Protecting the Children

The headlines were horrifying – “Woman Shot to Death While Holding Her Child”. On Tuesday, August 13, 2013, as she tried to put her three year old child into a car seat, Victoria Glover was murdered. Two days later, the murderer, her estranged husband, killed himself.

As family and friends are left to deal with the outcome of such a tragic situation, one question is critical – what happens to the child in a situation like this? Each year, on average, 4,000 people are murdered by intimate partners, and an estimated 2,000 – 3,000 children are left without one parent.

Traumatized and bereaved, these children must struggle to find a new life. In 2007, House of Ruth Maryland (HRM) through the Baltimore City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team found, not surprisingly, that children who witnessed their parent’s murder were likely to develop emotional and behavioral problems that many times results in juvenile and adult criminal records. As the Team began to look into the research, they found that what these children needed was not always intuitive. Some children develop an inability to talk about what happened and others have a strong desire to talk about it. The children often hear conflicting stories from different sides of their families. The murder victim’s family may speak of how horrible the Dad was, while the murderer’s family may tell the child that the victim caused the murderer to lose control and kill her. **Continued on page 2**
Protecting, cont. from cover story

Armed with this knowledge, the group committed to developing a strategy to help children who witness the murder of a parent at the hand of an intimate partner, giving them the resources they need to avoid the long-term consequences of such a tragedy.

The response is a joint effort among the Baltimore City Police Department, the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office and House of Ruth Maryland. Within 24 hours of a child witnessing a parent’s murder as a result of intimate partner violence, the child will meet with the State’s Attorney’s victim advocate and the child’s caretaker will meet with the HRM Community Child and Family Therapist. The purpose of this meeting is to encourage the caretaker to bring the child for a trauma assessment and crisis counseling. In addition, HRM will connect the child and caretaker with local resources and a HRM legal advocate can provide assistance through the criminal trial. At present, this process is in place in Baltimore City, but House of Ruth Maryland encourages other jurisdictions to adopt this protocol. “It’s important that all of the stakeholders work together to immediately provide the children with crisis counseling and support as soon as possible after the murder,” said Dorothy Lennig, Director of the Marjorie Cook Domestic Violence Legal Clinic at House of Ruth Maryland. “In fact, we’d love to see every jurisdiction in the country have a protocol like this in place. Because of the research that led the creation of our protocol, I’ll be travelling to Arizona to help them build a statewide response to support children who witness a parent’s murder as a result of intimate partner violence.”

House of Ruth Maryland would like to express their thanks to Barbara Parker, RN, PhD, FAAN, the Theresa A. Thomas Professor of Nursing at the University of Virginia, for her work on this effort and the Fund for Change for providing funding for this important initiative. To read the full report, visit www.hruth.org.

Another Hole in One!

Hosted by the Women Presidents Organization (WPO) Baltimore Chapter, with Title Sponsor Anne-Tisdale Direct and Reception Sponsor PNC Bank, this year’s Golf & Grapes event was a great success! Over 30 golfers braved the 95 degree weather and attended a golf clinic, played 9 holes and then retreated inside for cooling refreshments and business networking.

“The House of Ruth does important work, supporting them by playing in Golf & Grapes was a particularly fun way to get more involved and help raise awareness for the incredible work they do every day!” said Monyka Berracossa, owner of MyCity4Her.com, who fully embraced the event and promoted it during a series of summer golfing events that culminated in 18 golfers participating in Golf & Grapes.

“I am very pleased to have House of Ruth Maryland Executive Director Sandi Timmins as a member of Women Presidents Organization,” said Betty Hines, Chair of WPO Baltimore Chapters I & II. “As a peer advisory organization for women business leaders of multi-million dollar companies, the women were honored to host the Golf & Grapes event to support the non-profit organization in the chapter. Our motto is ‘Reaching Farther. Together’ and this is just another step in that direction.”

Plans are already underway for next year’s event. A date hasn’t been finalized as of printing, but if you are interested in learning more about this event, please contact Terri Wurmser at twurmser@hruthmd.org.
Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Victoria Glover. Terri Ann Burnham. Ronnesha Simms. These three women were killed by their partners. Charles “CJ” Abbott. A bystander who tried to help, but was murdered by Kristen Loetz’s abuser. Kristen fortunately survived her gunshot wounds. Four abusers committed suicide or were killed as a result of their actions.

