

For Immediate Release
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Perspectives on Issues Relevant to Bucks County Women

On January 19, 2016, Pennswood Village, a caring community guided by Quaker principles and traditions that leads the way in the provision of residential and healthcare services to those age 65 and older, hosted the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition (BCWAC), a non-partisan coalition of more than 150 individual and 38 organization partners that empower, educate and advocate together to promote gender equality and economic self-sufficiency for all, as a part of Pennswood's Speaker Series Forum.

Several experts from the Coalition presented perspectives on three issues that significantly impact the economic self-sufficiency of Bucks County women and their families.

The relationship between poverty and domestic violence can be described as a downward spiral. "When financial abuse has been part of the relationship, 7 out of 8 women who leave seeking safety are likely to go back," shared Ifeoma Aduba, executive director of A Woman's Place (AWP). AWP offers financial education and career development programs to help break the abusive cycle.

The average total cost of **caregiving** to a women caregiver in terms of lost or reduced wages, pension benefits and social security payments is \$324,044. A devastating impact to the caregiver's short and long term economic health, according to Lois Tobin, Deputy Director at Bucks County Area Agency on Aging.

Marlene Piasecki, Director Program Planning at Bucks County Family Service Association, spoke about the "invisibility" of homeless people in Bucks County, how 37% are women many with children, and there is a lack of enough affordable housing in the county.

"Events like these help the BCWAC inform our citizens of the barriers that women in our communities face in trying to achieve economic self-sufficiency. We are grateful to Pennswood Village for the opportunity to engage with their residents on such an important topic" said BCWAC President Tam St. Claire.

If you are interested in helping the Coalition advocate for systemic change, visit our website at www.bcwac.org.



Tam St Claire, Ifeoma Aduba, Lois Tobin, Marlene Piasecki