

Laurel House Annual Report 2018-2019





Dear Friends,

Laurel House has experienced many new and exciting changes this past year!

We celebrated the two year anniversaries of both Nicole's Place, our satellite office in Huntingdon Valley, as well as the establishment of our main offices in East Norriton. Through our Eagles Care partnership, we were thrilled to have Eagles players visit our emergency shelter and bring some much needed joy to the women and children living there.

We had another successful year of making the holidays special for our clients. For Thanksgiving, we provided turkeys and 'all the fixings' to more than 90 families. At our annual holiday party, we collected and handed out over 200 gifts to clients and their children, and we were able to have more than 70 families "adopted" through our Adopt-a-Family program.

Our counseling services expanded to five locations throughout Montgomery County. We still provide the needed domestic violence training sessions and resources in schools, community groups, public service agencies and local businesses.

Our staff has grown to more than 50 people dedicated to our cause and we maintain over 200 volunteers! We are grateful to have such an incredibly passionate team. We couldn't provide the services or resources without this committed group of individuals who exemplify our mission and strive to end domestic violence.

Sadly, the need for our services is always present. In 2018, 122 victims died from domestic violence in Pennsylvania, with eight fatalities in Montgomery County. (www.pcadv.org)

Thank you to everyone who supports us in a variety of ways. Whether it is volunteering your time and talents, donating to our two thrift shops, attending fundraisers or providing in-kind donations, we appreciate all you do for us throughout the year.

All of you have helped to make Laurel House the premier comprehensive domestic violence agency servicing all of Montgomery County.

With Appreciation,

*Dr. Colleen Lelli and Mary Alfarano
Laurel House Board Co-Presidents*



Programs and Services



Emergency Shelter- Our shelter is a safe haven for domestic abuse victims and their children. With nine bedrooms, the shelter can accommodate up to 27 people at a time.

24-Hour Hotline- The confidential hotline is available 24 hours a day and is answered by highly trained advocates who will listen and provide support and resources.



Counseling- Group and individual counseling is offered at five locations throughout Montgomery County to victims of domestic abuse and their families.

Domestic Abuse Response Team (D.A.R.T)- Trained advocates are available to provide immediate, on-site support to domestic abuse victims and their children whenever law enforcement or medical personnel respond to a domestic abuse incident.



Legal Advocacy- Our in-house Attorney and Paralegal offer legal counseling, advocacy and court accompaniment to Laurel House clients.

Community Education- Community Educators facilitate workshops to youths and students about healthy relationships and safe dating. Our prevention education lessons are focused on how to create and sustain healthy, happy relationships throughout one's life, and what to do in abusive situations.



Transitional Housing- This program empowers families to become self-sufficient. We offer support groups, life skills development, counseling, children's services, casework, and connections to community resources.



Children's Program- Children's Advocates provide structured recreational play as well as individual and group services that are designed to help children heal from the trauma of living with and witnessing abuse.

Medical Advocacy- The Medical Advocate visits hospitals, primary care, OB/GYN offices, and other specialty care facilities to provide domestic violence training as well as resources on where to turn if a patient discloses abuse.



Thrift Shops- All items donated to our two thrift shops, Marian's Attic and Laurel's Loft, are used to support Laurel House. The shops also display information about domestic abuse and how to seek help.

FY 2018-2019 Service Statistics



156
legal
referrals



7,476
students were
educated on
healthy
relationships
and safe
dating

1,662
Hotline
calls were
answered



995
police and medical
professionals were
trained on the
physical signs of
abuse



4,071
people attended
an awareness or
educational event



489 crisis response calls
were referred to the
Domestic Abuse Response
Team by law enforcement
or medical professionals



