Partnering to End Human Trafficking

The Greene County Housing Options Partnership (GCHOP) and the SPHS CARE Center STTARS Program partnered on January 23rd to enhance outreach on human trafficking in southwestern Pennsylvania. While canvassing the county as part of the Point in Time
survey on homelessness, GCHOP members posted information aimed at trafficking victims, listing hotline and textline numbers that they can contact for help. Educational information was also distributed on recognizing the signs of trafficking and where to report any suspicious activity. For more information on ending human trafficking in our communities, please contact the STTARS Program at 724-229-5007 or 724-627-6108.

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Jason Beckwith is a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) that works out of the Butler CARE office, providing peer support and acting as an advocate for those with substance abuse issues. His commitment to instill hope and purpose for those living with or in recovery from addiction, has led him to start a non-profit organization, Action in Recovery. The goal of this organization is to build connections between those in recovery and their community by helping others. One recent Action in Recovery project involved construction of a new pavilion in a Butler community park.

As an individual in recovery, Jason recognized that secure housing was a huge barrier to achieving and maintaining freedom from addiction, and so he founded the House of Homage 3/4 house. The house follows a model of shared accountability, evidence based recovery programming, employment opportunities, and oversight.

Jason has made it his mission to help people become the best version of themselves. He seeks to remove the stigma of addiction through community service and the creation of lasting connections with others.

We applaud Jason's efforts within the Butler community and are proud to count him as a member of the CARE team! For more information about CRS services in Butler County, please call 724-234-1370.
Enhancing Services for Immigrant Survivors

The CARE Center STTARS Program has become a member of the Immigrant Survivors Advocate Network (ISAN). ISAN is an alliance of sexual and domestic violence service agencies from across Pennsylvania. The network's mission is to increase the safety and autonomy of immigrant survivors and their families by ensuring that culturally and linguistically appropriate victim services are available and accessible throughout the Commonwealth.

Because of its membership with ISAN, survivors seeking services through the STTARS Program will have access to:

- Free immigration legal services
- Document translation
- Telephone interpretation services

Training and technical assistance will also be available for STTARS Program staff.

To find out more about ISAN, visit the Pennsylvania Immigrant Resource Center website.
April 2019 is SAAM's 18th anniversary. While one month isn't enough to solve the widespread issue of sexual violence, it does provide the opportunity to generate conversations and energize prevention efforts that can be carried on throughout the year.

Sexual violence is a serious issue. Nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 67 men in the United States has experienced rape or attempted rape in their lifetimes. By embracing prevention, we can stop sexual violence before it has a chance to occur. This means changing attitudes, values, and behaviors.

Prevention is everyone's responsibility. We can all create and promote safe environments. We can be active bystanders, model healthy attitudes and respect in relationships, and believe survivors and assist them in finding resources.

For more on this year’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month Campaign visit the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) website. For more information on how you can promote sexual violence prevention in Washington and Greene Counties, call the STTARS Program at 724-229-5007.
Getting to Know About the CARE Center's Behavioral Health Crisis Services

SPHS CARE Center Behavioral Health Crisis Services is a telephone, walk-in, and mobile crisis service that responds around the clock to those experiencing mental health crisis, including but not limited to the following:

- Threats of suicide
- Suicidal thoughts
- Self-Injury
- Aggressive behavior
- Threats to harm others
- Depression
- Severe emotional upset or inability to care for daily needs
- Overwhelming anxiety or panic attacks

A crisis can affect anyone at any time. When you call our crisis services help line, you will speak with a trained professional who is compassionate, supportive, and nonjudgmental. Our crisis staff strives to help you gain emotional relief, identify resources, and develop solutions in your time of need. These services are available at no cost. The Crisis team will assess the level of risk, provide crisis support by phone and may activate a mobile crisis worker directly to the person in crisis to intervene and stabilize the situation if needed. The SPHS CARE Center Crisis line is staffed by professionals who can respond to your crisis 24 hours per
day and 7 days per week. They will talk with you about your current crisis and help determine if additional support is needed. For example services offered can include, a telephone conversation to provide understanding and support, a face-to-face intervention, or a referral to another service that best meets your needs.

To access Crisis Intervention Services, please call the hotline number for your county:
Greene County:  1-800-417-9460
Washington County:  1-877-225-3567