

HouseLine

House of Ruth Maryland Changing Attitudes. Saving Lives.

March 2015

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14th Annual Spring Luncheon

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HOUSE OF RUTH
MARYLAND



When the Past Haunts

A new baby, a new life, a great partner who was loving, supportive, and everything her abusive ex-husband was not. Having emerged from the shadows of her past abuse, Cyan struggled to figure out why she was having nightmares about her former partner – she hadn't seen him in years. She was feeling anxious, like she did at the end of their relationship. But, she was happy now – why was her past tormenting her?

"Victims who have moved on may still have times in their lives when they experience similar feelings to when they were in the abusive relationship, much like those who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder," said Pia May, Clinical Services Program Manager at the House of Ruth Maryland. "When victims experience trauma, the fear and helplessness they feel can be overwhelming. It undermines their self-esteem and makes them feel powerless and without any control. They need help and support to address the long-term consequences of their experience."

House of Ruth Maryland counselors know that responding to a victim's immediate needs for safety, security, and transitional support, while essential, is often not enough. To meet all of these needs, these professionals are integrating a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) model into their work. *Continued on page 2*

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"We collaborate with victims, providing them the education, tools and support they need to rebuild their lives," said Ms. May.

Trauma Informed Care focuses on the specific services provided to the client as well as the environment in which these services are provided. The following are some of the basic elements of a trauma informed care system:

1. A commitment to train service providers on the effects of trauma and in the use of client-centered, relationship-based care and trauma-specific clinic services;
2. A commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for the victim, minimizing the possibilities of re-traumatization;
3. A focus on the victim's strengths, coping skills, experience and resilience;
4. An emphasis on fostering choice and goal setting by the victim to establish a feeling of empowerment and control over her life; and
5. Building therapeutic relationships based on collaboration and respect.

Cyan drew on her prior experience with the House of Ruth and came to recognize that her feelings were related to her traumatic experience with her ex-husband. With the help of her counselor, Cyan is now working on a plan to manage her traumatic responses and enjoy her new life and family, without fear.

For more information on the Trauma Informed Care model the House of Ruth Maryland is incorporating into counseling services, please contact Lisa Nitsch, Director of Clinical Services and Education Programs at lisanitsch@hruthmd.org.

Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In December, the Baltimore Sun ran a series of articles taking a hard look at the shocking violence that occurs on Baltimore City streets and neighborhoods, and the lasting impact it has on the children who witness it, the families that live with it and the caretakers who are left to pick up the pieces. While the series did an excellent job of examining the issues facing those who live in parts of the city where both random and targeted violence is openly part of life, there was an entire population that was overlooked – those who silently, secretly endure violence at the hands of an intimate partner, behind closed doors.

Controlled by their abuser, these victims and their children are isolated, with little if any access to help. Particularly for the children, the community is all too often unsuspecting and misses the need to provide support. While the child may never be physically abused, the emotional, mental and psychological scars can last a lifetime.

Reaching the children requires awareness and understanding of the impact. Scientific research is increasingly demonstrating what we have known for years: the children do see, hear and feel what is going on, and their physical health, cognitive and emotional development, behavior and achievement in school all suffer as a result of their exposure to violence. Even infants can demonstrate reactions to violent households, showing poor sleep patterns, excessive screaming, disrupted feeding patterns, poor weight gain and ultimately developmental delays. As children age, the stresses placed on them from living in a violent home often result in, but are not limited to, erratic behavior, modeling of the violent parent or the victim parent, and drug and/or alcohol abuse.

Just as the reporter, who spent over a year investigating the issue of violence in Baltimore neighborhoods, was oblivious to the victims of intimate partner violence, so are we. We don't see the brutality hidden inside a home, yet it is happening all around us. Far from being confined in neighborhoods we try to avoid, it's also found among our own friends, family and colleagues. Our children are attending school with children who witness unspeakable abuse. We're leading scout troops, coaching athletic teams, and carpooling with kids who have a terrifying secret life at home. We must, as a community, bring the issue out of the shadows.

Please join with us in breaking the silence and breaking the cycle. Be aware of the signs of abuse both in victims and in the children, and reach out to them. Be vigilant in speaking out clearly, firmly and consistently against the attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate intimate partner violence. Success will depend on all of us acting together.