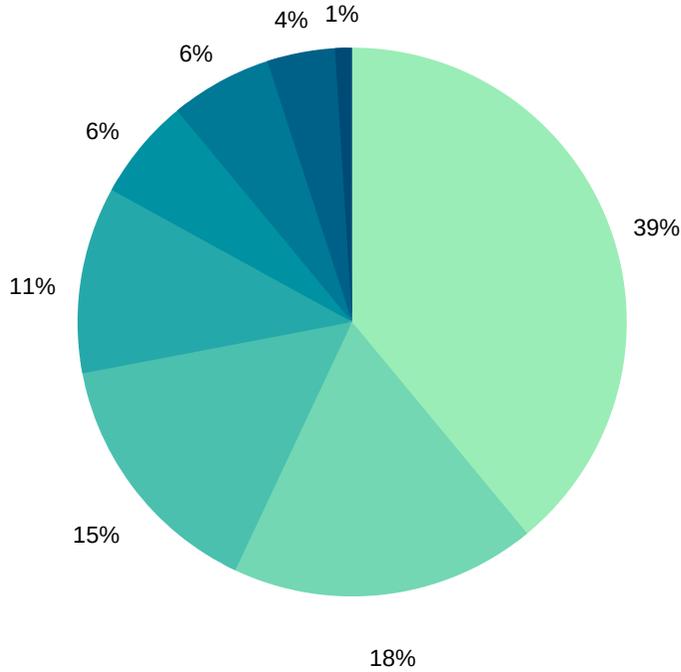
9,742 hours of
clinical counseling
were provided to 406
victims of domestic
abuse



5,271 nights of
safe shelter were
provided to 178 victims
of domestic abuse and
their families



FY 2018-2019 Financials

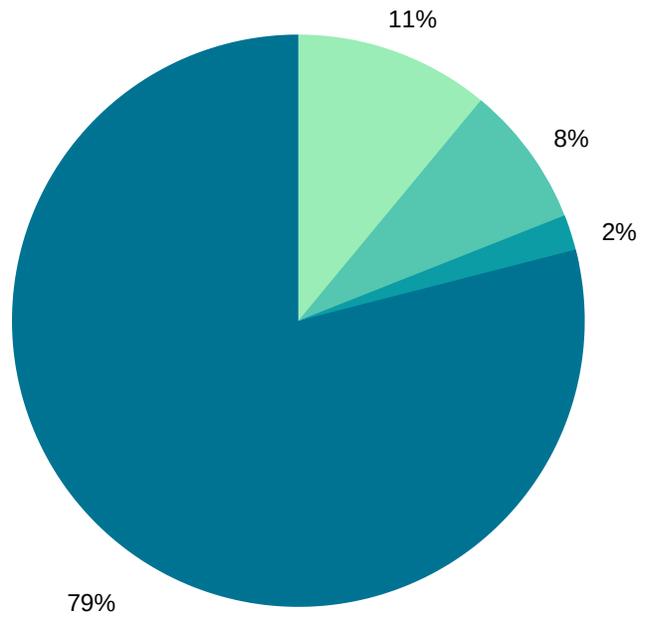


Operating Income

- 39% Government
- 18% Donations
- 15% Thrift Shops
- 11% Special Events
- 6% Foundations
- 6% In-Kind & Other
- 4% Program Services & Investments
- 1% United Way

Operating Expenses

- 79% Programs
- 11% Administrative
- 8% Fundraising
- 2% Special Events



Throughout the year, Laurel House receives letters and phone calls from former clients, who are pleased to share their stories with us and tell us a little about their new lives. Below is an excerpt from a letter we received from one of our former shelter clients.



When my son and I arrived at Laurel House's shelter, I was scared and worried about what would happen to us. I had no money, job or car. I felt weak, broken, and helpless. The staff at Laurel House assured me that everything would be alright and they would help me and my son get back on our feet.

When I had to take my son to the doctor's office for an appointment, I started worrying how I would get him there as my husband had our only car and I had no money for public transportation. The staff explained that they had funds set aside to help victims like myself with these types of situations and they paid for us to have a cab take us to his appointment and back to the shelter.

Although it doesn't sound like much, having not to worry about something like transportation makes a difference when you are leaving your abuser and have just the clothes on your back. Entering a shelter was difficult, but once I got there, the staff made sure that my son and I were connected with an advocate who helped me file a protection from abuse order, find a job, as well as permanent and affordable housing.

When I asked how they were able to provide these wonderful services, the staff explained that there were generous supporters out there that cared about people like me and they provided Laurel House with gifts to keep the shelter and its emergency fund operational. My son and I are now living free from abuse and I am no longer that scared, weak person that I was when I first arrived.



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Thrift Stores

Laurel's Loft

1801 N. Broad Street
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-368-6037

Marian's Attic

139 E. Dekalb Pike
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-337-3068

Nicole's Place

2064 County Line Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
267-699-0200

Contact Information

Main Office: 610-277-1860
24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-642-3150
Email: info@laurel-house.org

The mission of Laurel House is to:

-Advocate for and empower those impacted by domestic violence by providing crisis intervention, safe haven, supportive programs and resources, and

-Advance social change through preventative education and through community training and collaboration to foster a coordinated response to domestic abuse.

