

# Laurel House Happening

Liz Lyons, Development Coordinator

Summer 2016

## Children and Domestic Violence

Children are often the forgotten victims of domestic violence. Even if they are not direct victims, growing up in an abusive household can have a severe and long lasting impact on their development. Signs of trauma are evident in children of all ages and can include sleep disturbances, aggressive or impulsive behavior, developmental regression, depression or anxiety, and physical health problems (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network).

In addition to trauma, children growing up in abusive households are exposed to and learn unhealthy relationship dynamics, leading to a higher likelihood of future abuse— both as the victim and the perpetrator.

At Laurel House, roughly half of the women admitted into the shelter have children. Through our housing and counseling programs, Laurel House works with parents to help their children to overcome their experiences and our Children's Advocate engages in "therapeutic play" with children to help them learn healthy coping skills and conflict resolution techniques.

## New Faces at Laurel House

### New Board Leadership

The Board of Directors welcomes new Co-Presidents Dr. Colleen Lelli and Mary Griffith-Alfarano!



As board members, **M a r y**, **V i c e** President

- Manager at Fulton Bank, and Colleen, a Cabrini University professor, have been heavily involved in Laurel House's fundraising and community outreach efforts, as well as executive functions. They are eager to take the reigns and guide Laurel House through a period of rapid growth.

We sincerely thank our outgoing Co-Presidents, Didi Scott and Scott Sterling for their leadership and unwavering dedication to Laurel House's mission.

### Welcome New Staff!

Rasheeda Hansford joins the shelter staff as a counselor advocate. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology of Human Services from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Rasheeda's extensive experience



working at domestic violence and homeless shelters has made her a great asset to the shelter.

In July, Amanda Uckele (pictured below, right) joined the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART). Amanda holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University and attended Villanova University's Paralegal Education Program. After college, Amanda followed her passion for public service through internships and volunteer work, but she knew that ultimately she wanted to work in the field. The DART staff is thrilled to have Amanda on board to help with the rapidly growing program.

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Nicole Rinier (pictured above, left) is Laurel House's new Community Educator. Nicole is passionate about social justice, with a particular interest in gender issues, and has extensive work and volunteer experience in these areas. This experience, combined with her Bachelor's degrees in Women's Studies and

Fine Art in Printmaking will allow Nicole to hit the ground running as she begins to visit schools, community events, and other organizations in the coming months.

Pattie Ceithaml joined Marian's Attic in June as the new store manager. Pattie brings experience in both business ownership and management and is excited to use her skills to support Laurel House's mission. She is looking forward to meeting all of Marian's Attic's wonderful shoppers and donors and helping them find their next great purchase!



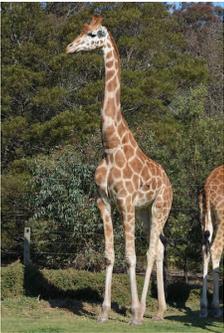
### Staff Member Retirement

After 17 years of dedicated service, Laurel House says goodbye to our Legal Advocate, **C a r o l y n** **C o l e m a n**. While Carolyn will be sorely missed, the staff and Board of Laurel House are happy that she will get some well deserved time to relax. Carolyn will now spend her days enjoying sunny California with her family.



# Summertime at Laurel House

Each summer, Laurel House works to keep the children in our shelter and transitional housing entertained by providing fun recreational activities that they can enjoy with their mothers. This summer, we have been fortunate to be able to provide a few extra summertime treats.



Earlier this summer, all of our families were provided tickets and transportation to the Elmwood Park Zoo. All of the children and their moms enjoyed a fun day walking around the zoo

and visiting with the animals.

In addition to family activities, the kids in our housing programs attend summer camp. While the kids are at camp, the moms are able to take the steps necessary to continue to rebuild their lives with the comfort of knowing that their children are safe and having fun.

This summer, thanks to tremendous community support, Laurel House is able to pay for additional camp field trips, including trips to Adventure Aquarium, Dorney Park, and the movies, so that all of the kids get the full summer camp experience.



At the shelter, Laurel House has a backyard play ground full of fun activities, including a fence painted in chalk board paint, play houses, and a brand new basketball hoop!

For the days when the weather is too bad to go outside, we have an assortment of books, movies, and games, and of course, there's always lemonade, iced tea, and popsicles for those extra hot days.

**xfinity Live!**  
PHILADELPHIA

PUNT, PASS, & *Purple*  
GIRLS DAY OUT IN SUPPORT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

**AUGUST 13, 2016**

**CBS Radio and XFINITY Live!** present Punt, Pass, Purple – The ultimate football-inspired “Girls Day Out” in support of the Laurel House, Working to End Domestic Violence. Join 94WIP’s Ike Reese, Andrew Porter and Ava Graham, 96.5AMP Radio’s Bennett, 92.5XTU’s Crockett, 98.1 WOGL’s Valerie Knight, 1210 WPHY’s Dawn Stensland, as we get ready for the 2016 season with an exciting day of football-related activities.

Experience cooking demos with celebrity chefs, fantasy football 101, celebrity quizzo with great prizes, a pampering zone and more. Guys are welcome too as they can chill in the 94WIP Man Cave or the Fantasy Football Zone and make their own 2016 season preparations. Doors open 12pm. Event begins 1pm. Tickets are free. Advance ticket required for entry. First come, first serve while tickets remain. FREE parking is available until 2pm!

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**  
[CBSPHILLY.COM/PURPLE](http://CBSPHILLY.COM/PURPLE)

94WIP KYW 1060 98.1 WOGL 92.5 XTU 1210 WPHY @cbsphilly.com

## 2016 *DASH* Against Domestic Violence

Join us at Upper Gwynedd Township Park on October 23, 2016 to run or walk in memory of those who have lost their lives to domestic violence, to celebrate survivors, and to prevent future abuse.

<http://lhdash.kintera.org>

*In Loving Memory*

Rachel Engler  
Troy Engler  
Lynn McManis Wright  
Mary Claire Johnson  
Lori Wynn Caputo  
Marianne Laughlin  
Laurel House Working to End Domestic Violence