

The Freeman Flash

January 2019

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 56



Action of the Month: Submit a Public Comment on Title IX Proposed Title IX Changes Will Harm Survivors



Title IX contains protections that make schools and colleges responsible for creating gender equality on their campuses which include responding to and investigating reports of sexual harassment and assault. These protections are currently being revised, and the proposed changes are shockingly harmful towards survivors. For example, the definition of sexual harassment would be changed to only include the most egregious offenses and only those which occur on campus or at school events. Other changes would require an even higher burden of proof on survivors of assault, and more traumatizing disciplinary hearings. But there is time to learn more and share your opinion about what Title IX should be! Public comments are being accepted until January 28th. For more information, contact jenniferw@ElizabethFreemanCenter.org or go to www.KnowYourIX.org

TITLE IX: NO PERSON IN THE UNITED STATES, SHALL, ON THE BASIS OF SEX, BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN, BE DENIED THE BENEFITS OF, OR BE SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATION UNDER ANY EDUCATION PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

-TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972

Submit comments about Title IX at:

www.regulations.gov/docket?D=ED-2018-OCR-0064

You can also write a postcard and mail it to:

Brittany Bull, U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Ave SW, Room 6E310

Washington, D.C. 20202

Be sure to include Docket No. ED-2018-OCR-0064 and

RIN 1870-AA14

#Believe Survivors

#BelieveSurvivors went viral on social media after Dr. Christine Blasey Ford spoke out about assault during Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing. The hashtag trended again in January when *Surviving R. Kelly* aired, sharing the stories of young women of color who were assaulted by the singer.



We at EFC are in the business of believing survivors, and in standing with them in courts, in police stations, in hospitals, and in counseling offices.

False allegations of rape are rare. Those who choose to bravely tell their stories often experience disbelief, intimidation, and no guarantee of justice. We believe survivors, and we believe you. We are not standing down.

Holiday Project

Thanks to our many donors and sponsors, our families were able to celebrate this holiday season with necessities and presents. This can be a hard time of year for survivors whose lives have been interrupted by violence. Your kindness makes all the difference.

Thank you to those who participated in this program! Your generosity made the season one of love, not loss.

"I cried when I saw all the gifts—you have no idea how much it means. Thank you from the bottom of my heart." - recipient of 2018 gift drive



ELIZABETH
FREEMAN
CENTER

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



Youth Choreographers Bring Attention to Assault

On December 9th, young choreographers at Pulse Dance Studio performed an original piece to bring attention to sexual assault, consent, and gender. We were honored to participate in this event created by young women leaders. They made the following requests of their audience at the conclusion of the performance:

- Believe survivors
- Teach consent
- Have patience for survivors to tell their stories and heal on their own schedule



Photo credit: Susan Quinn

Meet our Newest Staff!

Great Barrington Office:

Stephanie, Child and Adult Counselor/advocate and Site Supervisor

Estervina, Counselor/advocate (español & English)

Emma, Counselor/advocate (inc. LGBTQ counseling)

North Adams Office:

Molly, Counselor/advocate (inc. LGBTQ counseling)

County-wide:

Lynnanne, Housing and Financial Advocate

More information on employment opportunities at:

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

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



Thank you for a Great 2018!

2018 was an amazing year for supporting survivors in Berkshire County, thanks to you! In September, you made this our greatest Walk A Mile event ever with 800 walkers. Together, we brought in over \$80,000 to support our work for survivors of violence from that event alone. Our annual donors have also supported us year-round—we truly could not do this work without you.

Your generosity helps us to provide life-changing education to county youth; 24/7 crisis services at hospitals and police stations; individual and group counseling; safe shelter for families and individuals fleeing violence; advocacy in court; trainings for schools, workplaces, and the community; specialized services for survivors who are immigrants, or trans, or living with a disability, or LGBTQ, or child witnesses to violence; and safe referrals and support for many other needs that survivors experience.

THANK YOU!!

