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Facelift for A Woman's Place



Girl Scout Breanne Dymek (center) recently took on the task of clearing out overgrown shrubbery from the entranceway to A Woman's Place in Doylestown, and planting a welcoming garden. With Breanne are Cynthia Daymon (left), Director of Financial Operations, and AWP CEO, Tammy Oliver (right). See story on page 10.

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FALL HOME
& GARDEN
EDITION

Breanne Dymek earns Silver and helps A Woman's Place

by Joan Hellyer

A local Girl Scout is using her Silver Award project to help bring some peace to those in an abusive relationship and others who are trying to help them get out of it.

Breanne Dymek, an eighth-grader at Council Rock's Holland Middle School, transformed the entranceway of A Woman's Place in Doylestown Township into a welcoming garden.

"I feel it is very important there is a place that people can go if they feel they need to," Breanne, 13, said. "I feel very grateful in our community to have this place to go for help."

The administrative offices off Almshouse Road are a critical staging point for members of

the non-profit organization to do their work as they serve abuse victims.

However, up until early August, the entranceway had been anything but inviting.

It was filled with weeds and overgrown plants, trees and shrubbery.

Breanne, a Girl Scout for eight years and a member of Troop 2658, Rock United Service Unit 621, sought to change that.

The teen worked with her mother, Dawnmarie Dymek, who leads Unit 621, and two of her fellow Girl Scouts and local businesses to convert the entranceway into a tranquil garden setting.

Breanne and the volunteers spent five to eight hours a day over the course of several days during the blazing hot heat of



A nice new entranceway to A Woman's Place, courtesy of Breanne Dymek.

early August to tear out the overgrown greenery and replace them with 30 fresh plants and mulch.

"I enjoyed doing it even though some of the Yews (a type of tree) were hard to get out because they are so old," Breanne said.

There are a variety of different types of plants in the new garden including Pink Panther Coral Bells, Heller's Japanese Holly, Himalayan Sweet Box, Twinkle Toes Lungwort and Dixie Wood Ferns, she said.

In addition to the plants, Breanne and her fellow Girl Scouts collected rocks from the Dymek's backyard in Northampton Township.

They painted inspirational words including "courage," "smile" and "hope" on them and spread the rocks throughout the garden.

"She created a very peaceful environment for us," said Rita Brouwer-Ancher, the development director at A Woman's Place. "The garden provides a place of meditation and respite."

Breanne said she received assistance and or donations for her project from JDT Petroleum, Lawn Depot, Gasper's Landscaping, BHHS Fox & Roach, Warwick Green Grinders and municipal workers in her hometown.

She will be honored for her accomplishment during an October 3rd Girl Scout ceremony.

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Nursing home neglect: Dangerously common

submitted by Jeffrey A. Krawitz, Esq., Shareholder, Stark & Stark

With limited abilities, the elderly need to depend on caregivers for their everyday needs.

By admitting a loved one to a nursing home, you expect them to be safe and attended to.

Though nursing facilities are responsible for the well-being of their residents, they can fall short of providing the necessary care.

Nursing home neglect happens every day, in a variety of ways:

- Medical neglect - failing to adequately attend to a patient's health concerns, including bedsores, infections, mobility issues and medication needs;
- Basic needs neglect - failing to provide a patient with a sufficient amount of water, food, or a safe and sanitary environment;
- Personal hygiene neglect - failing to assist residents regularly with bathing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, and other hygiene needs;
- Social/Emotional neglect - consistently ignoring residents, leaving them alone for too long, or disregarding their emotional concerns.

Nursing home neglect can also lead to broken bones typically associated with falls.

Unfortunately, elderly residents often fall trying to go to the bathroom or to get water by themselves because no one is there to help or responds to a

call for assistance.

Studies show that nursing home residents who are visited often by family and friends are less susceptible to neglect.

It's important that families of nursing home residents keep a close eye on their loved ones and look for signs of abuse/neglect, including bedsores, injuries, malnutrition, dehydration, unsanitary conditions and emotional distress.

Nursing home neglect is abuse.

Kaitlin Murphy Foundation provides grant to Never Surrender Hope

The Kaitlin Murphy Foundation recently provided a \$2,500 grant to Never Surrender Hope for the fulfillment and distribution of the organization's Hope Bags.

The donation was presented to the latter organization during the Kaitlin Murphy Foundation's Dance Through the Decades to Fight Addiction fundraiser.

Never Surrender Hope (NSH) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to those suffering with the disease of addiction and homelessness, while offering support and guidance for their loved ones. They advocate to meet their basic needs while empowering them to seek treatment, and encourages and helps people to facilitate a life of freedom from the chains of addiction and continue to offer our support throughout their journey towards a life of hope.

Their mission is to lift the fallen, restore the broken and to heal the hurting.

"We at Never Surrender Hope are humbled and incredibly grateful for the blessing of receiving this grant," said NSH's Sally Carr. "On behalf of our entire Never Surrender Hope family, as well as our FOTS (Friends on the Streets), we thank The Kaitlin Murphy Foundation for affording us the ability to put together over 625 Hope Bags. Every Hope Bag distributed opens up an opportunity

for conversation and gets us one more step closer to our mission of ensuring that those that are ready to seek treatment know that there are resources and support to help them throughout their journey to recovery and that they matter."

The Kaitlin Murphy Foundation's mission is to bring awareness to the addiction epidemic, form a community of fighters to join the battle, and raise the funds needed to support addiction-fighting charities that are already doing the good work on the ground level.

"We are proud to help fund Never Surrender Hope's awe-inspiring mission," said KMF President Annemarie Murphy. "The volunteers are at ground zero of the opioid crisis, visiting with homeless struggling with addiction, and offering help and hope during their darkest times."

In addition to providing funds to Never Surrender Hope, KMF also partners with police departments throughout Bucks County via BPAIR (Bucks County Police Assisting in Recovery); contributed in establishing the newly formed HEART Program (Healing, Empowering, And Recovering Together), a women's recovery program in the Bucks County Correctional Facility; provides support to The Moyer Foundation's

Camp Mariposa, a national addiction prevention and mentoring program for children who have been impacted by addiction in their household aimed at breaking the intergenerational cycle of addiction; and funded the Kaitlin Murphy Art & Music Therapy Program, a creative arts therapy program at Libertae, a women's recovery facility in Bensalem; among other excellent organizations also fighting the opioid crisis.

For more information on the Kaitlin Murphy Foundation, visit www.KaitlinMurphyFoundation.org.

For more information on Never Surrender Hope, visit <https://neversurrenderhope.org/>.

Breanne Dymek earns Silver

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The Silver Award is the second highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, according to the organization's website.

Girls in sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade who are registered Girl Scout cadettes are eligible to do the community service projects.

Breanne is now aiming for the Girl Scouts highest honor, the Gold Award.

She can begin working on that project when she gets to high school next year, according to the Girl Scout website.

"I think it's awesome," said Breanne's mom, Dawnmarie Dymek. "She really sees where people struggle and she wants to help them with that."