Over the course of 27 days in Maryland, these eight lives were lost as a result of intimate partner violence. We are horrified – not only by these monstrous acts of violence committed so frequently in our backyard, but knowing that there are countless others silently living in constant fear of their abuser. They fear staying in the relationship, they fear for their children, and they fear leaving. They are people we know, though we’re not likely to be aware of it. Victims go to great lengths to hide the abuse. We, as a community, tend to see it as a personal issue – not for us to discuss or get involved with. But we must.

I ask you to take a stand, and work with us to break the silence. Bring us into your workplace so we can talk to managers about how to recognize the warning signs of a person in an abusive situation. Invite us into schools so we can talk to young people about healthy relationships. Ask us to attend community meetings so we can help friends and family members understand the difficult dynamics of being in an abusive relationship and let them know how to be supportive. Sign up for our email communications to stay informed of legislation that is important for victims of intimate partner violence, and tell elected officials what you want them to do. Let community leaders know you expect abusers to be held accountable – before they kill their victim.

Together, we will bring the issue out from behind closed doors.

With your help, the House of Ruth Maryland can continue to lead the fight to end violence against women and their children. For over 35 years, we have been working with victims of intimate partner violence to move beyond the abuse, to leave their partners or to find ways to maintain their safety even if they stay in the relationship. Nearly 9,000 adult victims and 600 children receive our services annually. Another 6,000 friends and family members turn to us for support. And there are so very many more to reach.

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, please keep the House of Ruth Maryland on your list. Even one death due to intimate partner violence is one too many.

Sincerely,

Sandi Timmins
Executive Director

A Sale Like None Other

In 2003, the Clearing House Ltd in Timonium approached the House of Ruth Maryland and asked if we’d be interested in being the beneficiary for their annual Sidewalk Sale. We didn’t know what to expect, but eagerly said yes. It’s now 10 years later and almost $90,000 has been raised for the House of Ruth Maryland.

Lisa Hudson, who now is the co-owner of the Clearing House, along with her sister Cara, said, “As children, my sister Cara and I were raised to give back to those less fortunate in our community and our Sidewalk Sale is a perfect example of putting our family values in action. We are proud to have a staff that works hard to make this event a success and next year our goal is to break the $100,000 mark for the House of Ruth Maryland”.

What’s up for grabs at the Sidewalk Sale? Everything! From china to furniture, artwork to jewelry, all items are half-off the marked price and all of the proceeds benefit the House of Ruth Maryland. This year, not only did shoppers contribute, but BB&T and Wittenbach Business Systems sponsored the event.

Make your plans now to attend the 2014 ClearingHouse Sidewalk Sale on September 3, 2014 starting at 10 am.
**Lowe’s Heroes**

Over four days in September, nearly 50 Lowe’s employees volunteered at our emergency shelter as part of the 2013 Lowe’s Heroes Project. Each Lowe’s store receives an annual budget to complete a “Heroes Project,” an improvement effort carried out at a nonprofit organization of the store’s choosing with a common goal: to make the store’s community a better place to live. While “Heroes Projects” are typically chosen store-by-store, six Lowe’s stores joined together this year to select the House of Ruth Maryland and make a bigger impact. Lowe’s employees came to our shelter to rip up carpet - not an easy task - replace it, and paint many of our residential rooms a new and refreshing blue. All materials were donated by Lowe’s, who worked closely with House of Ruth Maryland staff in the months leading up to the project to pick out carpet swatches, make arrangements with contractors, and coordinate volunteers. Mike, a Lowe’s employee who joined us for the week said, “The House of Ruth helps people when they truly need it the most. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute my time. If we made one person’s day just a little brighter, then this project was a success!” True to Mike’s words, we’ve received several comments from residents who love how “bright” the renovated rooms are now!

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**PriMo Changes**

In recent years, the House of Ruth Maryland (HRM) was in the same predicament as many nonprofits climbing out of the recession. Faced with reduced government funding and a growing need for services, where and how could we eliminate costs without sacrificing service?

