

Laurel House Happenings

By Tina Reynolds, Director of Development & Community Relations

Spring 2011

Snapshot of DV

On September 15, 2010, 91% of local domestic violence programs in the U.S. participated in the **2010 National Census of Domestic Violence (DV) Services**. Check out the startling statistics of services provided during the 24 hour survey period:

Nationally:

- 37,519 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency DV shelters or housing programs
- 33,129 adults & children received non-residential services (counseling, etc.)
- 23,522 hotline calls answered

In Pennsylvania:

- 2,321 victims were served in one day
 - 1,034 found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters or transitional housing
 - 1,287 adults & children received non-residential assistance and services
 - 959 hotline calls answered
 - 254 Unmet requests for services
 - 69% of programs reported higher demand for services
- (www.nnedv.org)

Christmas comes to Laurel House in January!

It has been an exciting time since I accepted the role of Deputy Director here at Laurel House. Every day, when I come through the doors of our wonderful organization, I am reminded of a quote by Helen Keller.

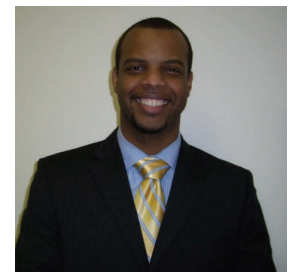
"I am only one; but still, I am one. I can not do everything, but still, I can do something; I will not refuse something that I can do." – Helen Keller

Everyone has something to contribute to the domestic violence movement. Yes, there has been advancement over the years in this field. This advancement, particularly in the area of service delivery to victims, can be celebrated. However, it is sobering to know that

domestic violence continues to destroy the lives of individuals and families, regardless of their ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, and gender.

In the 1970's the women's movement began to bring attention to violence committed against women. This formed one of the most successful and powerful social justice and service movements of our time, which was known as the "battered women's movement". Over the course of time we have grown to realize that this is not just a social problem that affects women. It is a problem that affects society as a whole. Our children are scarred by this, and women and men alike can be stifled by its bruising and whelps.

We should celebrate the accomplishments of the many women whose hard work created a strong network of supportive services for abuse survivors and their children. Now I challenge men to stand with women to draw attention to domestic violence. Not only should it be women using their voices and expertise to address this problem, but the community as a whole.



Marcus Christmas
Deputy Director

Pay it forward...

Dear Laurel House Staff,

I am writing you guys a letter to thank you for my stay here. I have learned many things that hopefully I can put into practice. You guys give me hope, and encouragement to move on. I am very happy that I came here because I have learned that I am not alone in my

situation. There are many other women out there just like me wanting an opportunity to change. I am inspired to take my experience as a battered woman and help other women in my situation.

I am very grateful to have met all of you...I have seen the good that this shelter

provides and I am happy that you exist to help women like myself to realize that we can do better.

Although my stay was short, I appreciate you all for treating me like family. It really means a lot!

With much love,
E.
(former shelter resident)

Laurel House volunteers rock!

From responding to hotline calls to organizing donations, Laurel House volunteers are truly the heart and soul of this organization. During volunteer appreciation week (April 10-16) it is only natural that we stop and pay tribute to the thousands who have volunteered with Laurel House over the past 31 years! We truly would not be where we are if it was not for each and every one of you who committed your time, resources, energy and hard work during the past 31 years. In fact, *did you know* that Laurel House was founded in 1980 by a group of *volunteers* (known today as our Founding Mothers). The spirit of volunteerism continues to run strong at Laurel House. *Did you know* that since July 1, 2010 volunteers have committed over 15,000 hours to supporting Laurel House! **WOW!** No job

is too big or small for our volunteers. Over the years volunteers have contributed to Laurel House by:

- Organizing cell phone, ink cartridge and wish list collections;
- Answering hotline calls;
- Working with medical professionals and police departments to aid victims of domestic violence;
- Serving on our Board of Directors, and/or other Committees;
- Organizing fashion shows, bake sales and other events to raise money for Laurel House;
- Teaching arts & crafts to the children in our shelter;

- Providing childcare while mom's participate in support group;
- Organizing and sorting donations at Marian's Attic.

And many, many more things...hooray for our volunteers! Keep up the good work and know that it doesn't go unnoticed!



Our newest group of trained volunteers!
Pictured left to right: Krista Sibel (staff), Yulia Khromyak, Emily Sturz, Martay Davis, Dawn Altman, Denise Monahan, Sara Galtman (Not pictured: Rachel Ellison)

Mark Your Calendar

Gala MAGIC

Saturday, May 21st
6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Green Valley Country Club
Lafayette Hill, PA

Elegant Cocktails, Dinner, Music,
Dancing, Magic Show, Live &
Silent Auctions

For more information contact:
Dorothy Hammett at 610-277-1860
ext. 101 dhammett@laurel-house.org

STRIKE OUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BOWL-A-THON

Friday, June 3rd
7pm to 10pm

Facenda Whitaker Lanes, Norristown

\$25 per person (children 15 & under
\$15) includes: games, shoes &
refreshments

Reserve your space today!
Patty at 610-277-1860 ext. 117
pgoloff@laurel-house.org

5K DASH AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Upper Gwynedd Township Bldg.

5K run & 1 mile fitness walk
Health & Wellness Fair

8am Registration
9am Run/Walk begins

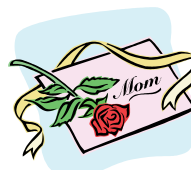
For more information contact
Tina at treynolds@laurel-house.org



P.O. Box 764, Norristown, PA 19404
Office number: 610-277-1860
24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-642-3150



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visiting our website at:
www.laurel-house.org



**Looking for that special
Mother's Day or Father's
Day gift?**

Make a donation to Laurel
House in honor of your
mother, father, or that special person and we
will send them a special card letting them know
of your thoughtfulness.

Contact Tina Reynolds:
treynolds@laurel-house.org
610-277-1860 ext. 102

