

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



PEG RUDDY

“ At WRC, our mission is simple: transforming lives and creating a community built on safety, respect, and empowerment. We have shifted our name to WRC, Inc. to recognize and strengthen our messaging of providing essential support to everyone who needs it most.

This year, with the dedication of our staff, board, and association members, we've helped 2,114 survivors and their families, guiding them toward a violence-free life. Each story of resilience fuels our resolve to do more.

Through our education and prevention programs, we're working to break the cycle of violence and equip future generations with the tools to build healthy, respectful relationships.

Thank you for supporting WRC as we continue to provide life-changing resources and work toward a safer, more respectful world.

”

BOARD PRESIDENT MESSAGE



KATE LEAHY

You can't pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself first." - Norm Kelly

At WRC, providing caring, mindful support to survivors in crisis is our priority. Our advocates bring deep compassion, but they also know the importance of staying strong themselves.

Reflecting on 2023-2024, the words change, growth, resilience, and stability come to mind. Guided by our Strategic Plan, WRC achieved transformative milestones: a phone app for survivors, new outreach events, upgraded policies and software, new Susquehanna County office space, and a refreshed name, brand, and website.

These advancements, years in the making, were made possible by the collective effort of staff, volunteers, board members, and supporters like you. Together, we improved systems, strengthened outreach, enhanced governance, and laid the foundation for long-term stability through an unrestricted endowment.

These achievements empower our team to better serve the next survivor who walks through our doors. As we roll up our sleeves for 2024-2025, we pause to thank YOU for supporting WRC's mission and the Restoring Hope Campaign.

ABOUT WRC

Our primary purpose at WRC 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. To date, WRC has empowered over 72,000 adults and children to rebuild their lives free from fear and violence.

WRC SERVICES...



COUNSELING SERVICES



PET PROGRAM



SAFE HOUSING



MEDICAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM



TEEN & YOUNG ADULT EDUCATION



EMERGENCY CRISIS PROGRAM



LEGAL SUPPORT

Trained advocates answer our 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 provide prevention education programs to raise awareness preventing domestic and sexual violence in future generations.



NEW NAME & NEW LOOK!

We are excited to announce our rebrand from Women's Resource Center to WRC, Inc., reflecting our mission to support all survivors of domestic and sexual violence, regardless of gender. Our new name, "WRC, Inc." with the tagline "We Respect and Care" –two hands joined in support—symbolize our commitment to ending violence.

For nearly 50 years, WRC has been a trusted ally in Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties. This change reflects our dedication to inclusivity, equality, and recognizing the universal impact of abuse.

We are also proud to launch our new website, a resource and safe space for anyone facing domestic or sexual abuse, stalking, and human trafficking.



WRC is very excited to announce our new name and tagline to the community.

We are energized by community support and ongoing recognition of the importance of our work.

- Peg Ruddy, Executive Director of WRC

EMERGENCY CRISIS PROGRAM

WRC's 24/7 Emergency Crisis Hotline connects survivors to crisis counseling, safety planning, resources, and WRC's Safe House. Advocates provide one-on-one support for issues including domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, human trafficking, and more.

STATISTICS

**1,796 DV
PARTICIPANTS**

1466 IN LACKAWANNA

330 IN SUSQUEHANNA

195 IN LACKAWANNA

123 IN SUSQUEHANNA

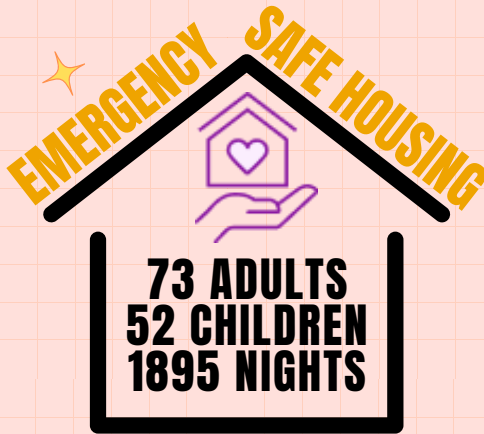
**318 SA
PARTICIPANTS**



2,114 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
7,366 HOTLINE CALLS

SAFE NIGHTS OF SHELTER

WRC provides a safe haven through its "housing first" model, offering emergency shelter for those fleeing violence. Survivors receive support to transition into stable housing with assistance for rent, utilities, food, and transportation. Advocates help them secure employment and work toward a permanent, affordable home, fostering a life free from violence and oppression.