One area where we sought cost reduction was in our expense for leased space, starting with our Center for Family Safety and Support in Beltsville, Prince George’s County. HRM initiated counseling services in Prince George’s County (Pri) in 2001 with the creation of the Center for Family Safety and Support. We have provided counseling through our center in Beltsville for the past seven years and the need is great - Prince George’s County is second in Maryland only to Baltimore City in reported intimate partner violence crimes. In order to continue to provide services in this area, we went on a mission to find space that would allow us to continue to meet the needs of our clients there and also allow us to reduce some of our expenses.

Last year, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center graciously welcomed our counselors into their location. This year, with the support of Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and the Prince George’s County Executive Rushern Baker, the House of Ruth moved into another rent-free office space in Brentwood, Prince George’s County. When moving day arrived in August, Park United Moving and Storage donated their services and moved us for free. In addition to helping with the move, Park United Moving and Storage annually donates a pod storage unit for us to use during the holidays.

Our five Center for Family Safety and Support counselors now spend time between these two larger, rent-free sites. Because of the expansion into Montgomery County (Mo), the team has affectionately dubbed themselves the “PriMo” staff to signify their provision of counseling services in both counties. The moves occurred without interruption to services, including individual counseling to adults, elementary and preschool aged children, and group counseling to adults, teens and children, all offered in English and in Spanish. Being in Montgomery County has allowed our “PriMo” staff to do more crisis counseling and safety planning with walk-in clients and because HRM already had attorneys at this particular facility, we are able to provide comprehensive services for victims.

Asjoure Brown, our Center for Family Safety and Support Program Manager, credits the “PriMo” staff with outstanding service to victims of intimate partner violence. Recently, Desiree*, one of the clients Asjoure saw as a child, re-enrolled in counseling as an adult. Formerly an adolescent whose mother was in an abusive relationship, Desiree is now 22 and because of the work Asjoure did with her as an adolescent, she recognized signs of abuse in her own relationship and sought help. Asjoure credits her staff with building the relationships necessary to keep clients engaged and comfortable reaching out despite the location change.

Our “PriMo” counselors helped nearly 400 adult victims of intimate partner violence and almost 200 children in fiscal year 2012. For more information about our counseling services in Prince George’s or Montgomery Counties, please call (240) 450-3270.

*Name has been changed to protect client confidentiality.
The Workplace Response to Intimate Partner Violence

With one out of every four women in the United States reporting abuse by an intimate partner at some point in her life, it is a certainty that in every workplace, this issue is affecting employees and accounting for lost productivity, higher healthcare costs, and possible danger to co-workers. This fact gives urgency to the question: How does your workplace, how does any workplace, address intimate partner violence (IPV)?

In collaboration with the House of Ruth Maryland, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake hosted the first “Intimate Partner Violence in the Workplace Day” on October 8. In the morning, Baltimore area executives met at City Hall to talk about their experiences with the issue, the impact it had on their workplaces, and how they handled situations involving employees who were being victimized by an intimate partner. In the afternoon Human Resource professionals participated in a workshop conducted by the House of Ruth’s Training Institute at Legg Mason’s offices downtown. Participants left with a greater understanding of the dynamics of IPV and a framework for creating policy and protocols tailored to the needs of their own organizations.

Mayor Rawlings Blake encouraged employers to increase the dialogue about this issue, noting it takes a community working in concert to make a real difference in the lives of victims. “In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, together with the House of Ruth Maryland,” she says, “I am committed to bringing awareness to the issue of Intimate Partner Violence in the workplace and encouraging Baltimore business leaders to implement protocol and policy to foster a better, safer and stronger work environment.”

Companies throughout the state are encouraged to join the House of Ruth in our commitment to support victims of intimate partner violence and to increase the safety of workplaces. We acknowledge the leadership of the following companies who have already joined us in this commitment: Anne-Tisdale Direct, Chapin Davis Investments, Ellin & Tucker Chartered, Futures Without Violence, M. Luis Construction Company, Maryland Family Network, Media Works, Miles & Stockbridge P.C., Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, MyCity4Her.com, RPM Solutions Group, Sinai Hospital, SmartCEO Magazine, Spectrum HR Solutions, Ulla Popken Ltd, University of Maryland Medical System, WellAdvantage, Wells Fargo, and Women’s Industrial Exchange.

