

The Freeman Flash

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE XLVI

Give help, hope, and healing

Our 2016 annual appeal letter is in the mail! It highlights how our small but mighty team supported survivors this year. With just 19 staff, we:

- responded to 857 hotline calls and police referrals
- provided counseling and advocacy for 1,111 domestic violence and sexual assault survivors from all over the county
- helped 426 people in danger get protection orders
- worked with 774 youth in eleven county schools, providing 191 sessions on violence prevention, healthy relationships and sex education



And with just another 9 staff, we:

- provided high security residential emergency shelter for almost 90 families each year who fled their homes due to imminent danger

We don't and we can't do this work alone. We are propelled forward by our incredible community partners, our courageous clients, our wonderful volunteers, and with the very generous support of people like you.

To give online, visit elizabethfreemancenter.org/donate.

Thank you.

"When I came to Elizabeth Freeman Center I felt my life was over...I didn't know what to live for... I now have a full-time job and am enrolled in college. I now get up every day of my life knowing that I can make a difference."

-Survivor and EFC client



EFC is hiring a Shelter Director

We are seeking an experienced, passionate shelter director to guide the operation of EFC's emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Full-time, permanent position with competitive salary and excellent benefits. Visit elizabethfreemancenter.org/jobs for more information.



Action of the Month: Lift the lid on the family cap!

In Massachusetts, parents on welfare (TAFDC) cannot get benefits to support any children conceived while they are on welfare. This "family cap" rule is misguided and mistaken.

"[Family cap] children are undernourished not because of acts of God, but acts of legislation"

-Deborah A. Frank, MD, Director,
Grow Clinic for Children, Boston Medical Center

A growing movement of people and organizations, including EFC, are organizing to end the family cap rule, which hurts our clients and their children. To get involved, contact Becca at beccab@elizabethfreemancenter.org.



24 hour hotline 1-866-401-2425

Pittsfield
43 Francis Ave.
(413) 499-2425

Gt. Barrington
401 Stockbridge Rd., Ste. 3
(413) 429-8190

North Adams
61 Main St., Ste. 202
(413) 663-7459

www.elizabethfreemancenter.org



Brighten someone's holiday this season

Happy holidays!

This can be a hard time of year for some, including those of our clients and their children who are in shelter or new homes, or are without friends or family right now, or have few resources for to spare for presents.

Interested in spreading a bit of cheer? Become a sponsor with our Holiday Project!

Shelter and community clients create a small wish list of items they and their children are hoping for, and we match these lists with sponsors from the community, who gather the items and help make it a happy holiday for all.

If you are interested, we would love your support. Call Linda S. (our holiday elf) at our Pittsfield office, (413) 499-2425 (ask for Linda S).



Farm and Garden Program Can't Be Beet!

We are so jazzed about the Farm and Garden Program, an after school program run at Pittsfield High School by Berkshire Botanical Garden and the 21st Century Program.



In the program, students learn how to build a garden, plant seeds, take care of animals, and make healthy and nourishing meals. They also run farm stands throughout the year to raise money for donation to a non-profit, and this year, the students selected EFC! Call us corny, but we think it's kind of a huge dill.

Stop by their monthly farm stand (November through May) for a delicious cup of homemade chai tea and other wholesome and delicious treats.



Our prevention educator Jenn talking with Farm and Garden students about EFC services, healthy relationships, and lots more

Thank you, ABC Clothing Sale

Among many things we are thankful for this year, we wanted to say a special thank-you to the ABC Clothing Sale, which donated \$4,000 in proceeds from its annual used clothing sale to EFC's North Adams office.

The donation will help us keep our doors open to everyone fleeing, surviving, or healing from domestic or sexual violence in North County. And it will help us help us work for a day when everyone in Berkshire County is safe.



Wishing you a happy, peaceful, and safe holiday season

As we head into the darkest months of the year, we remember the light of those who are kind, those who patch invisible wounds, those who stand against violence and oppression.

Wishing you love and light this season, from all of us at EFC.

