A Little Bit of “Normal”

The young girls at the House of Ruth Maryland Emergency Shelter have experienced it all. Ups, downs, uncertainty, and Candace Baker, Director of Community Programs at Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, often gets a front row seat to hearing about the feelings of their everyday obstacles such as making new friends.

Because not everyone has the ability to join a traditional Girl Scouts troop, the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland have created programming for places like the House of Ruth Maryland’s Emergency Shelter. “It’s an opportunity for us to help young girls who may not get a chance to participate in a traditional Girl Scouts troop and give them some tools that may help them in school and in their homes,” said Baker.

“Each year, nearly 300 children spend time in our emergency shelter and we’re always looking for programs that complement the work we’re doing with the children in counseling sessions, groups and in our childcare program,” said Janice Miller, Director of Programs and Clinical Services at the House of Ruth Maryland. Continued on page 2
“These kids are coming from violent homes, may have been abused themselves, and we try to provide them with opportunities that they may not get elsewhere.”

At HRM, Girl Scouts alternate between two programs, “Be A Friend First”, which is an anti-bullying program and focuses on how to be a good friend, what to do if you are being bullied and how to be friends with someone who is being bullied. The second program, “Free Being Me”, focuses on building self-esteem and confidence, learning how to combat body shaming, and learning how to safely use social media.

“One of the most exciting things we’re seeing is that some of the girls in the Extended Stay program have become mentors to some of the girls in the emergency shelter,” said Baker. “One young girl even said she had been very sick, but knew she had to get out of bed and get to Girl Scouts because it was so important to her.”

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is one of many community partners who provide programming and services for the children in our Emergency Shelter. “Our goal,” said Miller, “is to provide children with some sense of normalcy in an otherwise traumatic time and use these opportunities to teach them life skills that will be valuable to them when they leave us and go to a new home. Things like going to summer camp, creating art with the BMA’s Mobile Museum, getting on the school bus every morning, help to give children some outlets and stability at a time when everything else in their lives is in transition.”

To learn more about Children’s Services at the House of Ruth Maryland, contact Janice Miller, Director of Programs and Clinical Services at the House of Ruth Maryland at Janice@hruthmd.org

Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Twenty women are abused every minute in the United States. On average, three women are murdered by their abusive partner every day in the United States – 1,100 annually.

In addition to the immediate injuries, more than 80% of victims suffer ongoing chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, psychosomatic disorders and eating problems, even when they are no longer abused.

Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners as adults.

Children who witness intimate partner violence suffer from learning difficulties, lower IQ scores, deficiencies in motor skills and problems with attention and memory.

The estimated annual direct medical cost of caring for battered women is $1.8 billion dollars.

When will our community, our world, call intimate partner violence what it truly is – a public health crisis? The research is in, we know the devastating impact intimate partner violence has on individuals and families, yet there is still no outcry. There is still no groundswell to eradicate it at the source.

We still blame the victim – why doesn’t she leave? Why does she allow him to treat her that way? What did she do to cause this? There’s an online video that calls attention to how unjust this attitude is. “James is Dead” is a two minute conversation about James’s murder, using the same speculation so often directed at victims of violence against women. James himself is blamed for his murder – it must have been because of what he was wearing, because he was drinking, because he was so friendly. Clearly a ludicrous line of thinking, so why is it viewed as reasonable in the context of abuse of women? (You can find a link to the video at www.hruth.org/jamesisdead)

As in any other public health issue, solving intimate partner violence requires focusing on the source, and creating interventions across many levels. The most immediate intervention is with men who are abusing. We have systems that remove the abuser from the victim, but that only brings short term and limited results. Programs like House of Ruth Maryland’s Gateway Project work with individuals to examine their beliefs that abusive behavior is somehow acceptable, and to change attitudes and behaviors in order for participants to create healthy relationships. This interruption of the cycle of violence, ending his abuse in relationships and putting a stop to it being carried to the next generation through the children, has lasting and growing effect.

We need to get more men who have abused to these programs. We need to hold them accountable for completing the work of changing themselves, and for sustaining the change. And that will require even more interventions from our community. It’s achievable. We just need that groundswell.