Sandi Timmins
Executive Director



Sandi Timmins



One Great Thing 2015 A Fashionable Sale

October 1st – 4th
New Venue
The Shops At Kenilworth

Donate one or more great things now!
For more information contact
Lenora Henry at lhenry@hruthmd.org.

It Takes a Village

What do a gaming event store, a tattoo parlor and a local restaurant have in common? They are local businesses that have recently held fundraisers for the House of Ruth Maryland. A terrific way to raise awareness and financial support for victims of intimate partner violence!

"Our type of gaming is social by nature, and attracts many who participate out of love for community and friendship," said Games and Stuff storeowner Ed Sloman on their website. *"It follows naturally that we would tap that communal goodwill to generate support for those that need it."* Games and Stuff in Glen Burnie raised over \$1,900 for the House of Ruth Maryland during their annual Game-A-Thon.

In November, Have Fun Be Lucky Tattoo Parlor held a one day special event where tattoo artists gave their time and talents, inking customers who were motivated to get a tattoo because 100% of the cost was being donated to the House of Ruth Maryland. *"Have Fun Be Lucky views service to others as an absolute essential from which everyone benefits,"* said Andrea Vitale-Laithe, Co-Owner of Have Fun Be Lucky. *"Simply put, it feels good to do good. We're just grateful to have the ability and opportunity to use our talents to benefit others. We had a lot of help from friends and donors too and their assistance warms our hearts!"*

In January, The Greene Turtle in Towson also showed their support for the fight to end intimate partner violence by hosting a Funds for Friends night to benefit the House of Ruth Maryland. Manager Joann Golden said *"The Greene Turtle is a neighborhood hangout. That is why we do our best to help out in the communities where we live with special events like Funds For Friends. This is not just a corporate commitment. All the employees enjoy becoming involved with and supporting our neighbors in need."*

Events like these are a great way for local businesses to get involved with the House of Ruth Maryland giving their customers an opportunity to support their business and the victims of intimate partner violence. We appreciate the creativity of their events and welcome the financial support that helps us provide services to help battered women and their children rebuild their lives.

If you are interested in hosting an event to support the House of Ruth Maryland, please contact Faith Savill at 410-554-8449 or by email at fsavill@hruthmd.org.

In Memory Of

Each year, the House of Ruth Maryland is fortunate to receive gifts that are in made in memory of individuals who are no longer with us. These gifts are a tribute to the person who has passed. They honor the memory of those we love and the things that were most important to them. With this edition of Houseline we will recognize the loved ones who have been honored with a memorial tribute. We thank generous donors who make it possible for us to recognize their loved ones. Between July 1, 2014 and January 31, 2015, the House of Ruth Maryland received donations in memory of the following individuals:

Sylvia Bekowitz
Edith Brown
Ruth & Robert Blyler
Elizabeth Ann Clark
Carol Cosentino
Dorothy Dixon
Jackie Finch
Malushka Gorelick
Harold J. Harmon
Michael Tyrone Harper
Sylvia HARRAIS
Katharine Finney Baetjer Hornady
Irene Kelly
Jessica Meredith Jacobsen
Les Kinion
Karen Lewand
Josie Liparan
Edna L. McAdory
Natalie "Toby" Mendeloff
Kathleen O'Brien
Madelyn Pease
Gail Louise Pumphrey
Amber Schmidt
Betty Schochor
Cynthia Louise Vancko
Jennifer Weyhenmeyer
Rose Rita Wurmser

Legislative Update

Each year, the House of Ruth Maryland works with the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation that helps victims of intimate partner violence, and opposes legislation that works against the best interests of victims and children. Below is a summary of the legislation that the House of Ruth Maryland is working on this session:

Supporting:

HB 225/SB 269 – Domestic Violence - Additional Relief - This bill would allow a judge to order other additional relief as appropriate under the protective order statute. This might include ordering the respondent to turn over the victim's passport, not remove the victim from his health insurance, not allow the respondent to park in front of the victim's house, or not interfere in her immigration application.

