

Laurel House Happenings

By Tina Reynolds, Director of Development & Community Relations

Winter 2011

Get the Facts

Last year Laurel House:

- Provided emergency shelter to over 250 women and children fleeing an abusive home environment;
- Responded to 800 hotline calls from domestic violence victims & their loved ones;
- Provided 7,495 hours of counseling in our shelter;
- Educated over 4,300 students (elementary age through college);
- Provided 235 civil and criminal court accompaniments;
- Trained 6,052 health care professionals about domestic violence;
- 86 volunteers provided over 18,872 hours of service to Laurel House.

Did you Know?

- The cost of domestic violence exceeds \$5.8 billion per year; \$4.1 billion of this is in direct medical and mental health services.
- In this past year, domestic violence survivors lost almost 8 million work days because of the violence against them. This loss is an equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs and almost 5.6 million days of household productivity!

2011 Brings Changes to Laurel House Staff

After 7 years at Laurel House, Bill Baldwin left his position as Deputy Director at the end of December, 2010. Bill has accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Delaware County Bar Association and started in that capacity on January 4, 2011. This is a wonderful, and well deserved, opportunity for Bill. He will be sorely missed by all of us at Laurel House. However, I am pleased to announce that we have hired a new Deputy Director, Marcus Christmas. Marcus is a Masters level social worker who comes to us with many years of management experience with the Salvation Army where he has held increasingly responsible positions

overseeing programs that serve homeless individuals and families. In addition to his educational background and his experience with program management, he also completed Laurel House's domestic violence training course in 2007. Marcus will begin at Laurel House on Monday, January 24th.

In addition to hiring Marcus as the Deputy Director, I am also pleased to be able to announce some other changes: Jenny Boyer, Director of Housing, will be moving from her space at the Shelter into office space at our Administrative Offices, and will be assuming some additional senior management responsibilities.

Lastly, Colleen Coonelly,

our pro-bono Attorney for the past several months, will begin working for Laurel House on a part time basis. Colleen will continue to teach the domestic violence law class at Temple again this semester, which will again provide Laurel House access to the Law Interns who are taking the course. Colleen will also be available to assist residents in our shelter and transitional housing programs with domestic violence related legal matters.



Best Wishes Bill!

Pay it forward...

As I sat here struggling over the right words to thank all of you for your generous holiday donations this year, I recalled a recent email I had received.

It read:

I was buying my gifts for Laurel House yesterday. While at the checkout I was lost in thought, wondering

if I had spent too much money, should have paid less for women's pajamas, or maybe I bought too many items. Meanwhile, the cashier saw my Laurel House list and asked about it. I proudly told her that I was donating the items for Laurel House and thinking maybe I could convince her to be interested in donating

when, without looking up as she scanned my items, she said "it's a good thing you are doing...they SAVED my life."

So, Thank You to all of our generous donors, on behalf of the staff and the board and the many people whose lives you are helping to save!

Temple Law School Partners with Laurel House

Four law students successfully completed the inaugural semester of the Temple Law School Domestic Violence Clinic. Partnering with Laurel House, the Clinic provided civil legal assistance to clients escaping violent relationships and seeking protective orders, child custody and child support.

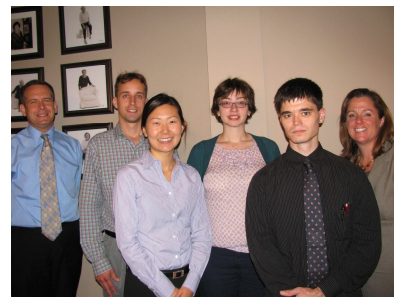
Under the supervision of the clinical faculty adjunct, Colleen F. Coonelly, Esq., law students at Temple University, employed legal approaches to seek to improve the safety and economic independence of the clients.

The clinic has both a classroom component and a practice component. In the practice component, students

assume the role of lawyer pursuant to the PA student practice rule and Ms. Coonelly serves as Supervising Attorney under that rule. Students each dedicate eight to ten hours per week to the practice portion of the course.

According to Ms. Coonelly, "We know that a proven way to reduce domestic violence and increase safety for women and children is to ensure that victims have access to civil legal services. Legal services are key to enabling a survivor to stay independent of an abuser and to obtain self-sufficiency. In and around Montgomery County, the unmet need for such legal services is enormous. Law students are passionate and eager to provide these services. The Domestic

Violence Clinic is a great way to address some of the need by marshaling law students who, with the proper training and supervision, provide tremendous assistance."



Pictured, left to right, Bill Baldwin, Jordan Winquist, Grace Lim, Gilly Knox, Bret Lease, and Colleen

Have you visited Marian's Attic lately?

Marian's Attic is an upscale thrift shop located in King of Prussia. All sales from the shop benefit Laurel House's programs. Marian's Attic has a wide selection of clothing, jewelry, and accessories for every taste. We invite you to come into the shop (or come back) and browse, and at the same time help support victims of domestic violence and their children. **Store hours are Monday-Saturday 10am to 5pm, and**

Thursday 10am to 8pm.

Marian's Attic also welcomes donations of gently used clothing, jewelry, and accessories.

For additional information please call the shop at **610-337-3068.**

Or just stop in and visit us! The shop is located in the **Valley Forge Shopping Center at 255 Town Center Road, King of Prussia.**

*Looking for great fashions at
bargain prices?*

*Or why not donate your unused
clothing, accessories & more for
a great cause?*

Special thanks to the many Marian's Attic volunteers who dedicate their time to the shop, and for the special donations they made to Laurel House this Holiday Season!



P.O. Box 764, Norristown, PA 19404

610-277-1860

Hotline 1-800-642-3150

www.laurel-house.org