WRC COUNSELING SERVICES

WRC provides trauma-informed counseling for adult and child survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Services include personal safety plans, individual counseling, and connections to community resources. Advocates guide survivors toward self-determined goals, and support groups focus on mindfulness, relationships, coping, and skill-building.

TEEN & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

WRC's youth programs educate teens on healthy relationships to prevent dating violence and sexual assault.

Programs:

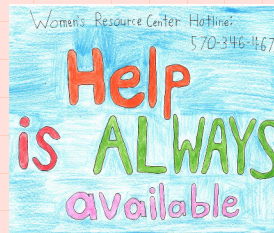
- Safe Dates (grades 8-12)
- Healthy Teen Relationships (grades 6-7)
- Service Area: Lackawanna & Susquehanna counties

Team:

- 2 full-time educators in Lackawanna
- 1 Counselor Advocate in Susquehanna

Reach: Offered in 10+ school districts and several private schools

Recognition: 2023 National Purple Ribbon Award for Outstanding Youth Initiative



372 PREVENTION SESSIONS WITH 2641 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

17 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS WITH 1755 PARTICIPANTS

217 TEACHERS TRAINED

26 CAMP SESSIONS → 167 CAMPERS

MEDICAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Our Medical Advocacy Program, "MAP" works to identify and support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in healthcare settings across Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. Highlights include hosting an annual health conference, a presentation at the PA Rural Health Human Trafficking Summit, and expanding County Medical Advocacy Task Forces with guest speakers at quarterly meetings.

619 MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

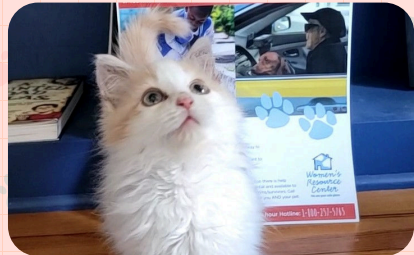
14 NURSES COMPLETED SANE TRAINING (A MAJOR FEAT WITH ONLY 50 STATEWIDE!)

91 ATTENDEES AT OUR 2ND ANNUAL MEDICAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



PET PROGRAM

In partnership with the NEPA Animal Welfare Collaborative, WRC supports survivors and their pets with free veterinary services, essential supplies, outreach events, and safe housing for pets—keeping families together when it matters most.



WRC WAS ABLE TO SAFEHOUSE 5 DOGS & 2 CATS

ASSISTED 4 DOGS & 8 CATS WITH VETERINARY NEEDS

BARBARA J. HART JUSTICE CENTER

The Barbara J. Hart Justice Center provides vital legal aid, specializing in Protection from Abuse Orders (PFA), Sexual Violence Protection Orders (SVPO), and cases like custody, support, divorce, housing, debt, and immigration. It also offers education and training for attorneys and professionals.

Juliana Petro,
Legal Director



"Without the Barbara J. Hart Justice Center, I wouldn't have had the support I needed to stand up for myself and my children. My attorney was always there for me, offering both legal guidance and peace of mind during the toughest times."

- WRC Program Participant

52 LEGAL CONSULTS

296 ACTIVE LEGAL MATTERS

99 CUSTODY

80 ACTIVE PFA'S

24 "OTHER" LEGAL MATTERS

31 DIVORCES

62 SUPPORT

65 NEW CLIENTS

38 NEW PFA'S

23 NEW CUSTODY MATTERS

12 NEW DIVORCES

11 SUPPORT MATTERS

2 IMMIGRATION MATTERS

1 APPEAL

2 SVPOS

SUSQUEHANNA NEWS

In November 2023, WRC's Susquehanna County office moved to a larger, more accessible space, creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for survivors accessing our services. The new office provides enhanced support for those in need.

To mark this milestone, we held an Open House in June 2024, inviting community partners to explore our updated location and learn about the vital services available to survivors in our rural community.

In 2023 and 2024, advocates from both Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties participated in various conferences, including the PCAR statewide conference in July 2023, where our teams from housing, medical advocacy, and the youth prevention program shared insights and strengthened their expertise.

The Susquehanna County WRC office was able to assist

17 adults & 39 children

with safe housing via our Rapid Rehousing Program.



FUNDRAISERS

SANTA'S SNIPPERS



Santa's Snippers, a heartwarming haircut-a-thon organized by the WRC Association, was a resounding success, raising an impressive \$9,124. This special event embodied the spirit of giving by offering affordable haircuts to anyone in the community while also providing free haircuts to those in need.

