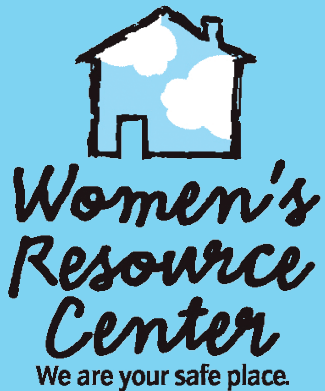


ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2021 — JUNE 2022



Executive Director Message



**Executive Director,
Peg Ruddy**

We did it! We exceeded our Capital Campaign/Endowment Goal by raising over \$2.5 million dollars. Thanks to the support of Lackawanna and Susquehanna County community members, we are creating a bright future for WRC.

Special thanks to Dave and Ann Hawk, Campaign Chairs, for their dynamic leadership over the past three years in steering this important “Restoring Hope Campaign”.

WRC is fortunate to have committed members within the Campaign Cabinet, the Board of Directors, and the WRC Association that enabled our success.

I am excited to inform the community that WRC has adopted a new strategic plan. The plan will guide our work over the next three years and into the future. In addition to developing this plan, as part of the process, we created a new vision statement and revised the mission statement. The plan, vision, and mission statements reflect WRC’s commitment to equity and inclusivity, and to serve all survivors of sexual and domestic abuse.

As you read through this year’s annual report and review WRC’s activities and program service numbers, it is clear that none of this could happen without WRC’s dedicated staff.

Staff work tirelessly each and every day to respond to the urgent needs of victims of

domestic and sexual violence, teen dating violence, human trafficking and stalking. In the face of limited resources, systemic frustrations, and increasing demands, the staff does incredible transformative work. I am proud to work with them each day.



My counselor provided me with the information I needed to make sound decisions. She guided me through the process of leaving. I found her to be very supportive and patient.

WRC Program Participant



The Women’s Resource Center staff was a Godsend. They have helped me through so much. Without them, I truly believe I wouldn’t have survived. They are angels in my eyes.”

WRC Program Participant



There was always an advocate by my side when I went to court. They offered me a lot of support. Same with my lawyer, she would always answer and return my calls.

WRC Program Participant

Board President Message



**Board President,
Brian Rose**

This past year has been full of success stories for the Women's Resource Center putting the organization in a great position for the future.

The biggest news, years in the making, was reaching the Capital Campaign goal of two and a half million dollars. This major undertaking was achieved during a global pandemic! The success of the campaign truly shows the support of the community in our mission to provide the life-saving and life-changing services to thousands of survivors every year. The funds raised will be used for our Safe Housing Program, the Barbara J. Hart Justice Center, our Teen and Young Adult Programs, and much needed facility improvements. Many thanks go out to our Campaign co-chairs, David and Ann Hawk, along with the community leaders and board members that have taken their time to help the Women's Resource Center with this endeavor.

A portion of the funds raised during the capital campaign were invested into the first ever endowment fund. An endowment helps ensure the future of WRC and gives our participants and their families a life free of violence and filled with hope. It is intended to be invested for at least ten years without any withdrawals.

WRC completed a six-month Strategic Planning Assessment in June, including steps to reach each of the goals over the next three years. Some of the goals have already been reached and implemented.

One of the unforeseen challenges was unexpected delays in approved funding from two major sources, which put all organizations like ours in a challenging place. Sadly, this resulted in some of these organizations being unable to take on new clients for a period of time, but thanks to some strategic positioning and planning from previous years, WRC was able to mitigate the financial headwinds while keeping the doors open and serving new clients.

Another key accomplishment is the growth of our Safe Dates & Healthy Relationships programs in the local schools and medical advocacy program. We are not only providing services to those in immediate need but creating resources to identify and stop violence before it starts.

One final thought for your consideration... It is common for many non-for-profit organizations who help others to have clients that are outspoken about their cause or the organization that provided the help they needed. This yields constant awareness among the public. However, WRC clients aren't likely to be outspoken about their experience simply due to the nature of their circumstance. The result is the public at large doesn't realize just how many people WRC has helped. It could be our own family members, or friends, or co-workers and we might not even know. Please keep this in mind because we are so fortunate to have an organization as ready and able as the Women's Resource Center in our community.

