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News Release

For Immediate Release
3/25/16

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“Conversation” on Self-Sufficiency, Success

Opportunities to work together to support and improve the lives of women and families at the local, state, and federal levels are the focus of the 8th annual “Conversation with Our Elected Officials” to be held Friday, April 8 2016. The event is presented by the Bucks County Women’s Advocacy Coalition (BCWAC) and co-sponsored by the BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

The forum features a keynote address by Elizabeth Hersh, former Executive Director of the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia mayoral appointee to direct the Office of Supportive Housing. Hersh will present recent successes and new opportunities for coalition impact on housing and other basic needs.

“Housing is foundational to effectively addressing other key pieces of the self-sufficiency puzzle such as employment, healthcare, education, and child care needs.” says BCWAC President Tam St. Claire. “Liz will frame the discussion on how to get women and their families economically secure and out of poverty. She has dedicated her life to serving poor and marginalized people, with a major focus on creating affordable, decent homes where lives can grow and families can flourish.”

Coalition partners and citizens will discuss the impact of current state and federal policies on women and girls in Bucks County. County, state, and federal legislators will also speak about what they see as the opportunities and challenges ahead. Among those indicating they expect to attend are:

- Rep. Tina Davis
- Rep. Gene DiGirolamo
- Rep. Scott Petri
- Rep. Steve Santarsiero and Chief of Staff Rosemary Wuenschel
- Rep. Craig Staats
- Ashley J. Conaway, staff – for Rep. Frank Farry
- Gail Reinard, staff – for Sen. Chuck McIlhinney
- Lisa Walter, staff - for Sen. Bob Mensch
- Bucks County Commissioners Bucks County Commissioner Robert G. Loughery, Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, and Charles H. Martin
- Jon Rubin, Director of Human Services, Bucks County Courthouse

- Lynn Bush, Exec Director Bucks County Planning Commission
- Kurt Imhof, Regional Rep., U.S. Senator Robert Casey
- Imani R. Johnson, Field Rep., U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
- Stacey Mulholland, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Senator Michael Fitzpatrick
- Nedia Ralston, SE Regional Director for Gov. Wolf
- Jalila Parker, SE Regional Deputy Director for Gov. Wolf

The forum will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2040 Street Road (Routes 611 and 132), Warrington, PA. Breakfast and attendee sign-in will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m.

To learn more about the coalition and the “Conversation with Our Elected Officials” on April 8, please visit www.bcwac.org. RSVP by April 6 at www.bcwac.org/upcoming-events.

BCWAC is a non-partisan coalition of more than 150 individuals and 38 organization partners that serve women and girls. The coalition educates and advocates to promote systemic change to achieve gender equity and economic security for all.