

Laurel House Happenings

Spring 2019

Signature Spring Events

Marian's Attic Bags & Basket Bingo

On March 17th, Marian's Attic Volunteers hosted their annual **Bags & Baskets Bingo!** It was a **SOLD OUT** event! The fire hall at Black Rock Fire Company was lined with beautiful raffle baskets and smiling guests!

"Our volunteers really out did themselves. We're so lucky!" Pattie Ceithaml, Marian's Attic Manger

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®



This year's annual event was held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Pfizer in Collegetown. The rainy weather did not seem to dampen anyone's spirits!

Our good friend, Preston Elliot of WMMR, served again as emcee for the event. Speakers included County Commissioner Ken Lawrence and

Montgomery County District Attorney, Kevin Steele. Both of whom look great in red thigh high heels, by the way. On a more serious note, both are avid supporters of Laurel House and the individuals that we serve. DA Steele's words were powerful as he honored the strength and courage it takes to break the silence of domestic violence.



Participants also heard from two speakers who courageously shared their stories of domestic violence.

The event raised over \$60,000. Thank you to all

of our sponsors, participants, volunteers, and staff, for making this another successful event.

Laurel House Annual Gala An Evening of Gathering and Giving



This year's gala was held on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at Rivercrest Golf Club & Preserve. This year's honorees included Laurel House's Honorary Council member Diana

"Didi" Scott, Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele, and Cabrini University.

With over 250 guests, everyone enjoyed a evening of dinner and dancing. Marilyn Russell, morning show host at 98.1 WOGL, served as emcee for the evening. Steve Katz, served as auctioneer for the Live Auction again. He entertained the crowd while raising over for \$60,000 in the Bid for a Cause alone.



Laurel House gives special thanks to Hunter Hayes Landscaping Design and Longwood Gardens for the beautiful arrangements. Thank you to the Gala attendees, volunteers and donors. Without you this event would not be possible!

Thank you for gathering; thank you for giving.



Notes from Nicole's Place

On Saturday, April 6th, Nicole's Place participated in Finding Hope, held at Bryn Athyn College. In its fourth year, this event has become a powerful opportunity for participants to open our hearts and be present during difficult experiences in our lives. Nicole's Place Manager, Sarah Lopata, facilitated a discussion about healthy relationships, and Samantha Kwasniuk Case Manager, engaged with fellow attendees at our resource table. It was an excellent day to connect with our local community and share information about the work that we do.

Thank you to all who came out to Create Me Pottery on May 31st! It was a fun evening of painting pottery and enjoying cocktails crafted by Mermaid Spirits Distillery, while raising money for Nicole's Place.

Our second annual 5k Fun Run and 1 mile walk will be held on Saturday, September 14th at 8:30 am (Day-of Registration will open at 7:30am). The route begins at Lower Moreland High School and winds through lovely neighborhoods nearby. This event is a great way to get outside with friends and family to support Nicole's Place. Stay tuned for early registration information. We hope to see you there!

Office Information

2064 County Line Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA
Office: 267-699-0200

Mondays: 10 am – 3 pm
Tuesdays - Saturdays: 10 am – 6 pm



Welcome New Staff!



Laurel House is excited to welcome several new staff members to our team.

Sam Stever (pictured top-left) returns to Laurel House after the recent completion of her internship as the newest full time Domestic Abuse Response Team Advocate (DART). Sam interned with DART in the summer of 2018 while completing her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice at West Chester University.

Ashley Narwid (pictured top-right) joined the Laurel House team in February to fill the newly created role, Special Events Coordinator. She obtained her Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Shippensburg University, and comes to us with extensive event experience.

If you have visited or called our East Norriton office recently, it highly likely that you have met Kate already. **Kate Rymarowicz** (pictured bottom-left) started in March as our Administrative Assistant. We are thrilled to have Kate as part of our team. She is always smiling and happy, but most importantly keeps us organized!

Christina Campbell (pictured bottom-center) joins us as the shelter's newest full-time Counselor Advocate. Christina has a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from Temple University.

Rian Rosairo (pictured bottom-right) was hired as a part-time Children's Advocate. Rian has worked for several years with children and families. She is currently in school and expected to graduate this August with a Bachelor's of Art in Child Advocacy.