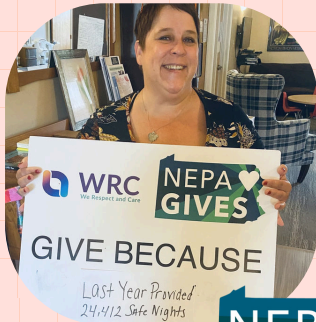
BAG ABUSE

New! Community members took part in the inaugural Bag Abuse fundraiser, held October 4-6 at local grocery stores to raise awareness and funds. Volunteers raised \$8,404 by completing 2-hour shifts at Caravia Fresh Foods, Riccardo's, and various Gerrity's Supermarkets locations.



NEPA GIVES

WRC extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported NEPA Gives on June 6th and 7th. Through the collective efforts of individual donors, businesses, and foundations, \$1,243,673 was raised for 200+ local nonprofits, with WRC achieving a remarkable milestone by raising \$15,476 from 75 donors.



FUNDRAISERS

GREAT CHEFS 34

PROSECO & PEARLS



GREAT CHEFS

Great Chefs features a sampling of dishes from local restaurants, each centered around a unique theme. This year's theme, "Prosecco and Pearls," showcased delicious, elevated appetizers. The most important aspect of the fundraiser, however, is its mission. \$51,783 was raised to benefit WRC.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Erie Materials and Simplex Industries hosted a benefit golf tournament on September 15, 2023, at Pine Hills Country Club. The event raised \$36,426 which will support WRC's essential programs.



50/50 RAFFLE

Every March, WRC's Association hosts a 50/50 Raffle with tickets priced at \$100 each. This year, the raffle raised \$9,750, with tickets sold by Association and Board Members. In an incredible show of generosity, a WRC Board Member donated the winnings back to WRC, resulting in a net profit of \$9,616.









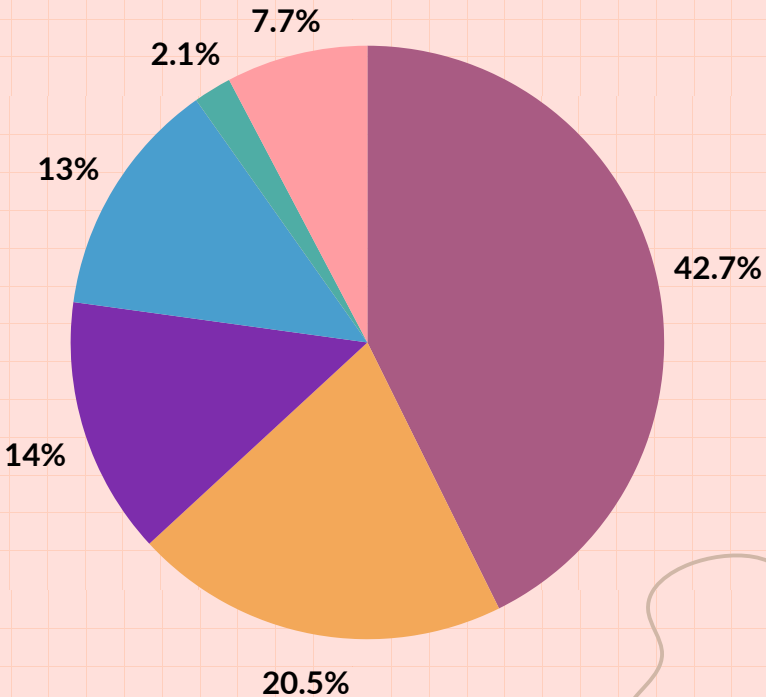
TICKET

2179264

FINANCIALS

WRC Revenue Streams

 Federal Grant	\$1,873,295	42.7%
 State Grants	\$897,586	20.5%
 Foundation Support	\$616,005	14%
 Donations & Contributions	\$572,025	13%
 Special Fundraising Events	\$91,124	2.1%
 Local Grants	\$338,594	7.7%
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Total	\$4,388,629	

