

The Freeman Flash

JULY 2017

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE XLIX



Action of the Month: Get Ready for Walk a Mile



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our annual Walk a Mile march to end rape, sexual assault and gender violence is coming Third Thursday, September 21! Our Walk a Mile webpage is up and ready for you to register, form a team, and raise funds the easy way using email and social media!

New to the event? An old hand (or shoe) at this? Go to elizabethfreemancenter.org/wam to learn more and register! Walk a Mile In Her Shoes began as a way for men to step up and out to raise awareness about violence, promote healthy masculinity and support survivors services. Each year, it grows and together— all ages, backgrounds, gender identities, races, abilities- we all walk, we all speak out, we all take a stand against domestic and sexual violence. To learn more, contact Katie at katies@elizabethfreemancenter.org.

SEVEN

August 23 at BCC
K111 (Pittsfield), 7pm;

August 26 at
Simon's Rock Daniel
Arts Center (Great
Barrington), 7pm



Come see this truly incredible documentary play about seven women's fight for rights and equality around the globe. Free with suggested donation of \$10. All proceeds benefit EFC! Presented by CeCe Sloan Presents.

Trans Rights are Human Rights



With the Dept. of Justice rolling back Title IX gender identity protections, trans people possibly banned from military service, and health care uncertainty, we want to say to everyone who is trans, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, non-binary, or just plain scared: **You are not alone. EFC is here with and for you.**

EFC Has Pride



Pittsfield celebrated its first Pride Festival June 24th, and EFC is proud to have been involved in organizing the event. LGBTQ counselors Jenn and Jesi and other EFC staff were all at the event which drew an estimated 500 attendees.

Jenni spoke about EFC's dedication to making our services affirming and accessible for all survivors of sexual or intimate partner violence, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Most LGBTQ relationships are loving and supportive, but we know that violence doesn't discriminate. Love is love, not abuse.

If you want to speak with an LGBTQ counselor, contact Jesi (in south county) or Jenn (central and north county) at the office numbers below.



24 hour hotline 1-866-401-2425

Pittsfield
43 Francis Ave.
(413) 499-2425

New address!
Gt. Barrington
168 Main St., Ste. 4
(413) 429-8190

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

www.elizabethfreemancenter.org



Horizon PALS training to volunteer with the children in our shelter



Horizons for Homeless Children is hosting a training on August 10th in Pittsfield for adults interested in becoming Playspace Activity Leaders (PALs)! PALs create safe spaces for creative play for children living in our emergency shelter, allowing parents to attend to their own needs in their journey to create stability for their family.

Horizons for Homeless Children is a great organization that hosts Playspaces in family shelters across Massachusetts. Interested in becoming a PAL to volunteer with children in our shelter? Call Joanna at Horizons: (413) 532-0467.

Prevention: Year in Review

School is out, but Regi and Jenn, our dynamo Prevention Educators, have no time to rest! Between trainings, planning for next year, and creating new curricula, they have been reflecting on what a year it was!

EFC worked with 738 youth in schools and colleges through 183 workshops about healthy relationships, sexual education, consent and coercion, and increasing bystander skills. From what we've seen, we believe the kids are going to be all right.



Shelter News

Summer is truly here! We held our annual 4th of July Bash, and guests have also been attending Pittsfield Suns games, thanks to a donation from Berkshire Health Systems.

It's not all fun and games, though— guests and staff are hard at work in individual and group counseling and getting access to medical care, childcare, school, housing, benefits, jobs, legal aid, and social supports.

And staff have been giving the living areas of the shelter a facelift with renovations, new paint, furniture, and décor.



EFC is hiring!

EFC is hiring for two positions! Visit elizabethfreemancenter.org/jobs to learn more.

Bilingual Court Advocate and On-Call Counselor

Seeking a seeks a bilingual (Spanish and English) advocate to provide support, advocacy, and crisis response. Splitting time between the South County District Court (Great Barrington) and EFC's central county office (Pittsfield), the advocate will provide a blend of court advocacy, crisis response, and counseling.



Shelter Advocate, Sunday Overnight

Are you a night owl? Apply to be a Shelter Advocate for our Sunday overnight shift (Sunday 11:45p - Monday 8am) and available relief shifts!

Hoo, hoo wants to join our team?

