

# Laurel House Happenings

By Tina Reynolds, Director of Development and Community Relations

Fall 2011

## Thanks to you, during the past year, Laurel House staff & volunteers:

- Provided **6506** days of emergency shelter to **148** women & **142** children;
- Responded to **1360** hotline calls;
- Provided **7547** hours of counseling to victims of domestic violence;
- Housed **11** families in our transitional housing program;
- Trained **2,506** law enforcement officers & medical professionals;
- Educated **2,244** community members about domestic violence & Laurel House;
- Partnered with local schools to educate **6,335** students about dating violence & healthy relationships

None of this would have been possible without your support!

**THANK YOU**

## YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



As you know, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. That means that representatives from Laurel House are out in the community even more than usual, working to help spread awareness about domestic abuse, and the supportive services that are available to help.

Recently, I was at one such event when a young woman named Rebecca\* approached me and asked "Does someone named Tina work with you?". I responded "Yes, why?" and this lovely, soft spoken, young woman told me "in 2005, Tina helped me get a PFA" (Protection From Abuse Order). Rebecca is now 23 years old, a very accomplished college senior. She was 17

years old at the time that she had gotten the PFA against her ex-boyfriend. The young man had hurt her so badly that the first time that Tina visited her, she was in the hospital. Rebecca told me that this same young man had hurt her physically several times prior to this incident, but that she could never bring herself to take legal action. After meeting Tina, she did! Now, six years later, as she prepares to graduate from college, Rebecca told me that her mother still keeps Tina's business card on the refrigerator because she is so glad that her daughter is safe.

After leaving the event, I reflected on my conversation with Rebecca. At the time that Rebecca sought and received help from Laurel House Tina Reynolds was our DARTII (Domestic

Abuse Response Team) Coordinator. DARTII is a program that was created in partnership with law enforcement personnel, in response to a domestic homicide of a young mother and her daughter. Originating in the North Penn area, DARTII has since expanded over the past seven years to include 42 police departments throughout Montgomery County. Every day, our team of DART volunteers and staff respond to crisis calls such as the one from Rebecca so many years ago. Every day, **your** support of Laurel House helps to ensure that people impacted by domestic abuse have access to the help that they need. Thank you for all you do. It makes a difference!

Beth Sturman, Executive Director

\*name and identifying information changed to maintain confidentiality

## Pay it forward...

For the past three years, Laurel House has been hosting the Teen Dating Violence Poster Contest. The theme for this year's contest is "Dating Violence Prevention and the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline". The posters are designed to encourage teens who are in abusive, or potentially abusive relationships to call the

**National Dating Abuse Helpline at 1.866.331.9474** or visit their website at [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

Tommie Wilkins, Director of Community Education, states "this year's poster contest entries show that Montgomery County students have a true understanding of the dynamics of dating vio-

lence in the lives of teens".

The unveiling ceremony of this year's winning posters was held on Oct. 26, 2011 at the Bryn Mawr Film Institute. Radio personality, Kobi from Wired 96.5 joined Laurel House in this effort. Check out our website ([ww.laurel-house.org](http://ww.laurel-house.org)) to view this year's winning posters.

## Cabrini honors long time Laurel House supporters

On October 4th, the Staff and Board of Laurel House were proud to be represented at Cabrini College's inaugural domestic violence symposium as Cabrini's President, Dr. Marie Angelella George, presented John and Barbara Jordan with a very special award honoring their long time commitment to domestic violence awareness and education. The symposium, entitled "Linking Campus with Community: Domestic Violence Education Partnerships in Action", was the perfect forum for recognizing the Jordan's for their passionate advocacy in this field.

John and Barbara Jordan have been ardent supporters of Laurel House for many years. Both have served on the Laurel House Advisory Board and Barbara is a current member of that group, as is their daughter, Shara

Rizzo. Several years ago, the Jordan's helped Laurel House and Cabrini College forge an exciting community partnership that successfully helps to "raise awareness" about domestic abuse throughout the campus. They have also established an endowed fund at Cabrini College to promote domestic violence awareness there, and to help develop programs and teaching resources for K-12 teachers and pre-service teachers. This work, being done in Cabrini's teacher education department, helps to equip educators to better recognize signs that children may be witnessing domestic violence in their homes, and then to provide these teachers with the needed tools to help address the trauma that these children experience.

In 2008, Barbara Jordan was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Cabrini College. Now, in 2011,

John and Barbara Jordan, Hon. D.H.L., were both honored for their on-going advocacy, education and prevention efforts. We thank them for their hard work and support, and we congratulate them on receiving this well deserved award from Cabrini College.



John and Barbara Jordan, pictured with Cabrini's President, Dr. Marie Angelella George.

### Shop to benefit Laurel House

#### Saks Shopping Day

Wednesday, November 9th

10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

An **Akris punto** representative will be in the store from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**Laurel House will receive 10% of purchases made that day**

Remember to mention Laurel House at the time of your purchase

\*Saks card holders will receive triple points

#### Bowties Style Boutique

Wednesday, November 30th

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

1121 North Bethlehem Pike  
Spring House, PA 19477

Shop for "suburban chic clothing, jewelry, accessories, lifestyle"

Enjoy refreshments and receive complimentary gift wrapping

**20% of all sales will be donated to Laurel House**



**P.O. Box 764, Norristown, PA 19404**

**Office number: 610-277-1860**

**24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-642-3150**

**www.laurel-house.org**



A great big **THANK YOU** to all those who came out on October 23rd to support our annual **DASH** Against Domestic Violence!

During the time in which the **DASH** was occurring 5 families found safety in our shelter, 2 individuals found support through our hotline, and 8 moms were able to feed their children breakfast in their own apartments through our transitional housing program.

It is because of your support and involvement in this year's **DASH** Against Domestic Violence that Laurel House is able to provide those services and so much more!

**We couldn't do it without you!**

**Thank you!**