The House of Ruth Maryland provides training to companies seeking to strengthen their policies around this issue. For more information, contact Amelia Lee Conlon at aconlon@hruthmd.org or (410)261-3025.
We Honor All Those Who Have Embraced Our Mission And Made It Their Own.

The House of Ruth Maryland deeply appreciates the support of those who share our vision of dignity, respect and safety for women and children. We also appreciate those who donate and choose to remain anonymous. Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

These gifts were made from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. If you donate through the United Way and do not see your name listed, we may not have received notification of your gift before this went to print. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our list. Please call the Development Office at (410) 554-8443 with any changes, corrections or comments.

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- The Abell Foundation
- Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore
- Baltimore Community Foundation
- The Kenneth S. Battye Charitable Trust
- Charles Crane Family Foundation, Inc.
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Marjorie Cook Foundation, Inc.
- Maryland Charity Campaign
- Maryland Legal Services Corporation
- The Fund for Change
- The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- The Letaw Family Foundation, Inc.
- The Louis H. Gross Foundation, Inc.
- The Osprey Foundation
- United Way of Central Maryland
- United Way of the National Capital Area
- Venable LLP
- Wal-Mart Foundation
- Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund

### Protectors ($10,000-$24,999)

- AEGON/Transamerica Foundation
- Alexander and Louise Armstrong Foundation
- ARINC Incorporated
- Ascharaj L. Dua Rev. Living Trust
- Cecilia Young Willard Helping Fund
- Clearing House, Ltd.
- Combined Charity Campaign
- Eddie’s of Roland Park
- Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman
- Estate of Ruth Fegley
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
- Helen Clay Frick Foundation
- Helen P. Denit Charitable Trust
- Helen S. and Merrill L. Bank Foundation, Inc.
- Maryland Athletic Club
- McCormick & Company
- Merritt Properties, LLC
- Northrop Grumman
- Sylvan/Laureate Foundation Inc.
- T. Rowe Price Foundation, Inc.
- The Allstate Foundation
- The Bunting Family Foundation
- The David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation, Inc.
- The Davis Family Foundation
- Verizon
- Verizon Wireless
- World Bank Community Connections Fund

### Guardians ($5,000-$9,999)

- Alice Shaver Foundation
- Arborvitae Fund
- Bank of America Foundation
- Brown Advisory Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- DLA Piper US LLP
- Goldseker Foundation
- H. Chace & Helen S. Davis Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Legg Mason, Inc.
- Lisë K. Satterfield, MD Fund
- Nextgen Foundation Charitable Foundation Trust
- Nordstrom
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- Prometric
- Selma Lee Owrutsky Revocable Trust
- Skyline Fund
- T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving
- Target
- The Lois & Irving Blum Foundation, Inc.
- The TJX Foundation, Inc.
- Think Energy
- United Way
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Whiteford, Taylor & Preston Charitable Trust
- William E. Cross Foundation, Inc.
- WPW Foundation
### Allies ($2,500-$4,999)
- Alpha Chi Omega Foundation, Inc.
- America’s Charities
- Amerigroup Charitable Foundation
- Anne-Tisdale Direct
- Baltimore City Association of School Psychologists
- Bank of America United Way Campaign
- BB&T Bank
- CFG Community Bank
- Corporate Office Properties Trust
- Cosmetic Surgery Center of Maryland
- DiPietro Family Foundation
- Dorothy L. & Henry A. Rosenberg, Jr. Foundation
- Father O'Neill Council No. 4011 Knights of Columbus
- Gallagher Evelius & Jones, LLP
- Honeywell International Charity Matching
- IBRD- World Bank Family Network
- J.S. Plank and D.M. DiCarlo Family Foundation, Inc.
- Kelly & Associates Insurance Group, Inc.
- KPMG
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- National Philanthropic Trust
- St. Vincent De Paul Society
- Stifel
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- The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore
- The Callanan Family Charitable Gift Fund
- The John J. Leidy Foundation, Inc.
- The Louis and Philip Macht Family Philanthropic Fund
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- The Robinson Foundation
- The T. Rowe Price Program for Charitable Giving
- The L. Warner Companies, Inc.
- The William Kelly Gregory & Anna Margareta Gregory Fund
- United Health Group
- United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
- Vision Technology Services, LLC