I would like to thank the dedicated staff of the Women's Resource Center who continue to assist victims of domestic violence year after year. The staff, led by Executive Director, Peg Ruddy, continue their work of advocacy, education, and social change in our community.

Thank you to the Board of Directors, the Association, the Campaign Committee and of course, the dedicated staff and many volunteers that help to make us a success.

About Women's Resource Center

Our primary purpose at the Women's Resource Center is to protect families from the immediate danger stemming from domestic and sexual violence and to break the inter-generational cycle of abuse. All of our programs are designed with this purpose in mind. We help survivors to have safe, healthy relationships and how to remain safe.

Our services are available to all survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault



Trained advocates answer our English and Spanish hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



We offer emergency shelter, counseling, legal support and advocacy, and in some cases, legal representation.



WRC community educators offer programs to raise awareness, and to prevent domestic and sexual violence.

LAST YEAR ALONE, WRC SERVED
1,794 CASES OF
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

402 CASES OF
SEXUAL
ASSAULT

AND THE HOTLINE CALLS
WERE OUR HIGHEST ANNUAL
NUMBER TO DATE AT OVER

11,000
CALLS

WRC Services



WRC Counseling Services

WRC offers trauma informed supportive counseling for our adult and child survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. We provide connections to supportive community resources and help survivors create a personal Safety Plan. Individual counseling is available and our advocates help survivors engage in solution-focused strategies to achieve their self-determined goals and objectives. All our services are available in all languages. WRC provides counseling for child victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Our Survivors Support Groups focus on mindfulness, emotions, relationships, coping, support from peers, and skill-building.



Safe Housing

The Women's Resource Center is a safe place and employs a “housing first model.” This means providing emergency safe housing for those women, children, and men who must flee their homes to be safe. Longer term housing options are available to assist survivors to secure a life free from violence and oppression. From emergency housing, participants are provided transitional or rapid re-housing, and are given financial assistance for a security deposit, rent, utilities, furnishings, food, and funds for transportation. Advocates continue to work closely with them to find employment and eventually a permanent, affordable home of their own.



WRC provided emergency safe housing for 138 adults and 97 children. The Safe Nights program provided 18,339 nights of safe shelter to 48 families fleeing from domestic and/or sexual violence.

Emergency Crisis Program

The hotline serves as a point of access for crisis counseling, safety planning, resources, referrals, and intake to the Women's Resource Center's Safe House for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Available 24/7, our Advocates provide one-on-one assistance and 3 address rape, child sexual abuse, incest, stalking, human trafficking, economic abuse, teen dating violence, emotional and verbal abuse, physical assault, and threats of harm.



In 2021, **more than 11,452 calls** are received on the WRC crisis hotline. This is the highest number of hotline calls WRC has ever received in one year!

Barbara J. Hart Justice Center

Through the Barbara J. Hart Justice Center, WRC utilizes the combined skills of dedicated attorneys and advocates to provide legal assistance to program participants. The Justice Center's areas of representation include; legal representation and consultation, Protection from Abuse (PFA) and Sexual Violence Protection Orders (SVPO), child custody, child support, spousal support, divorce, housing matters, consumer debt, and immigration issues. We also provide education/training to other attorneys and professionals. Six out of ten WRC program participants require legal assistance. Currently, the Justice Center serves over 100 clients per year and there is a waiting list.

BARBARA J. HART JUSTICE CENTER

A project of the Women's Resource Center

Here is what one of our Justice Center Program Participants had to say...



Without the Barbara J Hart Justice Center, I would have never been able to afford representation. Also, I would have had to face my abuser in person and speak to him directly every time he took me into court. I also felt safe and secure knowing Juliana, my attorney, was going to be there by my side and is also a phone call away EVERYTIME my abuser was acting out and the cops were no help to myself or my children. I don't know if I could have fought the custody, PFA'S against me and also his violations on my own. Not to mention domestic relations. I cannot thank the WRC and Barbara J Hart Justice Center enough.

