

Laurel House Working to End Domestic Violence

LAUREL HOUSE HAPPENINGS Fall 2018

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is a time for us to remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence, celebrate survivors, and raise awareness in an effort to prevent future violence.

Last month our staff, board and volunteers participated in a variety of events in recognition of DVAM. We are grateful to each of our supporters who joined us in these efforts.

To begin the month, Laurel House held our 5th annual Fashion Show. This year's show was rebranded and renamed: **Reuse, Repurpose, Restore a Life Fashion Show**. Featured fashions were from **Laurel's Loft**, our thrift shop in Lansdale. It was a great time!



Laurel House staff, as well as many of our supporters also participated in **#GoPurpleUSA**. Check out our shelter staff donning their purple while promoting the 5K!



On October 10th elected officials, and supporters attended our annual **Breaking the Silence Luncheon**. At the luncheon, guest speakers included State Rep. Brendon Boyle, Sen. Bob Mensch, Kristin Feden Esq., and District Attorney Kevin Steele, as well as a domestic violence survivor. Sen. Mensch spoke about House Bill 1092, legislation that was recently signed by Governor Wolf. This legislation addresses abuse in front of a child would increase the sentencing guidelines for an adult who commits abuse in front of a child. District Attorney Steele stated the importance of



such legislation and then cited “sobering” statistics that in Montgomery County “sadly we’ve seen a significant jump in domestic violence or relationship violence homicides. We’ve had 18 homicides occur in Montgomery Co. so far this year. Eight of those murdered, or 45 percent, were at the hands of a family member, intimate partner or former intimate partner.”

Laurel House concluded the month with yet another successful **5K DASH Against Domestic Violence** in Upper Gwynedd.



Notes from Nicole's Place

Happy Autumn from Nicole's Place! Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our programs. Here are some updates from the past few months:

Our yoga class is up and running! Our counseling intern, Denise, is also a certified yoga instructor, and specialized in trauma-informed yoga. Each week, she creates a class that is calming, restorative, and addresses needs of those who have gathered to practice. This free class is open to the community, and occurs on Fridays at 11am. It is a lovely way to wind down from the week or start the weekend with intention. Please join us!

The first Fun Run/Walk to benefit Nicole's Place was a great success! On October 6th, friends, family, and community members joined the Lower Moreland High School football players and Laurel House staff for a fun morning to support the work we do with survivors of domestic violence. This event raised awareness about domestic and dating violence, and raised almost \$3000 for our program. Thanks to all of you who participated, and we can't wait to get started planning next year's event!

Finally, Nicole's Place's anniversary is right around the corner! November marks one year of service to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence in Huntingdon Valley and Eastern Montgomery County. To celebrate this milestone, we are hosting an open house-style anniversary celebration on Thursday, November 29, from 9-11am, with remarks at 9:30am. Our staff is so grateful for all of the support that made this vision a reality, and our clients and community partners share over and over again that Laurel House's presence is an incredible benefit and resource.

Office Hours:

Mondays: 10 am – 3 pm

Tuesdays - Saturdays: 10 am – 6 pm

Counseling hours by appointment



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

I am honored to join with Laurel House on working to end domestic violence by supporting October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is a serious crime that does not discriminate. It has affected individuals of all races, genders, and ages and has disrupted all types of families and communities, with woman and children especially vulnerable. A public that is educated about the prevalence and signs of domestic violence can work together to prevent it and create communities where such crimes will not be ignored. A community that is prepared to open their hearts and minds to survivors, regardless of their age, gender, or income, can give survivors the strength, support, and dignity they need to overcome the effects of this devastating crime and heal, both physically and emotionally.

The key to ending domestic violence everywhere is through awareness and action. Fifty-four percent of mass shootings in the United States between 2009 to 2016 were related to domestic violence. Pennsylvania is taking a long overdue step forward to keep guns from abusers through the signing of Act 79 of 2018. Domestic violence is a scourge on our society and these reforms will go a long way to protect victims, hold abusers accountable and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

As Governor, and on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I thank Laurel House and its supporters for their ongoing work to raise awareness on domestic violence and for working to build a better future for our commonwealth. I extend my best wishes for continued success.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor
October 2018

Pottstown Updates

Our Pottstown location continues to see an increasing number of clients each month. Initially, the office was staffed to offer counseling on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, as a result of the increase in requests for services, we added additional staffing to offer counseling on Wednesdays as well.

Our request for services continues to grow in this area, but we still need your help! If you

know of anywhere in the Limerick/Royersford/Pottstown area that we can leave our literature or a hang a poster with our information on it, please contact us via email at info@laurel-house.org.

Never Feel Alone Again

laurel House
24-hour confidential hotline:
1-800-642-3150
Office: 610-277-1860
www.laurel-house.org
Remember, you are not alone...
we are here to help!
Working to End Domestic Violence

- We can help victims of abuse whether it's physical, emotional, mental, financial or sexual.
- If you or someone you know is being abused, we can help.
- There is a place you can trust when there is nowhere else to turn.
- Remember you are not alone... we are here to help!



#FLYEAGLESFLY

We are so grateful to be an Eagles Care 2018 partner. This partnership has provided ongoing development opportunities for our staff in the areas of mission messaging and social media, as well as a variety of in-kind donations.

In early October, the families in our shelter received a special treat when Philadelphia Eagles Jordan Mailata (#68) and Mack Hollins (#10) stopped by to drop off a AED donated by Simon's Fund, and also spent time with the kiddos! They played basketball, made trail mix, painted sun catchers and laughed a lot!



"I can see how life can be awful and awesome in the exact same moment and look with undying hope because as difficult as life may be now, it is better than any day I spent with my abuser."

Laurel House Client

When you donate to Laurel House **YOU** provide the **HOPE** that our clients need. You are helping provide them with an **opportunity** to see that life can be awesome, and that there are better days ahead.

Please make your donation today and provide victims of domestic violence the **HOPE** that they need and deserve. **Thank you.**



@laurelpa



@laurelhousepa



@laurelhousepa

The Pennsylvania Philharmonic Holiday Concert to Benefit Laurel House

The Laurel House Mainline Taskforce invites you to join us for an intimate afternoon, holiday brass concert with the Pennsylvania Philharmonic.

The Pennsylvania Philharmonic believes music education and the arts are fundamentally important and beneficial to the lives of all people, and use their symphony concert experience as a catalyst for academic advancement, creativity, joy, and personal growth.

Please join Laurel House on **Sunday, December 9th from 2pm to 4pm in Lawrence Hall at Rosemont College**, located at **1400 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010**. All donations, sponsorships, and ticket sales will be equally distributed to Laurel House and the Pennsylvania Philharmonic, in order to further advance our programs.

There is limited seating available for this concert. This registration page will close when all seats have been reserved.

To purchase tickets visit: www.laurel-house.org

Holiday Helpers Needed!

Do you have a few hours to spare? Are you willing to sort and put away donations? Or, maybe you want to help moms "shop" for their children.

If you are interested, or want to learn more about volunteering this holiday season, email **Sam** at **volunteers@laurel-house.org**



Did you know that counseling is available in 5 locations throughout Montgomery County?



Appointments can be made for our Pottstown, East Norriton, North Wales, and Bryn Mawr locations by calling 610.277.1860. For Huntingdon Valley appointments, please call 267.699.0200.

2018 Holiday at

Laurel House
Working to End Domestic Violence

You can make the holiday season brighter for those facing adversities from domestic violence.

For more information on giving this holiday season, visit www.laurel-house.org/holiday or contact Cheryl Rasing at crasing@laurel-house.org.