

# Laurel House Happenings

Liz Lyons, Development Manager

Winter 2018

## Teen Dating Violence

According to the CDC, teen dating violence is defined as *“the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional violence within a dating relationship, including stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and might occur between a current or former dating partner.”* One in three teens have experienced some type of physical or sexual violence by a dating partner and teens who experience dating violence before the age of 18 are at a greater risk of victimization as an adult.

So, what can we do to **stop teen dating violence**? Education and awareness are the key.

Last year, Laurel House presented our **“Healthy Dating Relationships”** program to nearly 7,000 teens. This program helps students create a framework for building healthy relationships, recognize warning signs and patterns of abuse, safely end an unhealthy relationship, and support friends and family members who may be dealing with abuse. Laurel House also presents to parents about warning signs and talking to their teens.

If you’d like to schedule a speaker, contact Lydia Lynes at [llynes@laurel-house.org](mailto:llynes@laurel-house.org).

## Welcome New Staff!

Laurel House is happy to introduce three new staff members to our team!

Sarah Lopata joins us as the manager of Nicole’s Place at Laurel House, our newly opened satellite office in Huntingdon Valley.



Sarah recently graduated from Chestnut Hill College with a M.S. in Administration of Human Services, and focused her research on current trends, needs, and best practices in the fields of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness. She provided support and advocacy to individuals and families, managed programs, and fought for social change across systems in her work in Philadelphia with Women Against Abuse, Women

Organized Against Rape, and Project HOME. Sarah is honored to lead Nicole’s Place at Laurel House in supporting those impacted by domestic violence in Eastern Montgomery County and the surrounding community.

Lydia Lynes joined Laurel House in December as the Community Education Coordinator. Lydia’s background with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and working hands-on with kids as a childcare counselor at the YMCA has helped her transition into her new position. She is a recent graduate of Temple University, obtaining her Masters in Social Work in Summer 2017.



Melinda Faison, our new Bridge Housing Case Manager, recently graduated from Temple University with a Masters in Social Work. After graduating with her BSW, she worked at the Maternity Care Coalition as an advocate for pregnant and parenting families. She gained invaluable experiences while interning at A Woman’s Place and Lakeside Girls Academy. While in graduate school she also worked with a Temple professor on a research project, completing both pre and post test interviews for women impacted by domestic violence whom also suffered from symptoms of PTSD. She is excited about joining the Laurel House team.



## Happy Holidays at Laurel House

To start the holiday season off right, Laurel House received a truck load of donated Thanksgiving turkeys for all of our clients. Each of our community clients in need, as well as our shelter residents, enjoyed a turkey meal with all the fixings.

This year, we combined our holiday parties to have one



gigantic holiday celebration with over 170 clients and their children in attendance.

Dozens of individuals and

community groups provided toys and other gifts for our clients and volunteered to help us make sure that the holiday party and the holiday season was enjoyed by all!



## A Holiday Thank You From Our Clients

*"Your generosity and kindness has made me and my family feel uplifted this holiday season...with your help, I felt I could give my children happy faces this year."*

*"I am very thankful and truly grateful for your kind and giving heart...this is a moment in my life I will cherish forever and remember that there are*

*people who care in this world."*

*"You have no idea how wonderful of a holiday you have given my family."*

*"Thank you very much for the wonderful gifts, and most of all for your love for our family."*

We at Laurel House thank you for

bringing happiness and joy to our clients during a dark period in their lives.

Love and support from people they have never met help to give them the strength to persevere during their difficult journey to a life free from abuse.

## Laurel House Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®

**Saturday, May 5th at the  
Pfizer Collegeville Campus!**

**Visit [www.laurel-house.org](http://www.laurel-house.org) for  
more information.**

### Join us for "Wings" A One-Woman Show by Susan Sandler

Susan Sandler is a master storyteller and captivating performer, known for her TEDx Talk, "Punch Fear in the Face & Claim Your Life". In her one-woman show, Wings, Susan inspires audiences with a powerful story of courage, hope and finding joy.

**Presented by Laurel House in partnership with  
Main Line area local businesses and faith  
communities**

Sunday, March 18th 3:30pm- 5:30pm

The Saturday Club

117 W. Wayne Avenue

Wayne, Pa 19087

**For more information and to purchase tickets,  
visit: <http://laurel-house.org/wingsevent/>**



IN THIS HOUSE,  
*We*  
WORK TO END  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

APRIL  
28  
2018

*save  
the  
date*

Annual Gala  
Laurel House  
An Evening of  
Gathering and Giving

PINECREST COUNTRY CLUB  
101 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE  
LANSDALE, PA 19446 6:30 to 10:30 in the evening

*The Laurel House Gala*  
AN EVENING OF  
*gathering  
& giving*

[WWW.  
LAUREL-HOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.LAUREL-HOUSE.ORG)

*honorees*  
Lisa M. Altomare  
and  
Lt. Jeffrey Kratz