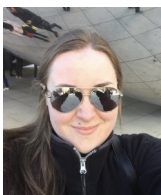


# Laurel House Happenings

Cheryl Rasing, Administrative Assistant

Spring 2018

## Laurel House is Thrilled to Welcome Three New Employees!



Samantha Kwaniuk joined Laurel House as the Case Manager at Nicole's Place. Sam graduated

from Philadelphia University after completing her Masters degree in Community and Trauma Counseling. She completed her internship with Hall Mercer Community Mental Health Center, and has worked with a variety of individuals. Through that, she found a need for empowerment and support throughout the community, which she hopes to help provide for others.

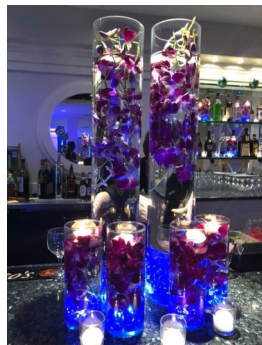


Samantha Koellhoffer is the new Volunteer Coordinator for Laurel House. She has a non-profit back-

ground and has worked in development for organizations such as WHYY, Inc. and The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. She has also worked in the Marketing and Corporate Training departments at Dorman Products, Inc. For the past several years, Sam has been a freelance

**(continued on page 2)**

## Laurel House Annual Gala—An Evening of Gathering and Giving



The Laurel House Annual Gala—An Evening of Gathering and Giving was held on April 28th, 2018 at PineCrest Country Club, Lansdale. This year, we honored

member of the Board of Directors, Lisa M. Altomare and Lt. Jeffrey Kratz of the Towamencin Police Department. Over 250 attendees enjoyed a special night of dinner, and dancing, as well as the successful fundraising of the Bid for a Cause portion of the event. The evening was hosted by Marilyn Russell (Morning Show Host of 98.1 WOGL), and featured a live auction presented by Steve



Katz. A Laurel House client shared her experience in overcoming adversities as a domestic violence victim and acknowledged the support of Laurel House's DART program. The Gala also highlighted a number of "Empty Place at the Table" settings, honoring local individuals lost to domestic violence.

**Laurel House gives special thanks to Bethman Print Group, Kelly Whalen of Pinkie Out, Kremp Florist, and Whitney Levin Photography.**

We also recognize the attendees of our Gala as well as the volunteers and donors who truly made this event a success. Thank you for gathering; thank you for giving.

## Executive Director, Beth Sturman, Recipient of Women's Advocacy Award

On April 12, Cabrini University presented Laurel House Executive Director, Beth Sturman, the 2018 Ivy Young Willis and Martha Willis Dale Award. This award acknowledges women who have played exceptional roles within public affairs.



It was created in 1992 through the generosity of William G. Willis in honor of his daughter, long-time Cabrini employee Martha Dale, and his wife, League of Women Voters and the World Affairs Council affil-

ate, Ivy Young Willis.

Beth joins previous recipients including former Montgomery County District Attorney, Risa Vetri Ferman, former Philadelphia City Councilwoman, Happy Fernandez, and civil rights pioneer, Gloria Johnson.

For more information, visit [www.cabrini.edu/willisaward](http://www.cabrini.edu/willisaward).

## Are You Man Enough?



On Saturday, May 5th, Laurel House hosted Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®. The international

Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence at Pfizer's Collegeville campus.

Preston Elliot of WMMR's Preston and Steve Show emceed the event which included speeches from Montgomery County Commissioner, Ken Lawrence, Montgomery County District Attorney, Kevin Steele, and an account from a domestic violence survivor.

Hundreds of men alongside their supporters lined up in stilettos, kitten heels, and even thigh-high boots to show their oppo-

sition to domestic violence.

The event saw participation from local businesses and organizations including Pfizer, The Three Little Angels - A Conicelli Family Foundation, TD Bank, and The Rachel and Troy Foundation. Involvement from various fire and police departments, once again, started friendly competitions between our local first responders. Families gathered to form teams in memory of their loved ones. Each of these teams enjoyed this event while raising money for Laurel House.

The day's funding reached over \$65,000 and remains as proof that you can have fun while supporting a great cause.



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writer while taking care of her five-year-old daughter, Miranda. She lives in the Lansdale/Blue Bell area with her husband, Gary. She is very excited to join Laurel House!



Anna Lower joins the shelter staff as the new Counselor/Legal Advocate. Prior to her hire, she worked as an intern in the Laurel House DART program. Anna is a recent graduate of Eastern

University with a dual degree in Social Work and Psychology. During her DART internship, she fell in love with the mission and people of Laurel House, and she is excited to once again be a part of our organization.

**We are pleased to have our three newest employees join the team**

## Laurel House's New Administrative and Outreach Office



Laurel House celebrated the opening of its new administrative and outreach office with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on Thursday, April 19. Many individuals from the

Laurel House community, law enforcement members, and elected officials attended this event. The ribbon cutting was followed by remarks from Laurel House Co-Presidents, Colleen Lelli and Mary Griffith-Alfarano as well as from Executive Director, Beth Sturman and East Norriton Township Supervisor, Dennis DeSanto.

Employees of Laurel House relocated to the new 5,400-square-foot office last December, leaving behind the former location on 605 Swede Street in the borough of Norristown. Laurel House staff noted the positive changes

as a result of the office transition, including an increase in counseling client participation, while emphasizing the outstanding need for a new shelter location.



*Rachel and Troy Foundation  
9th Annual Golf Outing  
Monday, June 18, 2018  
Green Valley Country Club, Lafayette Hill  
Proceeds from this event benefit Laurel House  
For more information visit [www.rtfoundation.org](http://www.rtfoundation.org)*

## SAVE THE DATE

### 5th Annual Laurel House Fashion Show

September 29, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.  
PineCrest County Club  
101 Country Club Drive, Lansdale

Fashions Featured by Laurel Loft



Sunday, October 21, 2018  
Upper Gwynedd Township Building,  
North Wales PA  
For more information contact  
Tina at [tquinci@laurel-house.org](mailto:tquinci@laurel-house.org)