

# Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

## Mission, Guiding Principles and Core Services

### Mission

Our mission is to advance the safety and wellbeing of victims of intimate partner violence and prevent and respond to intimate partner violence through social change.

### Guiding Principles

#### **Women Centered Advocacy:**

We work on behalf of women and recognize that the roots of intimate partner violence lie in the historic subjugation of women.

#### **Empowerment Approach:**

We recognize that when individuals are provided with trust, support, advocacy, resources and information, they are in a better position to determine what is best for them. We support the voluntary choice of women and respect the woman's ability to assess the danger she and her children face.

#### **Sanctuary Model:**

WC&S has adopted the Sanctuary Model, a holistic, full-system approach to meeting the physical and emotional needs of victims. Sanctuary is a method of providing service and engaging in activities and interactions that focuses on helping injured children and adults recover from damaging effects of interpersonal drama.

#### **Community Awareness:**

We educate the community and work to change systems in ways that will end intimate partner violence.

#### **Foundation of Services: J.A.R.S.**

We provide high quality, confidential programs offered in an environment where cultural competency, justice, autonomy, restoration and safety are priorities.

### Core Services

We provide the following core services to achieve our mission:

- 24-Hour Hotline
- 24-Hour Shelter
- Legal Advocacy
- Systems Advocacy
- Civil Law Project (CLP)
- Counseling and Support Groups
- Community Education & Prevention
- MEN/S Group (Men Embracing Nonviolence & Safety)



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