

# Laurel House Happenings

By Kelsey McGlynn, Development & Community Relations Intern

Summer 2011

## Domestic violence does NOT stay home when its victims go to work.

- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 of which is for direct medical and mental health services, much of which is paid for by the employer
- 94% of corporate security directors surveyed rank domestic violence as a high security problem at their company
- Victims of intimate partner violence lost 8 million days of paid work because of the violence perpetrated against them. This loss is equivalent to more than 32,000 full time jobs
- A study of domestic violence survivors found that 74% of employed battered women were harassed by their partner while at work

Domestic may already be affecting your workplace! We can provide you with the necessary literature and training to support those employees who may be experiencing domestic violence. Contact Tina Reynolds at [treynolds@laurel-house.org](mailto:treynolds@laurel-house.org)

[www.pcadv.org](http://www.pcadv.org)  
[www.endabuse.org](http://www.endabuse.org)

## Remembering My Mission

The **power of language** as a tool to promote change should never be underestimated. This past semester I took an Introduction to Rhetoric course at Loyola University in Maryland, where I learned that with this power comes the great responsibility of using it in a moral way. This summer I worked as an intern in the Laurel House Development & Community Relations Office. The experience has been truly life changing. Not only am I learning valuable work ethics, but each day I discover a deeper appreciation and intimate connection to Laurel House's vision: **to end domestic violence.**

I spend most of my time working in the Administration Building. However, after spending just one day in Laurel House's shelter, I believe my professor would be exceedingly proud of my use of language to promote change in the lives of domestic violence victims, such as the women and children I met.

It is remarkable to me that the residents of the shelter, who have endured such pain and suffering, are still so optimistic and appreciative. Their gratitude and willingness to help out around the shelter proves the success in the fight against domestic violence—the ability to instill hope for the future.

Spending a day in the shelter helped to make my personal fight against domestic violence much more intimate. Laurel House's shelter staff does a fabulous job in creating a family oriented environment. When I saw the faces of the women and children behind the abuse, I felt a human connection; these are women, not so unlike myself, who come from all different backgrounds and ethnicities, who are not ashamed to ask for help. I truly admire their strength for both themselves and their children.

In my Rhetoric course I

learned that the power of words should be used to influence others to do good and gain support for a truly moral cause. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Laurel House deserves the power of every individual's words to gain support in the fight to end domestic violence.

Kelsey McGlynn



Bulletin board in our shelter was created by our Child Advocate, Jessica Field who joined the Laurel House team this summer! Welcome Jess!

## Pay it forward...

Did you know Laurel House collects cell phones? Take a look at this e-mail we received from Joyce, a longtime Laurel House volunteer:

*"Just thought you'd like to know there was a new resident at the shelter this weekend and her abuser had taken out the battery to*

*her cell phone. She needed the numbers in the phone for her doctors, etc. and it was really wonderful that Freda, a shelter staff member, and I were able to find a replacement battery (and charger) for her in the box of cell phones that people had donated. Thank GOD for that box!! She was so relieved to be able to have access to her*

*'life lines' again, it felt really great to be able to help her.*

*Maybe it's time for me to collect some more old phones at work!"*

Interested in collecting cell phones? Call us at 610-277-1860.



## Domestic Violence Funding Spared from Budget Cuts

In these challenging economic times, our elected officials are faced with the difficult task of trying to meet the needs of their constituents while striving to develop a fiscally responsible budget. In the new State budget, many social service programs experienced significant cuts. The 62 member organizations of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, including Laurel House, were fortunate. Our funding levels saw only a slight (1%) decrease. We are appreciative of this, since the need for our services continues. Our Hotline call volume has doubled over the past two years, and the requests for Community Counseling are at the highest level ever.

While we are very glad that our funding from the State is intact. However,

we continue to face the same rising costs of doing business that other organizations face, while our funding levels have been flat, or slightly decreasing, for the past several years. Additionally, the cuts to other supportive service programs in the community will directly impact many of the people we serve, especially in our Shelter and Transitional Housing programs. This will lead to increased demands on our staff members and volunteers as they continue to work to meet the needs of our residents.

The women and children who enter our Shelter often arrive with nothing. Their history of abuse has left them without employment and/or competitive job skills. Recent cuts in job training programs will make our residents' attempts at economic self-sufficiency even more difficult. Cuts in funding for

other types of housing programs make post-shelter options more challenging than ever, and result in fewer resources for our Hotline Responders to offer to callers who are homeless for reasons other than domestic abuse.

We continue to appreciate all of your donations of "time, treasure and talent". Laurel House began as a "grass roots" organization, and, 31 years later, we know that the involvement of the community continues to be essential. It takes an on-going group effort to provide needed services while continuing to work to end domestic violence.

**Beth Sturman, Executive Director of Laurel House**

### Mark Your Calendar

#### "Breaking the Silence" Luncheon

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Philadelphia Country Club

Luncheon begins at 11 am

Stay tuned to our website for more details.

[www.laurel-house.org](http://www.laurel-house.org)

Keynote Speaker:  
Dr. Robin Smith

#### 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

Visit our website  
for more information

*You don't have to write a check to  
make a gift to Laurel House!*



Through our Planned Giving Program

- You can give us appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares;
- Make us a beneficiary of your will or revocable trust, creating a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime;
- Give us life insurance you no longer need;
- Receive lifetime income back from us in return for your gift.

It's easier than you think to make a gift that makes a difference.

For details contact Tina Reynolds at  
610-277-1860 ext. 102 or  
[treynolds@laurel-house.org](mailto:treynolds@laurel-house.org)



**P.O. Box 764, Norristown, PA 19404**  
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Stay updated by regularly visiting our website at  
[www.laurel-house.org](http://www.laurel-house.org)