Carissa, WRC Survivor

NEW Clients only last year alone:

- 105 PFA matters
- 48 Custody matters
- 17 divorce matters
- 34 support matters
- 4 Landlord/Tenant
- 1 Immigration

ALL On-going Cases

- 190 Active clients
- 324 Active legal matters
- 87 PFAs
- 32 Divorces
- 74 Support matters
- 110 Custody matters
- 5 Immigration matters
- 4 Landlord/Tenant matters

WRC Susquehanna County Office News

WRC's array of housing programs and resources continues to grow in Susquehanna County. WRC is aware that survivors living in rural communities often encounter extra barriers. Lack of access to their own vehicles or public transportation, inconsistent cellular and limited internet services can all make it a challenge for someone to access domestic and sexual violence services in a safe manner.

Survivors benefit from housing search, rental assistance and case management support that assists them in identifying goals and resources that will support economic stability and independence, as well as continuing to address their individual safety and legal needs. The Susquehanna County office alone provided services to 270 survivors of domestic violence and 93 survivors of sexual assault during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The team continues to focus on building partnerships with community agencies and resources. WRC set up resource tables at events throughout the community, including back to school and parent-teacher nights at many of the county's public schools, National Night Out, the New Milford Midtown Festival, the Blueberry Festival and the Susquehanna County Health, Wellness and Safety Day.

The prevention and education program in Susquehanna County have been busy expanding connections with school districts and other youth serving organizations. Teen Counselor Advocate Andrew Granick has several school districts interested in scheduling to have the Safe Dates program offered to students during the 2022/2023 academic year.



The Endless Mountains Learning Center raised funds for WRC and was able to donate \$2,060 and 9 Knowledge Crates that were distributed to survivors with young children.



In October, WRC raised community awareness about domestic violence by placing purple ribbons on the Green next to the Susquehanna courthouse for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In the April of 2022, Erie and Main Coffeehouse in Susquehanna PA used coffee sleeves that spread awareness regarding sexual assault during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Teen & Young Adult Educational Programs

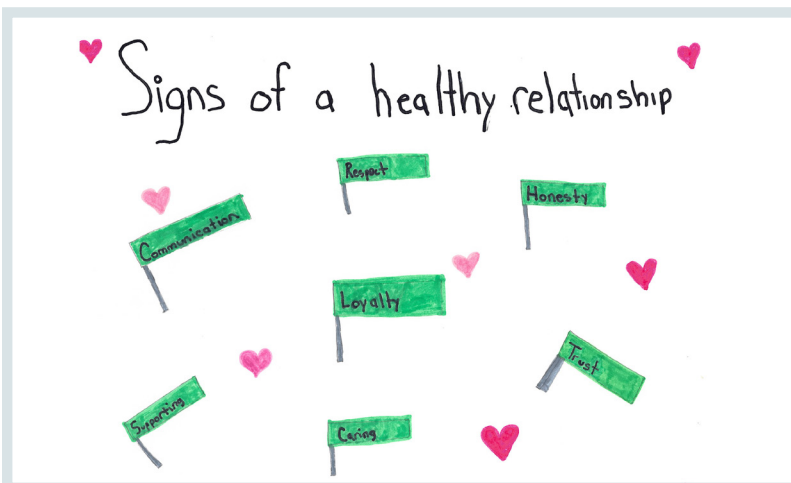


Essential to diminishing, and ultimately eliminating, domestic violence and sexual abuse, WRC is committed to educating local youth and teens about healthy relationships to help them understand how to prevent dating violence and sexual assault. Often teen dating can lead to physical assault, stalking, and sexual abuse, with consequences for the victims, their families, friends, schools and communities. WRC provides in-school educational programming to students in grades 7-12 in the school districts across Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties. Currently we have three full-time educators to provide these services. Additionally, WRC advocates go into the schools to work confidentially with individual young victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse.

WRC Prevention Education staff also developed a Trauma-Informed Schools Training for school professionals such as principals, teachers, administrators, and counselors. Trauma affects youth in all communities, and responses to those experiences by youth-serving systems are critical. This training also addresses selfcare. WRC will work with each school to develop in-service training to meet their current needs.

Safe Dates for grades 8-12 was held in the following school districts this year: Old Forge, Mid Valley, West Scranton, Scranton, Abington Heights, Lakeland, OLP, St Paul's, St Mary's, Nativity Miguel, All Saint's Academy

Healthy Teen Relationships (HTRP) for grades 6-7: Lakeland, OLP, St Paul's, St Mary's, Nativity Miguel, All Saint's Academy. This was the first year for this program and we piloted elementary aged curriculum in grades 3-5 at one school in addition to the HTRP in 6-7 grades.



