



## **Beyond Shelter – An Update from Women's Center & Shelter**

**“I want to hug you right now! But I won't because of the pandemic. This is such a blessing!”**

**“Thank you SO much. Everything Women's Center & Shelter has done to help me has been amazing, and the only way I've made it through some times.”**

**“I honestly don't know what I would've done without this.”**

When you think of WC&S' work to provide safety and support, your mind may immediately go to our Emergency Shelter. While that is a critical and life-saving WC&S program (and we are taking great care of the residents and children!), only 6% of our clients are served by our Shelter. The quotes above are words of thanks from non-resident clients who have recently received care packages of supplies and/or gift cards because of your incredible generosity. Like so many others, they are doing the best they can to take care of their families while coping with job loss, social distancing, and the trauma they've experienced.

Each year, WC&S serves 7,500 adults and children through our non-resident programs and services such as Legal Advocacy, the Immediate Needs Coordination Program, CYF (Children, Youth and Families) Program, Support Groups, Individual Counseling and much more. Right now, WC&S Advocates are working hard to provide direct services for continued healing while addressing basic needs. And, while this is work they've always done, the need among clients is growing and will continue to do so well into the future.

To further our efforts, WC&S has put together a COVID-19 Rapid Response Team who is actively ensuring that we are providing care to all of our clients while doing outreach in the community to connect with new clients. It's more important than ever to make survivors aware of the help available to them. If a friend, family member or colleague may be experiencing violence at home and confides in you, you can help by calling our 24/7 hotline at [412-687-8005](tel:412-687-8005), downloading the [RUSafe app](#) or visiting our [COVID-19 Resources and Response page](#). Guidance and information for those who use abusive or controlling behaviors is available through our WC&S MENS Program (Men Embracing Nonviolence and Safety) at [412-687-8017](tel:412-687-8017) ext. 340.

You can also help by making a [financial contribution](#) to support the increased demand for supplies and expanded services or by donating items from our [essential needs list](#) which are being used to create care packages. While this crisis has undoubtedly changed all of our lives, it has been incredible to see just how many people are coming together to help those who need it most. Our resolve is strong and will only grow stronger. As an agency, we work to provide safety to thousands of adults and children with diverse and complex needs each year, and because of you, we can continue to do so.

I know it's difficult to be apart from friends and family, especially during the spring holidays, but we're all in this together, hoping for brighter days ahead.

Warmly,

*Nicole*

President/CEO