Sincerely,

Sandi Timmins
Executive Director

Sandi Timmins
Turning A New Page

This year, the House of Ruth Maryland was proud to partner with R2i, a local full-service digital agency that helps business leaders strengthen their marketing technology, to build a new website. The team of designers, developers, strategists, and marketers are experts in their space and were able to bring this passion and experience to our new online presence. “House of Ruth Maryland is an organization with an important mission—R2i is honored to be a part of helping House of Ruth evolve their digital presence and build a community of caring, compassion, and resources for victims of intimate partner violence,” said Cheryl Donaldson, Vice President of Client Services, Digital Developer at R2i. In addition to the House of Ruth Maryland, R2i partnerships and non-profit clients include Hopelink, United Way Maryland, Ulman Cancer Fund, and American Cancer Society.

We encourage you to visit our new website, www.hruth.org, and let us know what you think!

To learn more about our website, or other social media platforms, please contact Cheri Parlaman, Acting Director of Development, at cparlaman@hruthmd.org or 410-554-8446.

Ruth’s Fabulous Finds!

Are you looking to add some high-end fashion to your winter wardrobe, but summertime spending’s got you feeling the blues? Come to Ruth’s Closet for Ruth’s Fabulous Finds! Now through November, we’ll have a special day each month where we’ll be unveiling special designer and luxury items that will hit the sales floor!

Tuesday, September 13 Ruth’s Closet opens fall with fabulous designer & luxury clothing, handbags, shoes, and fall accessories;
Tuesday, October 4, Features fabulous furs, outerwear, and boots new to the sales floor; and
Tuesday, November 1, Get ready for winter with fabulous winter jewelry and winter accessories.

For more information about Ruth’s Closet’s sales and promotions, please contact Breanna Gregory, Ruth’s Closet Store Manager at 410-581-7980.

Special Thanks

- To The W.I.S.E. Org, for hosting a healthy habits, skincare, and beauty basics workshop for our shelter residents!
- To Towanda McIver and the Imani Sister Circle, for making sure that all of our mothers have a special gift each year for Mother’s Day.
- To NAMADUW, who hosted their 4th annual Day of Pampering for our shelter residents, providing nail, hair, make-up services, a pop-up boutique, and more for Mother’s Day.
- To T. Rowe Price, who spent a day in our Extended Stay wing, giving it a fresh coat of paint.
- To BB&T – thank you for choosing us as your Lighthouse Project this year! BB&T volunteers painted in our shelter for three whole days, and helped us to secure much-needed items from our Wish List.
- To Michele Cormier, who recently donated handmade and designed wooden puzzle boxes, jewelry boxes, and home décor for our residents and Ruth’s Closet.
- To B Scene Events, for including the House of Ruth Maryland in the 2nd annual Baltimore Wine Fest. We raised over $700 through ticket sales and wine pourers’ tips.
- To Schuster Concrete Construction, for inviting the children from our emergency shelter to visit River Farm Summer Camp for two days this summer, where they were able to swim, canoe, and experience the beauty of the Eastern Shore.
- To the Baltimore Modern Quilt Guild (BMQG) for holding a second Tote Bag workshop where eight attendees created eight brand new bags.
- To the members of the Pikesville Senior Center, who hosted a “Superhero Saturday”, complete with books, crafts, and themed activities for the children who are staying in the shelter.
- To Social Solutions, who spent a Day of Service in our Kidz Clothes Zone, sorting clothing and getting us ready for back to school season.
Lifting their VOICE

On August 10, a group of Young Professionals came together to re-energize the VOICE Young Professionals at the House of Ruth Maryland. The gathering included a wide range of local young professionals who are eager to Volunteer, Outreach, Inform, Connect and Engage around the issue of intimate partner violence in our community.

Kait Moore, a local young professional with the L. Warner Company, who convened the meeting, was eager to get started on the work ahead. “It is a great opportunity for myself and my peers to work with an organization that does so much for our community,” said Moore. “I hope the group is able to foster meaningful dialogue about IPV in the young professional community of Baltimore and help support the House of Ruth Maryland through fundraising, community outreach, and volunteerism.”

Check out the House of Ruth Maryland Facebook page for details about an October VOICE Happy Hour!

If you want to get involved with VOICE at the House of Ruth Maryland, email VOICE@hruthmd.org.

We Remember

Each year, the House of Ruth Maryland is fortunate to receive gifts 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. In this edition of Housseline we recognize individuals who have been honored with a memorial tribute between February 1, 2016 and July 31, 2016. We thank the generous donors who make it possible for us to recognize their loved ones.