HB 224/SB 315 – Domestic Violence – 2 Year Protective Order – This bill would correct a technical issue with the current statute governing two year protective orders and whether or not they can be issued by consent.

SB 477 – Domestic Violence – Persons Eligible for Relief - This bill would cover people who are in dating relationships and sexual relationships under the protective order statute. Under the current law, they are only eligible for peace orders.

SB 550 - Child Custody – Legal Decision Making and Parenting Time - Two years ago, we supported a bill to establish the Commission on Child Custody Decision Making. The bill passed and the Commission studied many custody, visitation and access issues. The Commission ultimately drafted a proposed custody statute to both codify existing case law and suggest changes in how we handle these cases.

HB 390/SB 270 – Protective Order and Peace Order Petitions – Maryland Residents - This bill would allow a petitioner to file for a protective order if she is a resident of the state of Maryland even if the abuse is alleged to have occurred in another state.

HB 263 – Domestic Violence – Permanent Protective Orders – Conspiracy or Solicitation to Commit Murder – This bill would add conspiracy or solicitation to commit murder to the list of crimes for which a victim could get a 2 year protective order.

HB 227 – Family Law – Domestic Violence – Definition of Abuse – This bill would add harassment, trespass, and malicious destruction of property to the definitions of abuse for which a victim can get a protective order.

HB 807/SB 277 – Family Law – Protective Orders – Additional Relief – This bill would allow a judge to order a respondent in a protective order to stay a specific distance away from the residence, employment, or school of a victim.

HB 385/SB 40 – Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – This bill would require employers, under certain circumstances, to provide employees with earned sick and safe leave. It would allow employees to use "safe leave" for domestic violence medical care, counseling, legal services, and court hearings.

HB/SB 468 348 – Civil Right to Counsel – This bill would require the Governor to include in the State budget an appropriation to provide legal representation in certain custody cases and protective order cases.

Opposing:

HB 888/SB 650 – Family Law Rebuttable Presumption of Joint Custody - This bill would create a presumption of joint custody. We have opposed this for many, many years because we believe it is dangerous to force a victim of domestic violence to have to negotiate parenting with their abusive partner.

If you would like more information about specific legislation or to be added to our Legislative Alerts email list, please contact Dorothy Lennig, Director of the Marjorie Cook Legal Clinic at the House of Ruth Maryland at dlennig@hruthmd.org.

Leaving A Legacy

"My Mom instilled in us a desire to serve the community and to provide for others. One way that Carmen and I are doing this is by naming the House of Ruth Maryland in our will," said Vicki Deyesu, a longtime member of the House of Ruth Maryland Board of Directors and a planned giver. *"Our bequest represents another opportunity to provide necessary financial support for the House of Ruth's programs for battered women and their children. This is very important to us and will help ensure these programs are sustained. We consider it a proud legacy."*

Many of us wish to leave a legacy that is a reminder of what was important to us, to honor those who have gone before us and to help those who need it most. A lasting way to create that legacy is to include a gift to the House of Ruth Maryland in your estate plans, giving victims of intimate partner violence a chance to rebuild lives that are free of fear. Please contact your financial planner for more information on how you can benefit from a planned gift to the House of Ruth Maryland.

Have you named the House of Ruth Maryland in your will and want to share your story or do you want more information about planned giving at the House of Ruth Maryland? Contact Terri Wurmser, Director of Development, at 410-261-3027 or by email at terri@hruthmd.org.

EAT, MEET, SHOP at The Emporium! April 18-19, 2015

A one-of-a-kind food marketplace, sip and sample the tastiest treats from all over. Use promo code "RUTH" and \$5/ticket will be donated to the House of Ruth Maryland. For more details visit hruth.org.

One Family At A Time

Each year, the House of Ruth Maryland is fortunate to have the support of many donors throughout the state who participate in our Adopt A Family program during the winter holidays. In 2014, 370 families were adopted, accounting for over 1,100 individual family members.

Adopt A Family donations are appreciated by our clients who live as close as Baltimore City and as far as Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.

It would be impossible to deliver gifts to clients we serve from our offices outside of Baltimore City without the generous, reliable support provided by Park Moving and Storage. For several years, this Aberdeen-based company has helped us spread joy and gifts, donating storage pods and transportation to deliver them to Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. Thank you to Park Moving and Storage and to all of the donors who make Adopt A Family a great success.