Medical Advocacy Program at the WRC

The Women's Resource's Medical Advocacy Program (MAP) continues to expand our presence in Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties. Medical Advocacy includes the healthcare-based identification of domestic violence, sexual assault & human trafficking victims within the healthcare setting. This program includes developing and implementing policies and procedures to enhance the health care response to these victims at various medical practices & institutions. WRC establishes relationships with health care systems to better serve patients and healthcare professionals alike. Trainings provided by our MAP team are at no cost and cover a variety of issues related to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking.



MAP has provided training to 300+ Medical Professionals in various fields. Through support from the AllOne Foundation, WRC has been able to collaborate with VIP, the domestic and sexual assault crisis program serving Wayne & Pike Counties. This effort led to nine registered nurses being trained as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) nurses, able to provide forensic rape exams.

WRC Pet Program

Often survivors are forced to decide between leaving their pets behind or staying to protect them. It is estimated that 65% of victims stay in abusive relationships for the safety of their pets. The availability of supplies and access to kenneling enable survivors to be able to leave an abusive relationship. Many times, a pet can be a major source of comfort to a survivor and their family. It's important WRC has resources to bring their pets to help during an extremely difficult time

WRC has safe housed at least 5 pets including cats/dogs. Provided veterinary services for 7 dogs, 5 cats, and 1 ferret. Not to mention, supplied pet food and cat litter, litter pans, litter scoopers, and food bowls for several pets. WRC Help posters are also placed in local veterinary clinics throughout Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties.

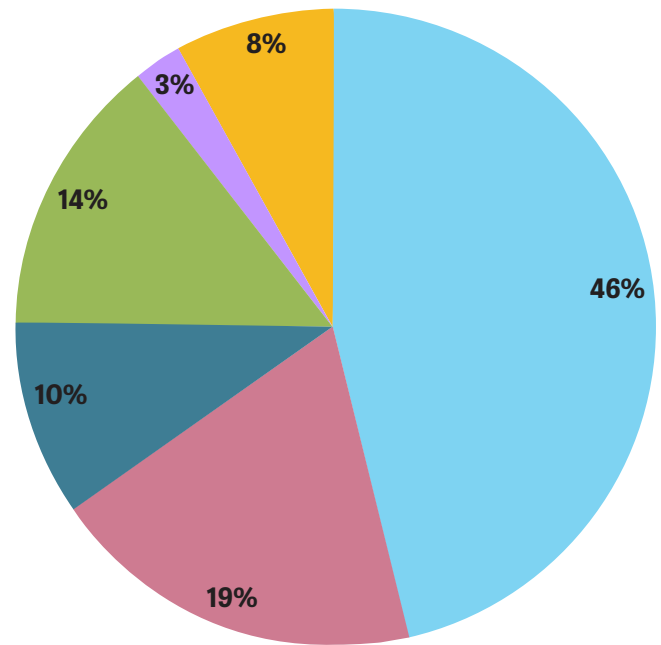


The pet program is truly amazing, and a tremendous help. The advocate genuinely cared about my cat and the progress she made at becoming strong and healthy. They were also very attentive toward me with vet appointment reminders, recommendations, and resources. I am very grateful.

