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**RACCy Olympics to Benefit Safe Berks**

**Friday April 27, 2018, 12-3 p.m.**

The students, faculty and staff of Reading Area Community College (RACC) have been working hard since September to organize the 8th annual RACCy Olympics. In addition to planning this fun day, which features games and contests, they have worked diligently to raise funds to support Safe Berks.

On Friday April 27, from 12-3 p.m., all their hard work will come together as students gather in the Quad outside of the Student Union Building to play games such as Bean Bag Toss and Oreo Face.

At the event, the students will present a check to Safe Berks representatives Mindy McIntosh, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator, and Francine Scoboria, Communications Coordinator. Mary Kay Bernosky, Safe Berks CEO, confirmed that the donation will be used to help renovate the Safe Berks Playground.

“We want to help others,” says Daniel Faudree, coordinator of the RACCy Olympics and a second-year student at RACC. “We are part of this community, and we want to help this community.”

“We are so grateful to the students, faculty and staff of Reading Area Community College, especially the students who worked so hard to coordinate the RACCy Olympics and raise funds for Safe Berks,” says Bernosky. “By helping Safe Berks renovate our playground, RACC students are making a difference in the lives of children who have experienced trauma. Having a beautiful, safe, colorful playground will provide the children who stay at Safe Berks with opportunities for fun and healing.”

RACC students choose a different community organization each year to benefit from the RACCy Olympics, and this year they chose Safe Berks. Faudree explained that students form teams to raise money for the RACCy Olympics. So far there are seven teams: the Student Government Association; Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society; Student Life Office; Front Street Journal; PSECU Bank; the Multi-Cultural Club; and The LifeSavers, a group of nurses and health professionals.

The students raised the funds by selling candy bars, selling tickets to a bus trip to Washington D.C., and selling ads in a RACCy Olympics program book.

“The RACCy Olympics is an outlet for community service,” says Faudree, who will transfer to Albright College next year to continue his studies in biology and pre-medicine. “It is a lot of work but also a lot of fun.”

Safe Berks, formerly Berks Women in Crisis, provides services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. **Services include a Safe House for adults and children who are in danger, a 24-hour Hotline, individual and group counseling, legal services and advocacy, and educational programs. Services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.**

Safe Berks served more than 4,000 clients in the last fiscal year. Our Safe House provided a haven to approximately 400 adults and 400 children in the last fiscal year. Our 24-Hour Hotline number is 844-789-SAFE, or text Safe Berks to 20121.

**Safe Berks** provides a safe haven and ongoing support system for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our advocacy and education programs increase awareness and promote the prevention of domestic violence, sexual assault, and all forms of oppression.