

A publication of Womanspace, Inc., a non-profit organization
serving adults and children in crisis.

Communities of Light 2022: Shine a Light in Mercer

On Monday, December 6th at dusk, Communities of Light (COL) candles lined the streets of Mercer County – a powerful symbol of hope for men, women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in our community. Communities

of Light demonstrates solidarity with survivors and raises awareness of the services available to help those victims in Mercer County.

Because of you, over \$45,000 was raised to fund our life-saving services.

Thank you to all who participated! See below some pictures from our municipality lightings:

Lightings Across the County



BHHS Fox and Roach Princeton Junction presenting a check at their office lighting to Kaitlynn Ely, Corporate and Individual Giving Manager.



Sheilagh Mescal Gunstensen, SASS Coordinator, in front of Hamilton City Hall.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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Mercer County 24-Hour Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault Hotline (609)-394-9000

Text Message Hotline available 24/7 for the
deaf and hard of hearing at (609)-619-1888

NJ Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-572-SAFE

Counseling & Support Services
(609)-394-2532



Mason, Griffin, & Pierson lit their office with Board member Ed Schmierer.



Trenton City Hall lit luminary kits with Nathalie Nelson, CEO & President; Evelyn Aguilar, Bilingual Hotline Coordinator; Rita Lavendar, Client Advocate; and Stephany Ruano, Bilingual Court Advocate.



Robbinsville Police Department with Susan Adams, Volunteer Coordinator, and Lisseth Weeks, Bilingual Court Advocate.



Varonda Kendrick, DVVRT Coordinator, ran the lighting at Princeton Police Department alongside Board Members Joan Bartl and Fran Zeitler.



Pennington Police Department lit up their building with volunteer Kieran John and friends.

Congratulations to Kay and Susan on their Retirement!

Notes from Nathalie Nelson (she/her), CEO & President

Kay Lory

It is difficult, if not impossible, to sum up all of Kay's achievements over the past 33 years... but I will try my best. In 1989, Kay started at the Safe House as a Counselor- Advocate where she demonstrated excellent crisis intervention skills and was encouraged to share her talents with other staff. Within 15 months, she was promoted to the Director of Residential Services. During her time at the safe house, she did not only oversee the safe house but also created policies and procedures for the Residential Services and coordinated with CSS on data collection. That's where she found her love for statistical reporting.

In 2001, Kay became the Associate Executive Director; she managed and reported on all government grants and coordinated the statistics for the entire agency. She knew the government grants like the back of her hand. Because of her

ability to recognize new programs/funding opportunities, Womanspace expanded its services and grew into the agency we know today. State representatives would often turn to Kay for assistance in understanding the grant-making process. In 2006, she identified and applied for a new DOJ transitional housing grant that Womanspace was awarded and was able to open Barbara's House. In addition to managing government grants, she oversaw the daily operations of Barbara's House, along with Next Step and Wrap. She was also an integral part of the United Way collaborative partnership.

In 2018 she applied for Womanspace to receive funding to purchase a new database: Osnum. Kay oversaw the process of switching from Access to Osnum and met with program directors to create a data collection for the database.

Kay was always willing to help, listen and solve a problem. She was indeed a gift to Womanspace, and we will truly miss her tireless commitment that made

the agency a model of excellence.

Susan Adams

Since August 1988, Susan Adams made it her goal to ensure that Womanspace was on everyone's radar. She was at every possible event in Mercer County with Womanspace material and candy in hand; this included late nights and weekends. She provided such a valuable and amazing presence at Womanspace. Even though she was "part-time", she was the most consistent face of Womanspace in so many arenas. Everyone in the community knows Susan. She attended all events that Womanspace was invited to, and if we were not invited to an event, she would reach out to the organization and let them know that we should be there!

Susan never saw an event or request as a nuisance. She took on every event like it was a new one, representing Womanspace in our community with grace, poise, and warmth. Once someone meets Susan, they became knowledgeable about everything about Womanspace.

For years Susan Adams worked closely with all of our volunteers. Susan was the first to reach out to all volunteers and worked with them on their needs and schedule. She helped recruit, organize, and often supervised their work. She kept track of all volunteer hours/services throughout the agency. To say Susan is committed to her job is an understatement.

Susan's hard work, commitment, and dedication are worthy of admiration. Susan is a wealth of information, and she will be truly missed. Filling her shoes will be an almost impossible task. We are lucky enough that she has agreed to stay on as a volunteer.

