Pittsburgh-based Newton Consulting to develop the RUSafe App, now available in all 50 states. Since its national debut in November 2014, it has been opened nearly 1,600 times in 43 states. While this is a great start, many victims still suffer in silence. The RUSafe App is a life-saving tool available at your fingertips.

WC&S Partners with Pittsburgh Police to Implement Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

When City of Pittsburgh police officers are called to a home where domestic violence is suspected, they administer an 11-point questionnaire to gauge just how close that victim may be to losing their life. If the victim scores high on the lethality scale, the police officer, in the presence of the victim, calls the WC&S 24-Hour Hotline.

Since its implementation in December 2013, WC&S has received more than 1,250 LAP Hotline calls. In addition, five local universities have agreed to participate in the initiative to implement LAP through their own campus police departments.

The next step will be the introduction of a new LAP Mobile App in Fall 2015. This will allow police officers to more easily administer the assessment and will transfer data directly to the WC&S client database, enhancing the effectiveness of safety planning by our 24-Hour Hotline staff.

LAP is a powerful tool connecting victims of domestic violence to the programs and services they so desperately need.



*William Gay
Pittsburgh Steelers Cornerback
National RUSafe Spokesperson*

“ This App is so important to me because I lost my mother to domestic violence. She had no one to help her. No hotline to call. RUSafe will save lives. ”



“ Surviving abuse and rebuilding your life is a very complicated process. Women’s Center & Shelter helps you in every area. ”

A Proven Approach to Healing

As one of the first six shelters for battered women in the United States, Women’s Center & Shelter is a pioneer in implementing programs and services based upon best practices. And while it has been over 41 years since our humble beginnings, our commitment to keeping women and their children safe remains unchanged.

Last year, WC&S served over 6,200 individuals. While we are best known for offering Emergency Shelter to victims and their children in immediate danger, we also provide a wide range of programs and services to keep women and children safe.

- 24-Hour Emergency Shelter
- 24-Hour Hotline
- Children’s Program
- Civil Law Project
- Education
- Empowerment Center Support Groups
- Legal Advocacy
- Medical Advocacy
- Men’s Group

You are not alone. There is help and there is hope. Call our 24-Hour Hotline at **412-687-8005** or learn more at **WCSCanHelp.org**.

Veronica’s Story

With five children, including one with special medical needs, leaving an abusive marriage seemed impossible. Until one last episode of domestic assault and guidance from police officers lead Veronica to Women’s Center & Shelter.

“That night, my husband threw me to the ground, banging my head several times on the floor. When I was able to get up, I called 911. I suffered a concussion and an injury to my AC joint. Police officers introduced me to Women’s Center & Shelter. I made that call.

“Every time I went, I learned more and more and I knew it was the place I needed to be. I say ‘this is what happened’ and they say ‘We believe you.’ Surviving abuse and rebuilding your life is a very complicated process. Women’s Center & Shelter helps you in every area.”

“Since I’ve been able to leave, I’m stronger and smarter than I’ve ever been. What I’m most proud of is becoming the mother my children need me to be. I couldn’t imagine giving up.”