WHAT'S NEWS

October/November 2025

STANDING FIRM News

The team participated in several **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)** events and activities.

Mary presented DV awareness programming to Dollar Bank, University of Pittsburgh, Western PA School for Blind Children, and YWCA.

Karen attended the DVAM Happy Hour Mixer at Workscape where attendees learned about the programs and services offered to survivors by WC&S and a deeper understanding of the journey they may take to survivorship.

Megan participated as a panelist in YWCA's Week Without Violence: Safe Beginnings: Protecting Mothers, Nurturing Futures. The session featured leading work to support people in the community, including through safe and inclusive workplaces with STANDING FIRM.

The team hosted a CLE Event: “Legal Protections for Survivors at Home & Work” at the office of SF Member K&L Gates. Thank you to Melissa Tea, WC&S board member, for the connection to the beautiful space. We thank the presenters at the event: Erin Gibson Allen, Megan Confer-Hammond, Brittany Mellinger, Mike Pavlick, Megan Rose, and Rachel Shepherd.

When STANDING FIRM, our employer members, community, and local DV agencies (such as WC&S) work in collaboration, we can better provide safety, support, and solidarity for survivors.

Just because October is over, the need for awareness, education, vigilance, and support doesn’t end.

Every home deserves peace.
Every survivor deserves justice.
Every community deserves safety.

Calls to Action:

- Schedule an Information Session with STANDING FIRM and become a member!
- Support your local DV agency via donation or volunteer activities.
  - o WC&S
  - o STANDING FIRM
- Reflect and remember those lost to DV & celebrate the strength of survivors.
- Use social media to create awareness and show your community what you are doing to help end domestic violence. Learn more about DV here.
- Promote healthy relationships at a company wellness event. Reach out to us for assistance!

When you get involved, you help to amplify the voices of survivors, unite our community, and inspire lasting change!

Cyber Security Awareness

Now in its 22nd year, this campaign (“Stay Safe Online” and “Building a Cyber Strong America”) continues to educate people about online risks and to provide mitigation strategies. WC&S partners with CMU to understand the impact of technology on client safety.

Technology may be used as a lifeline of connection and support for survivors, yet it can extend the reach of an abuser using tech to control, harm, harass, and stalk someone.

Employers have an opportunity to educate staff and to proactively provide resources on both topics throughout the year. Become a member of STANDING FIRM and let us help you get started today!

Learn More from Safety Net Project

November Events

Mary & Karen attended State Representative Lindsay Powell's Open Doors Resource Fair on November 8th. Important connections were made with both community members and partners. There is a lot of help and hope to be found in Pittsburgh—don't hesitate to reach out!

Family Care Act Updates

The Family Care Act continues to gain support in the PA House and Senate. Why, then, has it not gone up for a vote?

There are only a handful of legislators keeping paid family leave from becoming a reality for millions of Pennsylvania. It's time that we put on the pressure and hold our lawmakers accountable for doing what's right for the people of Pennsylvania.

The Family Care Coalition communications team has been amplifying that message on social media in recent weeks, and we invite you to do the same.

Use these resources to copy, paste and create your own social media posts
Be sure to follow @TheFamilyCareAct on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and X and "like" and reshare its content.

Upcoming Family Care Act Coalition Event

TUESDAY, DEC. 9: The Family Care Coalition will have two tables in the east wing of the Pennsylvania Capitol Building. More details to come about ways to get involved!

Monthly Awareness Posters

Share in your breakrooms, restrooms, or digitally to help educate and raise awareness. November 2025 through August 2026 posters are available here. Check back in early 2026 for more!