Please join me in wishing Kay and Susan a Happy Retirement! If you'd like to send a congratulatory note, please mail it to:

Womanspace Administrative Building
1530 Brunswick Ave
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Annual Meeting 2022



Picture Credits: @barry_korbman

On Tuesday, Nathalie Nelson made her first public appearance as CEO & President at our Annual Meeting. Over 100 passionate volunteers, donors, local leaders & law enforcement joined the agency for a luncheon at The Social Profit Center at Mill One. A special thank you to Isles, Inc. for allowing us to use your beautiful space!

The Womanspace team is overwhelmed by the generosity and support of our community.

Thanks to our dedicated supporters, our agency can continue to serve survivors of Mercer County through empowerment and supportive services.

Being together reminds us that no one can do it alone. No one person and no one agency can entirely transform the lives of those that are most impacted by domestic or sexual violence. It truly takes a village, and we are honored to have you as part of ours.

MAKE A GIFT TO THE WOMANSPACE ANNUAL APPEAL TODAY!

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to make an online gift.



Holiday Donations



Members of the Robbinsville-Hamilton Rotary donated toys at their December meeting.



Shane McKeon donated over 50 toys collected at his holiday cabaret event! Pictured here with Yvonne Rivera, Database Administrator.



ZONTA of Trenton/Mercer put together welcome bags for clients that included pajamas and toiletries at their holiday party. Members are pictured here with Susan Adams, Volunteer Coordinator.



Derek Freed, Esq. who nominated Womanspace as the New Jersey State Bar Association holiday party beneficiary, with Susan Adams, Volunteer Coordinator.



Members of the NJ SBA who helped raise \$15,000 for Womanspace at their holiday party. THANK YOU!



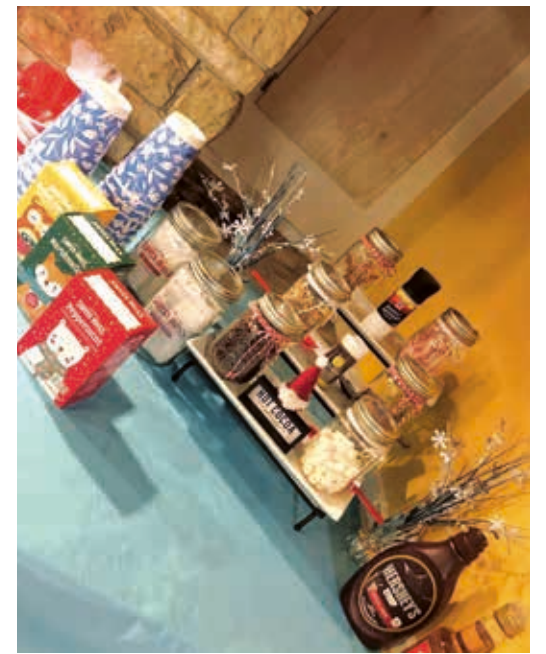
Dusty Everson from Everson Karate Studio with Yvonne Rivera, Data Administrator and Kaitlynn Ely, Individual and Corporate Giving Manager.



The Mercer County Bar Association presented Nathalie Nelson, CEO & President with a check for the holidays.

Holiday Happenings at Womanspace!

The holiday season was one for the books this year at Womanspace. Our clients at the Emergency Safe House and Barbara's House celebrated the holidays with yummy treats, hot chocolate, arts and crafts, and a surprise visit from Santa!



Recent Grants

Written by Erin Hartshorn (she/her), VP of Development and Communications

The Fall/Winter 2022 grants cycle brought two new corporate supporters – **Burlington Stores Foundation**, with a \$5,000 grant

for our Emergency Shelter and Barbara's House Transitional Housing, and **Fox and Roach Charities** with \$2,500 for our Emergency Services, which comprises our Emergency Shelter and our three domestic violence and sexual assault 24-hour hotlines.

Womanspace was also the fortunate recipient of grants from two loyal supporters right in our backyard, the **Lawrence Township Community Foundation (LTCF)** and the **Princeton Area Community Foundation (PACF)**. LTCF has granted us \$3,000 to help defray

additional costs created by overflow in our Emergency Shelter, and PACF has granted \$10,000 from their Impact Fund and \$10,000 from their Covid Relief Fund.

We are grateful for all our supporters, long-time and brand new!