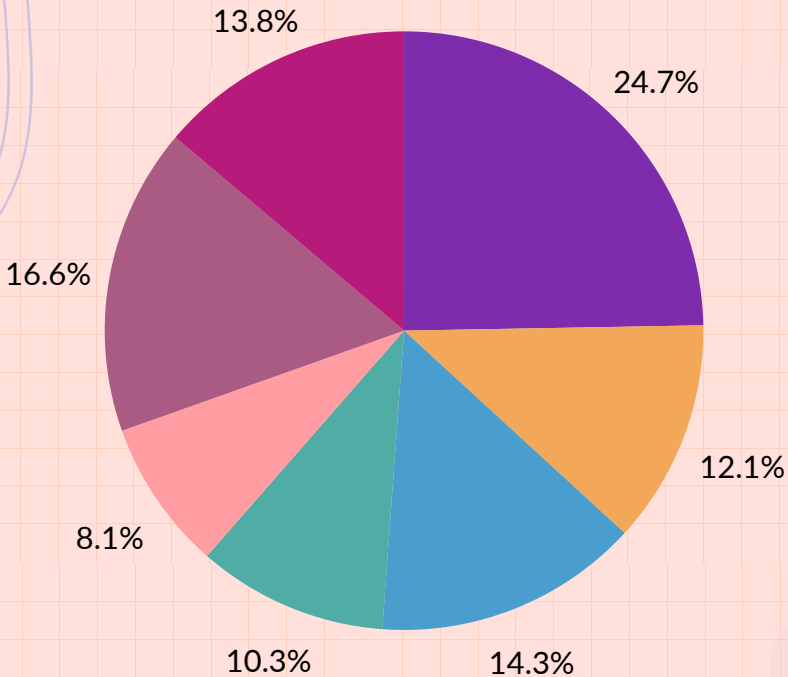


FINANCIALS

Expenses by Department

● Lackawanna County Crisis Program	\$1,127,800	24.7%
● Susquehanna County Crisis Program	\$552,150	12.1%
● Justice Center	\$654,462	14.3%
● Education	\$468,773	10.3%
● Safe Housing Program	\$371,401	8.1%
● Economic Advocacy Project	\$757,452	16.6%
● Administrative/Fundraising	\$630,950	13.8%

Total **\$4,562,988**



STAFF BY DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION

Margaret Ruddy, Executive Director
Karen Connors, Fiscal Director
Stacey Andrews, Maintenance
Brianna Bednash, Assistant Fiscal Director
Amy Everetts, Director of Development
Anna Faramelli, Crisis & Adv Services & Director of
Advocacy & Services
Colleen Gedrich, Data Entry Clerk
Peggy Gutowski, Operations Coordinator
Jennifer Kearney, Fiscal Coordinator
Janice Mecca, Fiscal Coordinator
Vanessa Pinto, Admin Relief
Rosalie Serafin, Fiscal Clerk
Jason Thiel, Maintenance

CRISIS & ADVOCACY SERVICES

Lori Iannetta, Lackawanna County Program Manager
Phyllis Brown, Program Assistant
Christa Capwell, Counselor Advocate
Melissa Conrad, Emergency Response Advocate
Judy Copeland, Senior Counselor Advocate
Evelyn Gibson, Legal Advocate Lackawanna County
MaryClare Mecca, Counselor Advocate
Alexa Menichelli, Counselor Advocate
Nuris Perdomo Ramirez, Counselor Advocate Teen
Nilda Perez, Crisis Intervention Advocate
Julia Smith, Legal Advocate

STAFF BY DEPARTMENT

ECONOMIC & HOUSING SERVICES

Tessa Wright, Economic & Housing Program Manager

Yelsy Ferreras-Sanchez, Counselor Advocate

McKenzie Ogden, Economic & Housing Advocate

Shahada Peaten, Economic & Housing Advocate-Safe
Housing

Hilda Rodriguez, Economic & Housing Advocate

EDUCATION

Nancy Perri, Grants & Education Program Director

Sarah Dawgert, Education Manager

Sabrina Hannon, Medical Advocacy Program Coordinator

Patricia McLain, Teen Educator

Devin Breese, Youth Educator

JUSTICE CENTER

Julianna Petro, Legal Director

Denise Burgos, Legal Assistant

DeAnne Greene, Staff Attorney

Nina Menichelli, Staff Attorney

Renee Pilch, Staff Attorney

Melissa Reuter, Staff Attorney

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY STAFF

Tiffany Benedict, Susquehanna County Program Manager

Melinda Baldwin, Rural Economic & Housing Advocate

Andrew Granick, Counselor Advocate Teen

Nichole Jesse, Rural Economic & Housing Advocate

Sarah Watson, Rural Economic & Housing Advocate

Rachel Mercuri, Legal Advocate

Cole Nolan, Rural Economic & Housing Advocate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Linda Keene
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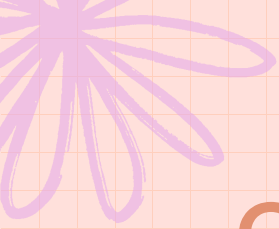
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Deede Schneider, Esq.
Elaine Shepard
Shubhra Shetty, Md.
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Elaine Shepard
Tara T. Smith
Allison M. Uhrin
Alissa Weiss



OUR MISSION

We strive to eliminate domestic violence and sexual abuse through advocacy, education, and systemic change while empowering all survivors with comprehensive services.

