



1-800-555-5671 or (814) 623-7664

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

**SUMMER**

**2019**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Your Safe Haven, Inc. is committed to supporting and advocating for victims of crime and sexual assault, domestic violence and other serious crimes. My staff are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and respond to every victim's request. We also provide information and prevention to county schools, other agencies and businesses. This demonstrates the sheer volume of abuse and criminal actions we respond to in Bedford County. The number of victims continues to increase and many of these have become more serious in nature. These crimes affect us all as a community. It will take all of us to address the issues and respond in a manner that aids the victims in seeking justice but also holds the perpetrators accountable.

Bedford County citizens continue to express their concern. Individuals, businesses and other agencies come to the aid of those in need. It is that spirit we at Your Safe Haven, Inc. are grateful for and humbled by. Residents of Bedford County have shown, when you have more, give more. We would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of our efforts on behalf of victims.

**Beth A. Hickey**  
Executive Director

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## **OUTREACH/EDUCATION**

This has been a busy summer for outreach education. We have continued our programs with the Barber Institute and the Bedford County Jail. The Barber Institute, formerly "Cornerstone" provides Your Safe Haven, Inc. access to a vulnerable population within Bedford County, that is, adults with intellectual disabilities. During our summer education program, we have worked to help attendees develop and maintain healthy and appropriate boundaries. While the program is winding down for the summer, we hope to maintain regular contact with the attendees throughout the school year to reinforce the concepts "My body is my own" and empowering them to say "No".

**JAIL** The work with the male and female inmates at the County Jail continues. One interesting observation is that many individuals who present with anger management issues also have issues with sexual assault and domestic violence. The majority of inmates with those issues have never received any type of education regarding coping skills and triggers. Our work in this area continues.



# OUTREACH/EDUCATION

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** Your Safe Haven, Inc. has instituted a new “Human Trafficking” campaign. The campaign began with the development of a flyer to be displayed at businesses throughout Bedford County with an emphasis on businesses near the Pennsylvania Turnpike exchanges. If any agency is interested in a Human Trafficking presentation, please contact Your Safe Haven, Inc.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY



**AND ITS HAPPENING RIGHT HERE IN BEDFORD COUNTY.**

Victims are forced to provide labor or commercial sex in many situations, including the following venues/industries:

- Sex Trafficking
- Residential Brothels
- Hotel-Based Commercial Sex
- Truck Stops
- Fake Massage Businesses
- Escort Services
- Street-Based Commercial Sex

**HOTLINE: 814.623.7664**

**CALL THE HOTLINE TO**

- GET HELP
- REPORT A TIP
- FIND SERVICES
- LEARN ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS

**COMMUNITY EVENTS** Your Safe Haven, Inc. has continued to expand our presence in the community. We have attended a number of community health fairs, one being the Bedford Courthouse Health fair. Your Safe Haven, Inc. has established



a presence at

the Wednesday Farmers Market and the Bedford Food Pantry. We have had the opportunity to meet many individuals who have been positively impacted by direct services offered by the agency. Additionally, during the contact with community members I have had a significant number of older citizens who have disclosed sexual assault in their early lives. To meet what appears to be a need within the county, Your Safe Haven, Inc. has initiated a domestic

## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



**JILL SWIONTEK**

Jill M. Swiontek is the Staff Attorney for the Your Safe Haven, Inc. Legal Office, having begun the civil legal representation program in July 2015. In this role, she represents survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and intimidation in their civil legal needs.

Jill graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Cum Laude, with a concentration in litigation. Jill began her career of working with survivors of domestic violence as the Protection from Abuse Coordinator in Luzerne County. After law school, she was the Staff Attorney with the Barbara J. Hart Justice Center, a project of the Women’s Resource Center, serving Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. After three years, Jill relocated to Harrisburg to become the Staff Attorney for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, where she provided training and technical assistance to the courts, court personnel, and advocates while traveling throughout the state, including Bedford County. While teaching as an adjunct professor at the Florida Coastal School of Law, Your Safe Haven, Inc. received funding to create the Legal Office, which brought Jill to Bedford.

Jill embraces the motto “Justice, nothing less.” She attempts to achieve justice for survivors and their children by keeping them free from abuse, empowering them to make their own decisions, and obtaining economic justice for them and their children.

Jill loves to travel and go wine tasting with her friends and family, relax with friends, read, and play with her cats, Jasper and Jax.

# OUTREACH/EDUCATION

violence/sexual assault support group. The first meeting will be held on August 13, 2019. For more details, refer to the “upcoming events” section of this newsletter.

**BECKY AND DANNY** On the heels of our successful “Becky and Danny” puppet show education program, Becky and Danny made an encore performance in July. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, Barb Childers, Vicky Mathers, George Childers and Steve McNamara, the education program continues to delight children at this year’s Firemen’s Convention held at Six Mile Run fire station.

**NATIONAL GUARD** For the first time ever, Your Safe Haven, Inc. became an important part of our nation’s defense. Your Safe Haven, Inc. was invited to present information about our services and efforts toward prevention to deploying troops from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Many of those deploying soldiers are residents of Bedford and surrounding counties.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**AUGUST 6**

National Night Out – Saxton

4:30 pm until 8:30 pm

**AUGUST 13**

Domestic Violence/Assault  
Support Group

3:30 pm until 4:30 pm

## YOUR SAFE HAVEN COMMUNITY CIRCLE MEMBERS

for 2019



### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT GROUP

Are you victim or survivor of  
domestic violence or sexual  
assault?

LET’S TALK....

- Personal Safety
- Healing from Anger
- Healthy Relationships
- Setting Boundaries
- Coping Skills
- Other topics

***“You are  
Stronger  
Than you  
Know  
Braver  
Than you  
believe,  
And  
Smarter  
Than you  
Think  
You are.”***

When: August 13, 2019

3:30 pm—4:30 pm

Where: Your Safe Haven

220 South Thomas St.

Bedford, PA 15222

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL 814-623-7664**