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

By Mylee Smith (she/her), Intern

There is frequent confusion and misunderstanding as to what human trafficking is. It is widely believed that human trafficking always includes sex work or that victims are often targeted by people they do not know. These are both myths that are often portrayed in the media. While human trafficking can include sex work and victims can be targeted by strangers, human trafficking is a much broader matter with numerous classifications.

In New Jersey, a human trafficker is defined as a person who knowingly holds, recruits, lures, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means, another, to engage in sexual activity or to provide labor or services (N.J.S.2C:13-8). Human traffickers often use violence, threats, or fake promises in order to coerce their victims.

Victims of human trafficking, can come from numerous different backgrounds, genders, ages, and social classes. But, human traffickers often prey on vulnerable individuals. This can include runaway and homeless youth, people of color, individuals within the LGBTQ+ community, those struggling with immigration status, and individuals with substance

abuse issues.

The foster care system possesses a large number of human trafficking victims. The National Foster Youth Institute found that 60% of human trafficking victims had spent time within the foster care system. Many individuals within the foster care system find themselves feeling lost, lacking confidence and assurance, and seeking approval from those around them. They often exhibit runaway behaviors to escape their current living situation. Pair this with a history of trauma and traffickers sense their idea of the “perfect” victim. Traffickers may use grooming to make the victims believe the traffickers love and care about them.

Those struggling with immigration status are often targeted as well. In the U.S. immigrants are particularly targeted by traffickers because of their lower levels of education, the language barrier, their immigration status, and their lack of knowledge about U.S. customs and laws. Traffickers typically coerce or force their victims into labor or sex work by making false promises about the nature of a job or opportunity. A trafficker may target a woman coming to the U.S. with ensuring her an opportunity with a nanny job, but when she arrives to the

U.S. she is forced to work in undesirable and dangerous conditions where she is unable to leave and her wages are withheld.

The use of technology and social media has allowed traffickers to target victims at a much higher rate than the past. Social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Craigslist have made victims more accessible than ever. Traffickers can have direct contact with victims and build relationships with them over time without ever meeting them. Those seeking work online may also be targeted by traffickers. Fraudulent job postings by traffickers like modeling gigs or nanny jobs are often showcased and used to lure victims.

The sale of sexual services is often used by both victims and traffickers. Exploiting and advertising victims is a way for traffickers to find clients for their victims and make money. Often times, traffickers will hack or impersonate the victims on social media and create postings under their own accounts.

Prevention and Safety

It is important to identify the risks of human trafficking and take precautions and important steps to prevent human trafficking. Those within the community should be aware and recognize signs, including:

Recognize signs, including:

- Poor living conditions
- Multiple people cramped into one space
- Unpaid or paid very little
- Submissive
- Unable to speak to individual alone

Within the foster care system, youth should be receiving assistance with food, shelter, clothing, and other basic needs. Victims should also be provided with assistance in treating substance abuse disorder. Schools are a safe haven for many; educators and administrators should advocate for those that have been exploited in the form of human trafficking or are at risk.

Online prevention and monitoring assists in lowering the number of victims as well. Be aware of fraudulent postings that seem too good to be true and use social media to raise awareness.

If you or someone you know is experiencing human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault, please call the Womanspace 24/7 Hotline at (609) 394-9000. If in an emergency, call 911.

Sources: <https://www.dea.gov/human-trafficking-prevention>; <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking>

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

www.womanspace.org

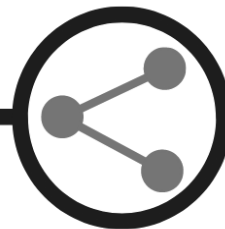
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CONTRIBUTE • CONNECT • COLLABORATE

NFL Star Troy Vincent Named 2023 Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award Recipient

By Kaitlynn Ely (she/her), Individual and Corporate Giving Manager

Womanspace is pleased to announce that Troy Vincent, Sr. is our 2023 BBS Award Honoree. A Trenton native, Vincent played for the Philadelphia Eagles, the Miami Dolphins, the Buffalo Bills, and the Washington Redskins. He currently serves as the EVP of Football Operations for the NFL. He and his wife, Tommi, are advocates against domestic violence and sexual assault and have supported Womanspace over the years.

"It is indeed humbling and with great gratitude to be the recipient of the 2023 Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award. Its significance and legacy represents decades of dedication to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Turning pain into purpose is an example of how one voice can grow to be amplified on behalf of millions, and it's a reminder that violence against women and young girls is our issue." said Troy Vincent, Sr on his nomination.