Jamie, WRC Program Participant

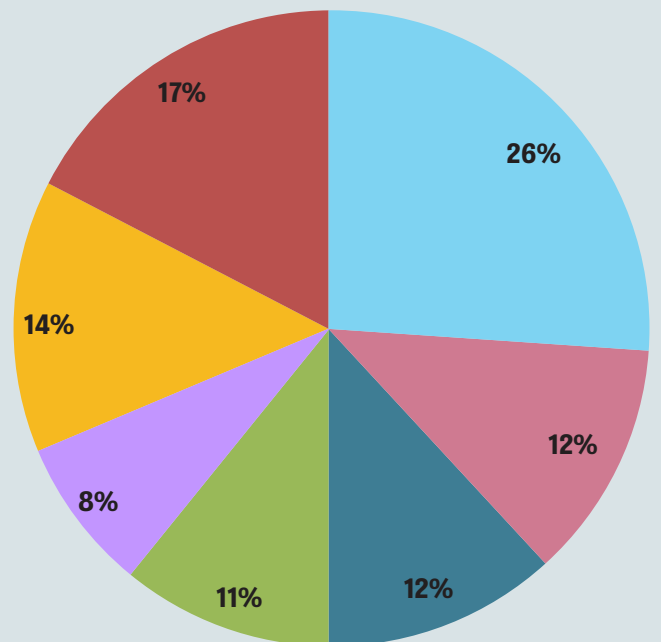
WRC Revenue Streams

Federal Grants	\$1,857,578	46%
State Grants	\$769,515	19%
Foundation Support	\$402,443	10%
Donations & Contributions	\$572,847	14%
Special Fundraising Events	\$99,705	3%
Local Grants	\$324,162	8%
Total	\$4,026,250	



Expenses by Department

Lackawanna County Crisis Program	\$1,111,010	26%
Susquehanna County Crisis Program	\$504,230	12%
Justice Center	\$509,615	12%
Education	\$447,693	11%
Safe Housing Program	\$331,891	8%
Economic Advocacy Project	\$595,837	14%
Administrative/Fundraising	\$740,406	17%
Total	\$4,240,682	



Restoring Hope Campaign



We did it thanks to our community's support! In 2019, the Women's Resource Center launched its Restoring Hope capital campaign with a goal of \$2.5 million dollars. We are happy to share that we have exceeded our goal raising close to 2.8 million dollars despite fundraising during the pandemic.

During that difficult time, hundreds of generous community members, businesses, organizations, and foundations came forward to help. WRC's campaign co-chairs David and Ann Hawk led the charge along with the campaign committee to ensure the future sustainability of WRC's services.

NEPA Gives



WRC can't thank everyone enough for their support of NEPA Gives this past June 3rd. This community initiative raised \$1,117,526 with 5,146 Donors supporting 212 area non-profits!!

We are so grateful to the individual donors, businesses, and foundations who helped support our cause. WRC raised an incredible \$26,261 with 63 donors! Not to mention, we came in the TOP 10 fundraising organizations for the giving day.



WRC Association Fundraising Events

Great Chefs



After two very long years, Great Chefs returned “in person” on July 20th at Constantino’s in Clarks Summit. This special dessert edition of Great Chefs was emceed by WNEP-TV 16’s Jackie Lewandowski. Attendees enjoyed a variety of passed hors d’oeuvres, raffles, music – and of course – dessert tastings!

Great Chef’s took in **\$45,473** for our Safe Housing needs.



WRC Benefit Golf Tournament

It was a great day on the links this past September at Pine Hills Golf Club.

Erie Materials and Simplex Industries teamed up to hold a WRC benefit golf tournament and the committee exceeded its goal by raising \$31,958 for WRC! The Honorary Chairman was Kurt Aaron with WNEP TV 16 with guest star Ranger! We would like to thank Seven D Wholesale & Windows for being this past year’s tournament sponsor.



50/50 Raffle

Every March, the WRC Association holds its 50/50 Raffle. The Tickets are \$100 per ticket and the raffle raises \$10,000. The proceeds raised were split and the winner got \$5,000 and WRC kept \$5,000. Tickets were sold by Association and Board Members. The raffle drawing is held at the restaurant Posh in Scranton and raised \$5,733!

Staff By Department 2021 — 2022

Administration:

Peg Ruddy, Executive Director
Karen Connors, Fiscal Director
Brianna Bednash, Assistant Fiscal Director
Amy Everetts, Director of Development
Peggy Gutowski, Operations Coordinator
Sharon Perrotti, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator
Rita Loughman, Fiscal Clerk
Rosalie Serafin, Fiscal Clerk
Jennifer Kearney, Fiscal Coordinator
Janice Mecca, Fiscal Coordinator
Jennifer Posaski, Fiscal Coordinator
Colleen Gedrich - Data Entry Clerk
Sam De Fazio, Maintenance and Safety Instructor
Stacey Andrews, Maintenance
Jason Thiel, Maintenance
Denise Pinto, Admin Relief
Vanessa Pinto, Admin Relief

