

# The Freeman Flash

MARCH/APRIL 2018

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 53

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

In the year since the last April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we have seen an amazing wave of survivor-activists step forward to end sexual assault and lift the shame and silence around surviving assault. Survivors have stood up in court rooms, delivering powerful testimony to perpetrators and the public; spoken out on social media and bravely shared #MeToo and #TimesUp; and privately, done the hard and valuable work of healing in quiet and important ways. This month, we honor everyone's participation in this movement, the public and the private work, and invite you to join us at the events we have planned. Visit (and like!) EFC's Facebook page for more information.

- April 9: Sexual Assault Forum: Consent, Services, Healing**, BCC South, 4:15p
- April 9: EFC Table at Fresh Check Day**, BCC Pittsfield, 11a-1p
- April 12: Central County Rally** (tentative), Park Square, Pittsfield, 3-5p
- April 12: International Women's Day Celebration**, Flavours of Malaysia Restaurant, Pittsfield, 5-8p
- April 19: Sexual Assault Panel Discussion**, BCC Pittsfield, 11a-1p
- April 19: North County Rally**, outside North Adams City Hall, 4-6p
- April 22: Changing the Dialogue Around Sexual Assault**, Stockbridge Library, 4-5p
- April 24: Becoming Agents of Change to End Sexual Violence**, Stockbridge Library, 6:30-7:30p
- April 26: South County Rally**, outside Great Barrington Town Hall, 5-6p
- April 26: Dining for a Cause EFC fundraiser**, GB Eats, 5-9p with presentation at 6:30p
- April 26: MCLA's Take Back the Night**, MCLA Quad, 8p
- Through April 29: #Pressfor Progress Art Exhibit**. Colonial Theatre, proceeds benefit EFC and BTG Plays



## Action of the Month Join the Domestic Violence Prevention Efforts in North Adams

On March 16th, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's Monthly Forum was dedicated to "Understanding & Responding to Relational Violence." EFC joined other community partners to take steps to end violence in North Adams and across north county. You can help:

- Join a north county violence response working group! Email [lizls@elizabethfreemancenter.org](mailto:lizls@elizabethfreemancenter.org) for more info.
- Share our hotline number.
- Talk about dating violence and healthy relationships with friends and family.
- Teach young people that violence is never ok, and respect is essential.
- Invite EFC to your work to do a training on violence response and prevention.



*Participants stood if they had been touched by domestic violence in some way*

## Remembering Joanne Ringer

We are both heart-broken and thankful that a year after her murder, Joanne Ringer's body was found March 1<sup>st</sup> in Hatfield, MA. Our thoughts are with her family and friends, as they begin to seek #JusticeforJo.



The loss of Joanne's life to domestic violence, like every loss of life to violence, ripples through our community in ways that cannot be easily healed. We remain committed to provide space for grief, help with healing, and direction for anger. We are more committed than ever to ending violence and creating a world that is safe for everyone. We are here for anyone recovering from trauma, trying to get safer, or interested in building a safer community.



24 hour hotline 1-866-401-2425

**Pittsfield**  
43 Francis Ave.  
(413) 499-2425

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

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

[www.elizabethfreemancenter.org](http://www.elizabethfreemancenter.org)



## PATCH Act Win

The Massachusetts House and Senate have overwhelmingly passed legislation that will help protect survivors of

# victory!



**the MA House  
passes the PATCH bill!**

Source: Planned Parenthood

domestic and sexual violence. The PATCH Act, "Protect Access to Confidential Health Care," which is now headed to Governor Baker's desk for his signature, will prevent confidential information about medical treatment from being disclosed to anyone except the patient.

Until now, spouses on their partner's health insurance and young adults on their parent's health insurance had to pay out-of-pocket or forgo the care they needed because their insurance plan would inform their family members about the services received. This often deterred young survivors from seeking care after sexual assault, and married survivors from accessing medical care of all kinds (and referrals to agencies like EFC).

With PATCH Act protections, survivors will be able to get confidential medical care, and hopefully more easily be connected to domestic and sexual violence counseling and advocacy services, too.

## Money School in Great Barrington Thursdays, April 26-May 24

Our free, award-winning Money School financial independence initiative is beginning a new series in Great Barrington on April 26! Money School provides survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence with real tools for long-term financial security.



Thursdays, 5-8pm,  
April 26 -May 24<sup>th</sup>  
Free dinner and childcare  
\$125 cash incentive provided

For more information or to register, please contact Donna, our Money School Facilitator, at 413-499-2425.

## Thank You Corner

### Greylock Federal Credit Union

Volunteers from Greylock Federal Credit Union generously donated their time, energy, and painting skills to give our office a serious upgrade in their Women's Day of Caring Project 2018.



It lifts the spirits of clients and staff to walk into our beautiful new waiting room and hallways. Thank you!

*GFCU in action!*

### Richmond Consolidated School

The 2nd & 6th Grade Cares project of Richmond Consolidated School is leading the way in service! Students collected donations of many new toiletries for our shelter guests and other clients, many of whom have to leave their homes with few or no belongings. Thank you, Richmond students! (If you would like to contribute to our clients' needs, please see our wish list below).

### #PressforProgress

The #PressforProgress [International Women's Day Art Exhibition](#) at the Colonial Theatre is ongoing through April 29. A portion of the proceeds are generously being donated to EFC. Thank you!

## Donation Wish List

Looking for a tangible way to contribute to our work? We are always looking for these common items, which can make a big difference to our clients during a difficult time.

- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Gas Cards
- Target Gift Cards
- BRTA Bus Passes
- Prepaid Cell Phones
- Disposable Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Wipes, Lotion, and Shampoo
- Baby Monitors
- New Jogging Outfits and Underwear
- Full-Size Body Wash, Shampoo, and Conditioner
- Tampons, Pads, Liners