### Mentors ($1,000-$2,499)
- A.E. Dott & Associates
- Aesthetics by Katzen at the Katzen Eye Group
- Aetna
- Alpha Chi Omega
- AMH Consulting
- Ashland Presbyterian Church
- Augsburg Lutheran Home of Maryland, Inc.
- Caplan Family Foundation, Inc.
- CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield of MD, Inc.
- Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier
- CIGNA Healthplan Mid-Atlantic Inc.
- DeBois Textiles
- Empire Beauty School
- Empire Education Group
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- First Christian Church
- First Financial Resources
- Fortress Investment Group LLC
- GE United Way Campaign
- Harris Corporation
- Hecht-Levi Foundation, Inc.
- HR Anew, Incorporated
- House of Ruth Young Professionals
- In Honor Of Her, Inc.
- Injured Worker’s Insurance Fund
- International Partnership for Microbicides
- Jane and Worth B. Daniels, Jr. Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation
- Jody L. Clark and Gail V. Colangelo Charitable Fund
- J. S. Plank and D. M. DiCarlo Family Foundation
- KPMG’s Community Involve
- Law Offices of Peter T. Nicholl Media Works, Ltd.
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- M. Sigmund & Barbara K. Shapiro Philanthropic Fund
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- Saint Clement Church Rectory
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- The M Fund
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- The Miriam and Robert Zadek Charitable Gift Fund
- The Pennyghael Foundation, Inc.
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- The Stewart B. Eckers Charitable Trust
- Thomas L. Milan and Mary A. Milan Fund
- University of Maryland Medical System
- US Trust
- VISA Givingstation
- Yoga Salutes Non-Violence
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   Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Baltimore Municipal Golf Corporation
Boscov’s
Carsins Run Baptist Church
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Community College of Baltimore County
Constellation Energy Group
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Cupcake LLC
Eastern Savings Bank
Edaptive Systems LLC
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First Data Foundation
G & G Outfitters, Inc.
Give Back Foundation
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The Sintia Mesa Foundation
The Susanne Ricklin Charitable Gift Fund
Towson Presbyterian Church-Circle 8
United Way of Massachusetts Bay
United Way of Washtenaw County
Verizon Foundation
Well Advantage
Williamsburg Square/Ashton Place Swim Team
WPG Solutions, INC
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   Mayor’s Office of Human Services
Baltimore City Department of Social Services
Baltimore City Emergency Food and Safety Program
Baltimore City Police Department
Baltimore County Department of Social Services
Baltimore County Department of Planning
Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Maryland Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Maryland State Department of Education
Montgomery County Sherriff’s Office
U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Office
U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

Remembering Jessica
On September 7, 2013, hundreds of runners and walkers gathered in Towson for The 6th Annual Charge of the Knights Jessica Meredith Jacobsen Memorial Run. Jessica was tragically murdered by her estranged husband in 2007. She was a graduate of Villanova University, a T. Rowe Price employee, a volunteer, and a dedicated and loving mother. In the words of Grand Knight and race organizer Glenn Thuman, “Through the example set by Jessica, we come together, as individuals, to make a difference in ourselves, our families and our community.” A portion of the event proceeds annually benefit the House of Ruth Maryland, and this year included a generous gift from T. Rowe Price and its employees.

2014 Upcoming Events

February 20, 2014
Young Professionals Bring Your Bling Martini Fling at Silo Point

April 23, 2014
Annual Spring Luncheon

May 18, 2014
MAC Half Marathon and 2-Person Relay

July 10, 2014
Crabaret at Gertrude’s at the Baltimore Museum of Art

September 3, 2014
Clearinghouse Sidewalk Sale, 10 am
Save the Date for Spring Luncheon 2014!

The 2014 Spring Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, April 23, 2014** at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, co-chaired by Olwen Modell and Vicki Deyesu and featuring **keynote speaker Judge Jeanine Pirro, the host of “Justice with Judge Jeanine”**. Judge Pirro began her career as an advocate for victims of intimate partner violence, and as the first female District Attorney of New York’s Westchester County she established one of the first domestic violence units in the nation. She will share her personal experience and insider’s information about the legal trials and tribulations faced by victims who are leaving an abusive relationship. **For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Terri Wurmser at 410-261-3027 or terri@hruthmd.org.**

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