OUR VISION

A safe and just world for all; free of sexual and domestic abuse.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

WRC's role within the community is twofold: to provide direct services to adults and children who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or human trafficking and to act as a social change agent by increasing community awareness about the challenges of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking so that we may ultimately reduce their incidence.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

Without the dedicated support of our volunteers, we would not be able to do the work that we do. Please call us at 570-346-4460 in Lackawanna County and 570-278-1800 in Susquehanna County to begin.

RAISE FUNDS

Join us in raising funds to help us provide crisis counseling, safe housing and other services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by sponsoring a fundraiser through your workplace, church, school, social organization, or individually. Fundraisers such as basket raffles, receptions, etc. are always welcome. Please call us at 570-346-4460 to discuss how you can help.

“WRC has truly transformed my life. I felt stuck and uncertain about my future. But through the support, training, and resources provided, I’ve gained the confidence and skills I needed to take control of my path. I’m now excited about the opportunities ahead, and I feel more empowered than ever.

-WRC Program Participant

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

MATCH A GIFT

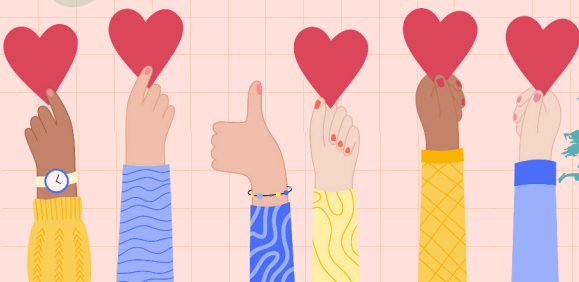
Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift from your employer and let us know when you send your gift.

GOODS AND SERVICES

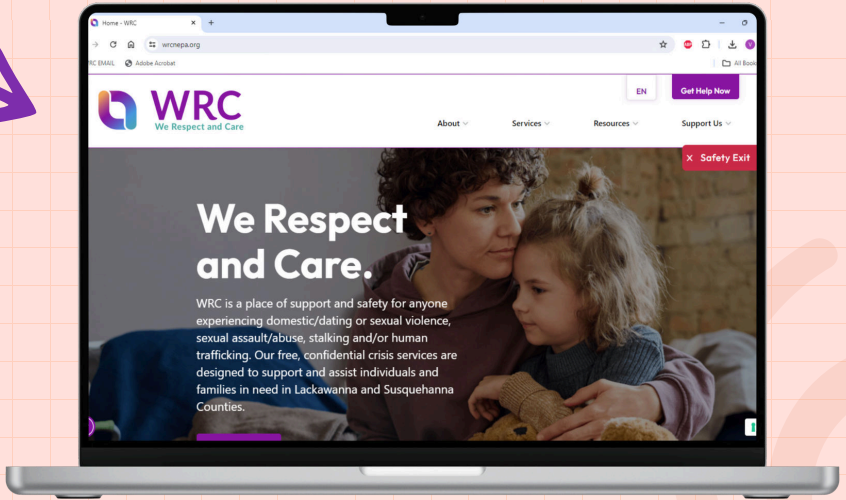
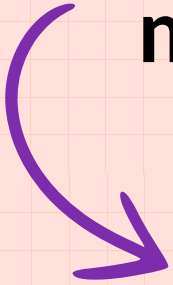
Donations of supplies are always needed and appreciated. Many victims of domestic or sexual violence are forced to leave their homes with nothing but their children. Items such as hygiene products, diapers, baby food and formula, school supplies, bus tickets and a no-longer used cell phone can make an important difference. Gift cards for survivors to purchase clothes, food and other necessities are very much appreciated. Join our mailing list and stay informed on what is on our wish list.

More information,
contact:

Amy Everetts
Director of
Development
amye@wrcnepa.org
570-346-4460



**Curious to learn more?
Visit our website for
more information**



WWW.WRCNEPA.ORG



**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!**



WRC

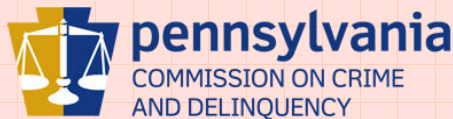


WRCNEPA

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Pennsylvania Coalition to
Advance Respect



United Way of
Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike

LIVE UNITED 
United Way of Susquehanna County

WRC 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.



LACKAWANNA COUNTY

PO BOX 975

SCRANTON , PA 18501

HOTLINE: 570-346-4671

BUSINESS: 570-346-4460

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

PO BOX 202

MONTROSE, PA 18801

HOTLINE: 1-800-257-5765

BUSINESS: 570-278-1800