Susquehanna County Staff:

Tiffany Benedict, Susquehanna County Program Manager
Andrew Granick, Counselor Advocate, Teen
Nichole Jesse, Rural Economic & Housing Advocate
Rachel Mercuri, Legal Advocate, Susq. Co.
Sarah Watson, Rural Counselor, Housing Advocate

Crisis and Advocacy Services:

Anna Faramelli - Crisis and Advocacy Services Director
Lori Iannetta - Lackawanna County Program Manager
Phyllis Brown, Program Assistant
Judy Copeland, Senior Counselor Advocate
Christa Capwell, Counselor Advocate
Ashlynn Doyle, Counselor Advocate
Shelley Doyle, Counselor Advocate
Mary Clare Mecca, Counselor Advocate
Alexa Menichelli, Counselor Advocate
Nuris Perdomo - Counselor Advocate, Teen
Nilda Perez, Crisis Intervention Advocate
Olivia Miller, Jesuit Volunteer Corps Advocate
Narcy Alvarenga Morazan, Counselor Advocate Weekend
Yelsy Ferreras-Sanchez, Counselor Advocate Weekend
Melissa Conrad, Emergency Response Advocate
Jailyn Guzman, Emergency Response Advocate

Economic and Housing Services:

Carol Shoener, Economic Advocacy Director
Leticia Covarrubias-St Martin, Legal Advocate, Lack Co
Ganessa Hans, Legal Advocate, Lack Co.
Ana Rodriguez, Legal Advocate, Lack Co.
Callie Anderson, Economic and Housing Advocate
Sabrina Barnes, Economic and Housing Advocate
Amanda Garcia, Economic and Housing Advocate (Safe Housing)
Brooke Lamberti, Economic and Housing Advocate
Shadahah Peaten, Economic and Housing Advocate (Safe Housing)
Hilda Rodriguez, Economic and Housing Advocate
Kimberly Stout-Kramer, Economic and Housing Advocate
Melanie Sweigert, Economic and Housing Advocate (Safe Housing)
Tessa Wright, Economic and Housing Advocate

Education:

Nancy Perri, Grants & Education Programs Director

Sarah Dawgert, Education Manager

Devin Breese, Youth Educator

Sabrina Hannon, Medical Advocacy Program Coordinator

Patty McLain, Teen Educator

Justice Center Staff:

Juliana Petro, Legal Director

Denise Burgos, Legal Assistant

DeAnne Greene, Staff Attorney

Rachael Litchman, Staff Attorney

Nina Menichelli, Staff Attorney

Melissa Reuter, Staff Attorney

Board of Directors

Brian Rose –President

Katherine E. Leahy - Vice President

Sheila Stallman, Secretary

Becky Bell – Treasurer

Tammy Bonnice

Mark DeStefano

Trish Fisher

Pat Fricchione Jr.

Amanda Frieder

Maggie Gerrity

Kerri Greco

Linda Hansen

Maggie Hawk

Linda Keene

Bernie M. Maopolski

Margaret McCormick, CPA

Claudia Naismith

Sr. Terry O'Rourke

Michelene Pagnotti

Joe Palumbo

Colleen Pettinato

Karen Reid

Jaime Ryan, CPA

Dr. Shubhra Shetty

Atty. Deede Schneider

Elaine F. Shepard

Mike Muller

Alycia W. Schwartz, CPA

Amber Viola

Kim Wylam

Association

Elaine Sheperd- President

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Maureen Guzzi – Treasurer

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Linda Hansen

Kerri A. Holland - Greco

Courtney Lisk

Elaine Mazzoni

Claudia Naismith

Colleen Pettinato

Gina Pitoniak

Sally Preate

Tara T. Smith

Allison M. Uhrin, CPA

The Women's Resource Center is a private non-profit organization funded in part by individual donations, business and corporate contributions, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, United Way of Lackawanna County and Wayne Counties, United Way of Susquehanna County, Lackawanna County, Lackawanna/Susquehanna Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention Program, Office of Economic and Community Development of Scranton, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice/Office of Violence Against Women, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania State Food, and special project grants.





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Susquehanna County/PO Box 202/Montrose, PA 18801

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 instagram.com/wrcnepa/