

The Freeman Flash

June/July 2018

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 54

Welcome to the Flash

For those of you who are new to our mailing list, welcome to Elizabeth Freeman Center's e-newsletter.

Every month (or so), we'll send a Flash with the latest news on our work as the front line and major safety net for survivors seeking of domestic and sexual violence in Berkshire County.



EFC is Hiring

Thanks to two state/federal grants we received, EFC is hiring for several new positions! Join our fabulous team:

**South County Bilingual
Counselor/Advocate**

**Shelter Bilingual Children's
Advocate**

Clinical Supervisor (part-time)

Shelter Shift Supervisor (2nd shift)

**Shelter Relief Staff and Physical
Responders**

Find more information at:
elizabethfreemancenter.org/jobs

Walk-a-Mile Registration is Now Open!

Join us for our 8th annual March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault, and Gender Violence on Third Thursday, September 20th. Last year, over 700 of your neighbors from all around the county took to the street against violence.

Registration is now open! Visit elizabethfreemancenter.org/wam to register and support our work.

Registration is free, but almost all walkers raise funds to support services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Berkshire County.

And it's easy online! Sign up as an individual or a team! Plus, if you register to walk and raise \$55 or more, you'll receive a 2018 Walk a Mile t-shirt.

Start gathering your family, friends and co-workers and get ready to march in style. **See you there!**

If you would like to learn how to become an Underwriter, call us! 413-499-2425.



EFC's Walk a Mile 2018

September 20th

North Street & Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield

Early registration at 5pm, walk at 6pm

Action of the Month: # Explain the Asterisk



When a student is dismissed from a college or university for having committed sexual assault, the only indication on their transcript is often a small asterisk. This same asterisk is used to indicate dismissals for other reasons, such as bad grades. Many schools may not know they are accepting sexual predators when they offer admission to these transfer students. Rates of sexual assault on college campuses are high, with female college students 3x more likely to be sexually assaulted than women in general.

Pittsfield native Syd Ovitt is working to change that with her viral campaign ExplainTheAsterisk! Sign her petition at change.org and share the campaign on [social media](#) if you agree that sexual assault should not be hidden behind an asterisk.



*Syd Ovitt, creator of
#ExplainTheAsterisk*



24 hour hotline 1-866-401-2425

Pittsfield
43 Francis Ave.
(413) 499-2425

Great Barrington
168 Main St., Ste. 4
(413) 429-8190

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

www.elizabethfreemancenter.org



Good News in Prevention

The Center for Disease Control has found positive results in their biannual survey of Youth Risk Behavior.

Nationally, rates of physical dating violence and sexual dating violence among middle and high school students have decreased significantly over the past 4 years.

But there is still much work to be done—rates of forced sex and overall bullying have not changed over the decade. Mental health, including depression and suicide, has gotten worse amongst American youth during that time, though drug use and sexual activity have both decreased. Unfortunately, risks for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are greater across almost every category than their heterosexual peers.

More information can be found at cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs



MA Conference Budget Lifts the Cap on Kids

The MA legislature Conference Committee released its budget on July 18th, and it eliminates the harmful Cap on Kids!

The Cap on Kids – also called the Family Cap – denies welfare benefits to children conceived while the family was receiving assistance. Massachusetts denies benefits to 8,700 children because of the Cap on Kids.

The next steps are for both houses to vote on the budget, which then goes to the Governor who can sign or veto. Let your representatives know you support this win for families!



Attorney Jeff Sessions Bars Most Domestic Violence Survivors from Asylum

Domestic and sexual violence survivors seeking asylum in the United States may now have nowhere safe to turn.

We are outraged and disappointed by Attorney General Sessions' decision of June 11, 2018 to refuse asylum to survivors fleeing domestic violence. These crimes overwhelming affect women, femmes, and sexual minorities, and many survivors have no recourse or safety in their home countries.

“Women and children will die as a result of these policies,” Michelle Brané, director of the Women’s Refugee Commission’s migrant rights and justice program, said in a statement.



Jenny Martinez hugs her son, William Martinez, as they talk to the media about her trip from El Salvador and her need for asylum in America because of domestic violence and her fear for her life. (Photo by Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

Paint and Sip Fundraiser

Berkshire Paint and Sip is hosting an outdoor, open air painting to benefit EFC on August 19th at 3pm.

Paint & Sip, \$35
August 19th at 3pm
Berkshire Hills Country Club
500 Benedict Road, Pittsfield

Visit berkshirepaintandsip.com to reserve your seat.

