

SPECIAL EDITION

Celebrating a 30-Year Career with 180 Turning Lives Around's Executive Director Anna Diaz-White

Anna Diaz-White, the Executive Director of 180 Turning Lives Around, Inc. is celebrating 30 years of service on behalf of women, children and men affected by domestic violence and sexual assault in our community.

Her leadership of this non-profit organization has led to national and even international recognition of many of its programs. During her tenure, Diaz-White expanded the agency's grass roots hotline and shelter into a comprehensive array of life-building programs and services including transitional housing, creative arts therapy for victims and their children, crisis response teams, group counseling and support services, and quadrupled the number of clients served each year. In a major effort to address prevention, Diaz-White worked to establish a youth helpline offered to more than one million young people throughout the State of New Jersey.

"Our mission," Diaz-White says, "is about the most fundamental and simple notion that treating each other with respect and kindness is the foundation for a healthy and safe home, society, country and world." Bringing that vision to fruition is her life's work.



As a new mother, Anna recalls resigning from a full-time position in New York City and looking for part-time work to best use her skills and take care of her family. She answered an ad that required budget and writing skills for a women's organization. Anna interviewed and was hired on the spot as the part-time assistant to the Executive Director at what was then known as 'The Women's Resource and Survival Center'.

The office and the women's shelter were all housed in the same small building. Staff could mingle with families who were living there. The kids would wander into the administrative offices. It wasn't hard to realize that these families were no different than her own family.

Anna admits she had many misconceptions about domestic violence initially. But over time, it became clear to her that it was happening to older women, younger women, married, single, white, black, women of all levels of education, all faiths, and all ethnic backgrounds. "Once you realize you or your family or friends are not exempt, it becomes easy to relate these issues to your own life," she recalls.

Now, 30 years later, Anna is just as passionate about serving the community. In fact, her commitment has only grown stronger, as she continues looking for ways to make 180's services even more comprehensive in response to emerging needs.

Under her guidance, in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, 180 pursued and received funding to expand counseling, case management, and trauma-informed therapy services to those impacted by this devastating storm. To date, 180 has distributed targeted information to more than 200,000 students in high-impact school districts, connected with more than 700 individuals via outreach efforts, and provided counseling services to more than 125 individuals impacted by both domestic violence and Superstorm Sandy.

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... Always believing change is possible

Through the years...



Jon Bon Jovi and Anna Diaz-White celebrated 180's 30th anniversary at a Gala Celebration along with 400 supporters in 2006

180 Board Member Larry Lowenstein (left); Executive Director Anna Diaz-White; 180's first Board President Susan Preston; former Board Member Marianne Ficarra; and Board Member Eileen O'Hern Luby in 2013



Anna Diaz-White stomping on grapes at the "Stomp Out Violence" event in 2010

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In addition, Anna remains actively engaged in 180's efforts to build a new domestic violence emergency shelter, celebrating another significant milestone in her career this year as 180 closed on the purchase of the property where the building will be located. 180 is looking forward to breaking

ground later this year and anticipating opening the new facility by 2016.

For Anna, her work at 180 Turning Lives Around is a vocation. She looks at every day as an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, and permeates the organization.

We congratulate her on her 30 years of unwavering passion and commitment to the women, men, and children affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse/neglect, and look forward to many more years under her leadership.



New Jersey's First Lady Mary Pat Christie (left) with Anna Diaz-White at 180's Amanda's Easel Creative Arts Therapy Program in 2011

Tom Hayes of New Jersey Natural Gas, Paul Gaffney, former Monmouth University President, Anna Diaz-White and Ray Eckhoff of 180's Men's Task Force in 2008



2010 Athena Awards



Supporters Tom Holt, Marie Jedziniak, Anna Diaz-White and former Board President Donald Magee in 1998



Executive Director, Anna Diaz White (second from left) at the 2011 Spring Gala with Verizon Wireless' Patrick Devlin, President of the NY Metro Region; David Samberg, Public Relations Manager for the NY Metro Region; John Szeliga, Director of External Affairs for Atlantic, Middlesex, Ocean and Monmouth Counties; and Doug Schoenberger, VP of Corporate Responsibility & Public Policy of Verizon NJ



Anna Diaz-White with members of the Men's Task Force with former Secretary of State DeForest Soaries (3rd from left) in 2000



Anna Diaz-White (left) with Lisa von Pier, Assistant Commissioner of Child Protection Permanency Office of Department of Children & Families, and Allison Blake, Commissioner of Department of Children & Families in 2013



Former Governor Christine Todd Whitman (3rd from left) meets with supporters Margrit McCrane, Linda Rosario, Donald Magee, and Executive Director, Anna Diaz-White in 2000

Right: Anna Diaz-White (left) with high school students Aisha Bhoori and Francesca Vaccarro talk about Denim Day with Ken Rosato of ABC7 News in 2014



Monmouth County Assistant Prosecutor Peter Boser, Senator Jennifer Beck, Anna Diaz-White and Lisa von Pier, Assistant Commissioner of Child Protection Permanency Office of Department of Children & Families in 2013



Hotlines

732-264-4111
732-264-RAPE

Toll Free

888-843-9262
888-264-RAPE

2NDFLOOR® Youth Helpline

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to check www.180nj.org for updates

November 24, 2014: Ode to the Moon Yoga Series
Renaissance Pilates, Red Bank, 7 PM

December 22, 2014: Ode to the Moon Yoga Series
Renaissance Pilates, Red Bank, 7 PM

January 1, 2015: Sons of Ireland Polar Plunge
Convention Hall, Asbury Park

February 21, 2015: LOL- Laugh Out Loud Comedy Show
Two River Theater, Red Bank

April 17, 2015: Annual Celebration
Honoring Tammy & Phil Murphy
The Riverhouse, Rumson Country Club

April 22, 2015: Denim Day

180 IN MOTION is published by 180 Turning Lives Around, Inc., a non-profit organization serving individuals affected by domestic violence and sexual assault, and child abuse. 180 apologizes for any errors or omissions. Please send corrections to connieh@180nj.org.