Voice of a Volunteer

"It's a chance to give back in some small way."

"I enjoy spreading the word and helping others."

"Being there for people makes me happy!"

In recognition of **Volunteer Appreciation Month** in April, Laurel House hosted a thank you event. The above quotes are from our dedicated and terrific volunteers!

Volunteering is about giving back. Often, we find that **our volunteers get as much as they give**. Take Ellie for example, a first time volunteer with Laurel House. She helped out at an event this past May. She was so moved by the event she wrote, *"Today I had the opportunity to help at Walk a Mile In Her Shoes® to support Laurel House. The support and love felt at this event left me in awe. To see people from all walks of life come together to fight sexual abuse and violence left me in tears.*

At one point, as I was listening to a survivor speak, I had to walk away, tears streaming down my face. I didn't want the person speaking to think they had upset me. It was just the opposite - I heard in their message something I have been feeling for a long time and couldn't put into words. I stepped toward the back and as I did, a woman I had never met before came over and hugged me. 'I understand,' she said to me. She held me tight and we cried together. Then a gentleman came over, and another woman. And for those few minutes we just stood there, listening to the words that resounded with each of us. It was something I will never forget and am so glad I got to experience.

...To the new friends I have made at Laurel House--thank you. You have no idea how much you impacted me today. I will never forget it."

Thank you to Ellie, and to all our amazing volunteers!



Volunteer Spotlight Cricket Snearing



Cricket Snearing has been a loyal volunteer with Laurel House for well over a decade. Cricket first became involved with Laurel House through Tammy Reid, wife of the former Head Coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, Andy Reid.

While attending a cystic fibrosis event, Tammy discovered some beautifully painted children's furniture done by Cricket. Impressed by her creativity, Tammy insisted she become involved with Laurel House. So she did!

In the last 14 years, she has not missed one Gala. She has been involved in many aspects of the Gala, everything from wrap day (where she taught many of us how to wrap a raffle basket properly), to decor, to painting children's furniture, to donating trays of her amazing chocolates. Cricket is also very involved in her church and local community, and is always connecting Laurel House to others in the community that she thinks can help support our mission.

Thank you, Cricket, for all your years of dedication and support. It (and you!) are truly appreciated!

Special thanks to those who organized, as well as supported, the events below which raised money for Laurel House.

Keller Williams Limerick
Comedy Show

Rotary Club of Norristown
Pancake Breakfast

Rachel & Troy Foundation's Bingo

Clifton Larson Allen's
Carnival

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS

Saturday, September 14, 2019
2nd Annual
5K FUN run and Walk
to benefit



Lower Moreland High School
555 Red Lion Road | Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

8:30 am—Rain or shine
Registration coming soon!

For more info contact
Sarah Lopata 267.699.0200
slopata@laurel-house.org

Special thanks to our run partner
Lower Moreland Football Parents Association!

*Be sure to mark your calendar
for some of our upcoming
events we have this fall!*

Reuse, Repurpose
Restore a Life
Fashion Show & Luncheon



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, Sept., 28
noon-3pm
PineCrest Country Club, Lansdale
Fashions Courtesy of LAUREL'S LOFT

All proceeds benefit Laurel House, a comprehensive domestic violence agency serving all of Montgomery County

SAVE THE DATE

Breaking the Silence

Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Overbrook Country Club, Villanova
11:00 am—1:00 pm

Join us for lunch and a meaningful conversation with a diverse panel of media representatives to discuss what is the media's role in domestic violence.

Tickets and sponsorship information to follow shortly. For additional details please contact Betsy Kilkenny at bkilkenny@laurel-house.org or visit www.Laurel-House.org/events

SAVE THE DATE



20th Anniversary
Laurel House
5K DASH
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

October 20, 2019

Upper Gwynedd Township Building

Never feel alone again • 1-800-642-3150

Laurel House's hotline is an entry point for all victims and survivors of domestic violence who are seeking Help. When you are ready to talk, we are here to listen. Our confidential hotline operates 24/7.

Laurel House is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization as defined under the Internal Revenue Service code section 501c(3). Tax-exemption entity ID: 23-2172743. The official registration and financial information of Laurel House may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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