Louise Allen Armstrong
Gail Bendit
Corina Booth
Ruby Breidegam
Patricia Buck
Christopher Corwin
Margery Dannenberg
Dr. Harsha Desai
Delores Devilbiss Sands
Olga Donovan
Eric Dott
Richard Grayson
Sharon Louise Hopkins
Shannon Lee-Mears
Leo Mogan
James Molloy
Rose Purves Machen
Amber Shinault
Shane Sitnick
Edward Stasik
Catherine Traina

International Guests

Earlier this summer, the United States Agency for International Development brought a delegation of 10 representatives from Belarus to visit Adelante Familia, the bilingual services program for the Latino and Hispanic communities at House of Ruth Maryland. The delegation featured managers of self-help groups, community activists and leaders, and social service professionals. Their goal was to learn from Adelante Familia’s program how they could better work with Latino and other immigrant communities in their home country.

“It was a great opportunity to share ideas and to learn how service providers in other countries are approaching their work,” said Jesús Rivera, Adelante Familia Program Coordinator at House of Ruth Maryland. “We were able to share information with them about our advocacy model, our group counseling, and our trauma informed care model, and we were honored to be selected by USAID to host our colleagues from Belarus.”

For more information about Adelante Familia at House of Ruth Maryland, please contact Jesús Rivera, Adelante Familia Program Coordinator at 410-732-2176 or jrivera@hruthmd.org.
Women of the World

The Women of the World Festival is a high-profile, global movement that celebrates women as a force for positive change. The House of Ruth Maryland is proud to be partnering with the Baltimore WOW Festival on October 7th and 8th at Notre Dame University.

On Saturday, October 8, House of Ruth Maryland Executive Director, Sandi Timmins, will be moderating the panel “Innovative Solutions to Intimate Partner Violence”. As of printing, the panel will feature Judy Wolfer, Managing Attorney at House of Ruth Maryland, Michele Decker from Johns Hopkins, Sawsan Al-Sayyab from the International Rescue Committee, John Miller, Lead Facilitator of the Gateway Project at House of Ruth Maryland and a representative from the One Love Foundation. The panel will explore IPV solutions for specific populations with the goal of increasing the understanding of the work that is currently being done around IPV, and leave attendees energized and ready to take a stand against intimate partner violence.

For more information about the Women of the World Festival, please contact Sarah Sullivan, Training Institute Coordinator at the House of Ruth Maryland at ssullivan@hruthmd.org.

Crabaret Recap

It was a steamy night in July, but nearly 500 people braved the heat to celebrate the 14th annual Crabaret! Guests dined on Chef John Shields’ culinary masterpieces and enjoyed the music of the Swingin’ Swamis, all to benefit the House of Ruth Maryland. WBFF Fox 45’s Jennifer Gilbert kicked off the program and helped local auctioneer Jonathan Melnick make the most of the live auction.

“This is an amazing event and I’m so grateful for the guests who came and the many people who worked hard to make this event a success,” said House of Ruth Maryland Executive Director, Sandi Timmins. The 2016 Crabaret event raised over $130,000, all to benefit programs and services for the victims of intimate partner violence.

The House of Ruth Maryland would like to thank Crabaret Co-Chairs, Kandi Metz and Lauren Kimlel, and Crabaret Committee members: Megan Barlly, Emily Blackman, Joyce Ann Burman, Kaci Byers, Vicki Deyesu, Nadine DiSpirito, Nancy Dudman-Cavalier, Amanda Fond, Julie Hopkins, Amanda Horvath, Kellie Huffman, Chelsea Kimlel, Pam Malester, Louise Miller, Stephen Travers, and Jennifer Wood.

We would also like to thank the very generous event sponsors:

Title Sponsor: Anonymous
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2016 Upcoming Events:

September 17, 2016
Jessica Meredith Jacobsen 5K
October 3, 2016
A Purple Evening
October 18, 2016
Man Up

Begins mid-October
Adopt A Family

November 26 & 27, 2016
B-More Bags at Chesapeake Cancer Alliance Festival of Trees

December 3, 2016
B-More Bags Trunk Show and Sale
Join us on October 18, 2016, at the Baltimore Country Club – Roland Park for the 3rd Annual Man Up Fundraiser. 6-8:30 p.m.

**Event Chairs:** Jeff Musgrove, Jeff Gordon and Peter Korzenewski

You’ll enjoy an evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and conversation with our special guest, **Baltimore Ravens Wide Receiver, Steve Smith, Sr.**

The evening includes an exclusive silent auction.

Tickets are $250, sponsorships are available. Please contact Connor Cook at 410-554-8443 or by email at ccook@hruthmd.org for more information.

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