To learn more about our Adopt A Family program or to find out how you can Adopt A Family in 2015, please contact Faith Savill at fsavill@hruthmd.org.

Special Thanks To

- Crystal Barnes for celebrating her birthday by being a guest bartender at Sweet 27 and donating her tips and a percentage of sales that night at Sweet 27 to the House of Ruth Maryland
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation, for their gift of \$1,500 to the House of Ruth Maryland and their steadfast support for victims of intimate partner violence
- Baltimore Alumnae group of Alpha Chi Omega who held a "Walk to End Domestic Violence" on October 25th and donated proceeds to House of Ruth Maryland
- Toni Borcz, a Saks Jandel Sales Associate, for facilitating the donation of beautiful clothing for Ruth's Closet
- Enoch Pratt Library for creating a poster and window display at the Cathedral Street Library highlighting the House of Ruth Maryland and our services
- Tarlow Furs for donating rolling clothes racks to Ruth's Closet
- Rita St. Clair Associates for donating beautiful designer fabrics to B-More Bags

That It May Be Well With You

When the seeds were sown for The House of Ruth in the 1970s, the issue of intimate partner abuse was not well understood or documented. There were few places of refuge for abused women and their children. In fact, throughout history, societies around the globe had sanctioned, tolerated, or ignored violence against women. Far too many continue that pattern today.

Join us on **Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Poe Room at the Enoch Pratt Library to hear **Dr. Barbara Parker** and the **Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman** share their stories of the origins of the House of Ruth Maryland as told through their book, *That It May Be Well With You*. These founding mothers will tell how a small group of earnest, determined women came together in Baltimore to combat violence against women and how their work is a case-study for practical, results-oriented social activism in today's society.

*For more information on this event or to purchase *That It May Be Well With You*, please contact Cheri Parlaman at cparlaman@hruthmd.org.*

2015 Upcoming Events:

Spring Luncheon

April 22

High Heels for Hope

May 30

Crabaret

July 9

Clearing House Sidewalk Sale

September 2

One Great Thing 2015

October 1- 4

Man UP

November TBD

B-More Bags Trunk Show

December 5

On Saturday December 6th, Ruth's Closet was the place to be for shoppers who had been waiting for the **10th Annual B-More Bags Trunk Show**. The boutique's shelves were filled with more than 300 beautiful fabric B-More Bags resulting in close to \$4,000 in sales...in one day! We thank our loyal B-More Bags shoppers and look forward to seeing you again soon at Ruth's Closet. And we recognize our amazing volunteers, affectionately referred to as "Baguettes", who make B-More Bags a relevant, vibrant social enterprise supporting programs and services at the House of Ruth Maryland. Their efforts and creative energies have sustained B-More Bags since its start in 2005. Special thanks go to the 2014 B-More Bags Coordinating Group for taking on leadership roles: Megan Maffeo, Catherine Rooker, Jen Talbert, Ellen Theloosen, and Terri Wurmser.

Miss your chance to get a B-More Bag? Mark your calendar for the 2015 Trunk Show on Saturday, December 5th at Ruth's Closet.



HOUSE OF RUTH
MARYLAND

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Non-Profit
Organization U.S.
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Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 7280

Return Service Requested

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Director of Development

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Design and Production

Debbie Saag

If you receive multiple mailings or need to update your address, please call our Development Office at 410-554-8443.

“...as a young woman I fell in love with and married a man who beat me regularly and nearly killed me.”



Join us on **April 22nd** at the **Hilton Baltimore** for the **14th Annual Spring Luncheon** as **Leslie Morgan Steiner** takes us inside an abusive marriage, one that nearly ended her life. Learn why she stayed, how she finally got the courage to leave, and how she still carries the scars with her today.

Tickets are on sale now. Visit **www.hruth.org** to learn more.

Event Chairs: Vicki Deyesu and Greta Engle

April 22, 2015 • 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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Vicki and Carmen Deyesu

To reserve your table now or to purchase tickets, please contact Lenora Henry at **410-554-8448** or by email at **lhenry@hruthmd.org**