"Womanspace is honored to have Troy Vincent as the 27th Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award recipient. Domestic violence is not just a women's

issue. It's an issue that affects the entire world, and Troy's passion for ending intimate partner violence is inspiring." said Nathalie Nelson, CEO & President of Womanspace.

The Womanspace community is grateful for Troy Vincent's support of our mission of nonviolence and his consistent commitment to the Greater Trenton community. Please join us on Thursday, May 4th, 2023 as we honor Vincent and his initiatives to prevent abuse within the home and on the field.

Interested in sponsorship or advertising opportunities? Please email Kaitlynn Ely, Individual and Corporate Giving Manager, at kre@womanspace.org for more information. Gala tickets will be available in the coming weeks! Stay tuned to our website and social media pages.

ABOUT TROY VINCENT

Troy Vincent, Sr., is currently the Executive Vice president of Football Operations at the National Football League (NFL). In this role, Vincent is responsible for several divisions including Business Strategy and Development, Officiating, Game Operations, Policy and Compliance, Foot-

ball Communications and Marketing, Player Community, and Player Engagement.

As a non-voting member of the Competition Committee, Vincent develops programs for players, coaches, and football executives. The NFL Legends Community, NFL Way to Play, and The Rookie Success program are just a few key initiatives created under his watch. In addition, he has implemented programs that focus on wellness/mental health, suicide prevention, stigma change, domestic violence & sexual assault prevention. He works closely with clubs, players, and legends on social justice initiatives in communities across the nation. His influence and impact reach far beyond the football field.

Vincent began his 15-year professional football career as a first-round draft pick and continues to be recognized for his contributions on the field. He made five Pro Bowl appearances and was selected All-Pro three times. He has been nominated to the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame and has been inducted into the Hall of Fames for the Philadelphia Eagles, the State of Pennsylvania, the University of Wisconsin, Pennsbury High

School, and recently the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame.

Personally, Vincent is an advocate against domestic violence and sexual assault. Being directly affected by domestic violence, both Vincent and his wife, Tommi, share a passion and commitment to promoting the message of "Leadership Over Violence". They serve their community through visiting shelters, speaking to advocacy groups, and encouraging others to act to end domestic violence and sexual assault.

Additionally, through their foundation, Love Thy Neighbor, the Vincent family is dedicated to humanitarian efforts defined by giving back to those in need throughout communities across America, beginning with their hometown of Trenton, NJ. Because of his charitable endeavors, Vincent is the only player in history to have received the NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year award and the NFL Players Association Byron Whizzer White Award. He also received the National Jefferson Award for Public Service for extraordinary public service. Vincent also serves on the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition.



GIVING TUESDAY



Womanspace raised over \$47,000 with the Board Match!



SAVE THE DATE!

27th Annual Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award Event

Honoring Troy Vincent, Sr.

EVP of Football Operations at the National Football League, former Eagles Cornerback, and Trenton native.

THURSDAY MAY 4TH, 2023

LEARN MORE AT
[HTTPS://WOMANSPACE.ORG/TROY-VINCENT-BBS-2023/](https://womanspace.org/troy-vincent-bbs-2023/)



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

RESPONSE TEAM VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

Applications for the Spring 2023 Training!

Applicants must be:

- A resident of, or work in, Mercer County
- 18 years or older, with a valid drivers license and transport
- Must complete a background check
- Able to participate in 60 hours of training



Scan the QR Code for the application!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1, 2023
DVRT Advocate Application Deadline

May 4, 2023
Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award Gala

For more details visit:
www.womanspace.org

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you are being hurt by your partner, it is NOT your fault. You deserve to be safe and healthy. For help and information anytime, contact:

**Womanspace
24-Hour Hotline**
www.womanspace.org
1-609-394-9000

Text Message Hotline
for Deaf and
Hard of Hearing
609-619-1888

**National Domestic
Violence Hotline**
www.ndvh.org
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

**National Sexual
Assault Hotline**
www.rainn.org
**1-800-656-HOPE
(4673)**

**New Jersey 24-Hour Sexual
Assault Hotline**
1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

**National Teen Dating
Abuse Helpline**
www.endabuse.org
www.loveisrespect.org
www.thatsnotcool.com
1-866-331-9474
TTY 1-866-331-8453

Womanspace affirms its commitment to cultural competency. We recognize and value the ethnic, religious, and racial richness of our communities, and encourage mutual respect and understanding among all people. True excellence in our organization and communities results from identifying, serving, and enlisting the participation of all people who represent this rich diversity.

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www.womanspace.org

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