

Laurel House Happenings

Cheryl Rasing, Administrative Assistant

Winter 2017

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Dating Violence is an important topic with teens, as 1 in 3 adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner (far exceeding rates of other types of youth violence).^{*} Younger people are at the highest risk of abuse and so throughout the year we at Laurel House work especially hard to ensure our teens receive proper prevention education on the topic with our 'Healthy Dating Relationships' school program.

February is a particularly special time, as it is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. In addition to the general programs presented, there are other initiatives to help raise awareness, like the "Tie a kNOT in Dating Violence" campaign. Along with the TriCounty Community Network many of the local high schools participate in having orange shoelaces that students wear throughout the month to bring attention to the issue and its importance in the community. There are also pledges, flyers and various public service announcements that coincide with this project.

With Valentine's Day soon approaching, what better time to show our love and to show that love is not abuse?

^{*}Statistic taken from www.loveisrespect.org

Laurel House's Holiday Season



The end of 2016 brought Laurel House one of the busiest holiday seasons to date. Our tireless volunteers, community members, faith communities, businesses, and individual donors shared the gift of love, kindness and hope to each of our clients that will last throughout the new year. The kindness started early. In mid-November, a number of local companies generously donated turkeys and Thanksgiving themed foods for our transitional housing clients. Very special donors provided

a Thanksgiving dinner to our emergency shelter residents. Throughout the weeks to follow, a number of community members and businesses collected gifts for children, teens, and mothers. Families were adopted as gift recipients. Repeat donors and new good Samaritans who we now consider great friends of Laurel House delivered gift cards, toys and other offerings for our families. This year, Laurel House's adminis-

trative office was once again converted into a toy store to allow mothers to select special gifts for their children.

To celebrate our clients and their families, Laurel House hosted two holiday parties complete with gifts, catering, crafts for kids, carolers and even a visit from Santa Claus.

Thanks to the entire Laurel House community for making all of this possible.



Special Thanks*



The following are notes of thanks that Laurel House has received from our clients during our

holiday season.

"I picked up my gifts today and wow! I was so happy and excited to see how well my adopted family treated me. I loved the candles and bath goodies. It's good to know people care so much! The gift card will be fun to use as well! Thank you to Laurel

House for putting this all together! You are much appreciated!" -Dana

"Thank you so much for all your help and support. It is such a blessing to have you all in our lives. May God Bless you and your loved ones. Merry Christmas and

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Special Thanks Cont'd

Happy New Year.” –Jamie

“Thank you so much! I don't have words of appreciation. The kids will love everything. Everything was beautiful! I couldn't believe it.” -Michelle

“Thank you for being so devoted and for everything you have done for my family.” -Marisa



“Thank you for making Christmas possible for my children!” -Tanya

“Thank you to all of you generous people who made this Christmas very special for my grandson. Thanks!” -Kim



“Thank you for your help with my transition during a difficult period. Your insight and dedication are greatly appreciated.” -Kathryn

“This Christmas would not have been possible without your kindness and gen-

erosity. My children were over the moon excited Christmas morning. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making our Christmas special and blessed.”

–Rachel

**Names have been changed in order to protect the anonymity of our clients.*



The Newest Addition to Laurel House



Laurel House is pleased to introduce our new Children's Program Manager, Monica Jenkinson. Monica discovered Laurel House by pure coincidence seven years ago when she came across the organization's website to conduct a fundraiser with her previous employer. She immediately fell for Laurel House's mission.

Monica's role with Laurel House involves working directly with children to connect them with necessary resources as their parents receive Laurel House services. This includes but is not limited to basic play and child care, school assistance, formation of mothers' groups, and help with legal matters. Monica holds a bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education. In addition to her education, Monica possesses a passion for children's health and wellbeing. Her wide range of experience includes teaching and fulfilling roles as an assistant director and director of education, in addition to serving as an executive director. Monica is more than prepared to serve the most vulnerable victims of domestic violence– the children of survivors.

Monica is a proud mother of one son and has been in the local area all of her life. We are excited that she has joined our Laurel House family. If you would like to contact Monica, you may call her at 610-277-1860 ext. 104 or email her at mjenkinson@laurel-house.org.

Laurel House Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

CALLING ALL MEN!

Laurel House invites you to join us as we prepare for our 6th Walk A Mile In Her Shoes® event.

Go to www.lhwam.kintera.org to sign up, start a team, and get ready to take a walk through Heebner Park in **red high heels** on May 6th!

Peace, Love and Laurel House

Save the date!
Laurel House's 2017
Gala will be held at the
Green Valley Country Club on
Saturday, April 22, 2017

For more information or
sponsorship details contact Andrea Devenney
at adevenney@laurel-house.org