



ZONTA
CLUB OF
WARREN

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

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Hello Fellow Zontians!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This annual observance is dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. It takes a village to turn the tide and protect ALL children.

This year we are inviting you to partner with the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center, and other local organizations, to raise awareness in our community by participating in #WearBlueDay on April 4.

Please share this information with those around you and ask them to join us and stand up for children! I look forward to seeing everyone's photos next week!

Thank you!

Melissa McLean (she/her) What's This?
Executive Director | Forensic Interviewer |
Warren County MDIT Coordinator



APRIL 4

is #WearBlueDay

to raise awareness and show Pennsylvania's
children that we support them!

Share your photo and your "I wear blue because . . ."

Tag @warrencountypacac

#WCCAC #KeystoneCACs #CAPM



April 13, 2023
Dinner Meeting at JDFC 6 PM
Welcome to new Members:

Tammy Bimber
Victoria Boehmer
Meggi Brown
Karen Heltzel
Gale Rue

2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS

On March 4, 2023 we presented 3 Community Grants.

Hannah's Helping Hands \$1000.00

In 2020 Hannah Jo Nickerson (2019 Warren County Fair Queen) died in a house fire. In 2021 the Toplovich family decided to take tragedy and turn it into positivity by establishing the nonprofit organization in memory of Hannah. The three main focus areas are Fire Safety, Character Building and Fair Queen Contest Support.

Ukrainian Relief Initiative \$1000.00

English Language Learning program in Warren County, this organization offers live and in real-time English instruction, in addition to hands on the life skills. Helping them learn to navigate experiences at the bank, supermarket, doctors office, DMV, etc.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library \$500.00

The Imagination Library program was started by Dolly Parton because she wanted every child birth to five years of age to have his or her own library of books. Dolly understood the importance of exposing children to reading at an early age, so she began sending books monthly, free of charge, to kids in her county. Thanks to the Jefferson DeFrees Family Center and a number of local citizens committed to providing resources that improve literacy in our community - the imagination Library was brought to the families of Warren County in July 2018. A total of 40,000 books have been mailed to children in Warren County.



WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE 2023

Piper VanOrd continues to go above and beyond to promote tourism for our area. Her extensive knowledge of our waterways and woodlands have been shared through her Warren County Historical Society talks about the Allegheny River, the Warren Downtown website she took initiative to build using her own resources and photography, in the two publications she has authored, her Leave No Trace Master Educator status, and her annual Allegheny River Clean-up, of which she was a founding member. She has always been willing to donate her time to speak at the Jefferson DeFrees Family Center's Women Are Wonderful event. These are only a few of her efforts.

Piper promotes local business growth and collaboration in downtown Warren, while being cognizant of the maintaining of our natural beauty and green space. When I approached her recently about donating a basket raffle/door prize for the Jefferson DeFrees Family Center's Spooktacular event, her response "Thank you for asking; we are all in this together". I have heard firsthand from the other tenants of the current building that Allegheny Outfitters occupies, that without Piper's hard work and determination, the building as we know it, may not have come to fruition.

Piper has been the recipient of several prestigious Governor's Awards for her River Stewardship, including the Keystone Tourism Award, Community Impact Award for Northwest PA, and Champion of the PA Wilds Award. She is the 2022 Warren County Business and Industry Community Service Award winner.

Humanitarian efforts for the people of Ukraine cannot be left out of Piper's list of accomplishments. As the date approaches for her second trip to the Ukraine, it is humbling indeed to learn of the work she puts into this effort of gathering and delivering critical supplies, mostly medical, but also things like wheelchairs and diapers. She is responsible for the official launch of a community center. Her work has benefitted hundreds of women and children.

I cannot think of a woman more deserving to be a Woman Who Makes A Difference Award winner than Piper VanOrd, a tireless business owner and true champion for Warren County.



Terri Allison is Executive Director of A Safe Place for 31 years. The mission is to:

PREVENT physical and sexual abuse,

PROTECT, educate and advocate for those who have been or are in danger of being abused, and to

EMPOWER all member of the community through education and training for every age group.

Terri is the administrator of a staff with 12+ persons to accomplish the above mission. Her career includes preparing budgets and writing grants from Pa Coalition Against Rape, PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Victims of Crime Act and other state funding; plus local United Fund, Warren County commissioners and other local fund raising. She has served on statewide domestic violence related committees and well represented rural communities.

Under her guidance law enforcement professionals receive training on working with victims in domestic violence and referring victims to medical and community resources for help. In the courts system she oversees the staff to help victims maneuver through legal system to protect victims and bring justice. With the hotline staff there is immediate help to those experience violence, and the staff provide hours of counseling for victims. Terri oversees the safe shelter for victims and their families.

Her work includes public awareness of domestic abuse through October "Prevention and Awareness of Domestic Violence" month activities and doing public speaking to community groups all year long. With her staff, curriculums on prevention of abuse programs are presented for students in schools and adults in prison. With staff she publishes brochures on public awareness and prevention of domestic violence, crime victim booklets with local resources and legal systems procedures for victims.

Her dedication and career has helped hundreds of Warren and Forest County families with personal safety at the lowest point in their lives. As a result women and their families have turned their lives around to achieve their self worth, independence, developed good relations and success in their lives.



WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE 2023

Jean Benedict

Jean is very active in her church the Free Methodist of Youngsville. She started/co started a crochet group. This group has crocheted many things they always make something special for the mothers on Mother's Day, things like crocheted flowers, crosses. The group also crochets hats, scarfs, and mittens for anyone who needs them. They keep a tree stocked all through the winter season. She has made countless blankets to donate. She has made toys, little purses, and wash clothes for shoe box donations. She has donated both locally and for missions.

In addition to creating these blankets, hats, scarfs, etc., Jean has taught members and new members how to crochet so they can make things for themselves or to donate.

She is a great asset and friend of the community.

Zonta Advocacy – The Debbie Smith Act

Reauthorize funding to end the rape kit backlog.

The Debbie Smith Act provides local and state crime laboratories resources to reduce the backlog of untested DNA evidence from unsolved crimes. A 2019 study revealed that 39% of sexual offenders identified in the Combined DNA Index system (COIS) were serial offenders with a range of two to 15 sexual assaults each. It became law in 2004 but now it is set to expire. The Debbie Smith act of 2023 is Senate Bill 499 and House Bill 1105. Contact our PA congressional representatives to co sponsor the bills and pass them. The bills must be reauthorized to provide state and local laws enforcement agencies with resource to complete forensic analysis of crime scenes and untested rape kits so that sexual assault victims can receive justice. Emails are the best way to contact our Congressional representatives - Senators are Robert Casey <https://www.casey.senate.gov> and John Fetterman <https://www.fetterman.senate.gov> Congressional House is Glenn Thompson <http://thompson.house.gov>

ELEVATOR SPEECH

The Zonta Club of Warren honors empowers and advocates for women, both locally and globally, seeking to end domestic and gender-based violence, human trafficking and poverty through service and education programs.