



Annual Report

◆ 2019-2020 ◆

LETTER FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Laurel House Friends,

Laurel House, like all of you, has experienced unprecedented times!

This year we celebrated our 40th anniversary. It was on May 28, 1980, that we accepted the first family into our shelter. Like many celebrations this year, we virtually recognized this special occasion. We highlighted this special anniversary on our newly re-designed website and shared it with all of our supporters!

Despite the challenges encountered this year, the dedicated team at Laurel House continued to provide the same high-quality services just in different ways. Our administrative staff rotated between working at home and going into the office. Advocates continued to cover the hotline so that it continued to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To facilitate social distancing, we stopped accepting new clients into our congregate living shelter and instead are utilizing local hotels. Our Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) advocates worked tirelessly responding to 508 crisis calls, an unfortunate record-breaking number.

Additionally, our staff attorney and paralegal screened almost 200 individuals referred for civil legal representation. Individual and group counseling continued with telehealth. And Nicole's Place, along with our other satellite locations continued to virtually provide all services.

In addition to providing these life-saving services, Laurel House distributed over \$30,000 worth of gift cards to those impacted by domestic violence to ensure that they had access to essential items for themselves and their families.

Along with COVID-19 came an increase in domestic violence in Montgomery County. According to District Attorney Kevin Steele, the county saw a 9% increase in domestic violence since the COVID-19 restrictions. Laurel House's Community Education program worked daily to provide prevention education opportunities to those in our county. This past year, they developed virtual

training for the schools and provided 367 prevention programs to over 7,000 students. The services that we continue to provide during these uncharted times speaks to our dedication. Our supporters' outpouring of generosity is appreciated as we continue to ensure that we address our clients' essential needs. As an agency, we continue to make strides to move forward in ways that will better serve our clients. Construction begins this Fall for our new shelter and outreach offices in Upper Gwynedd. The community has welcomed us with open arms. We are so grateful for this opportunity and are excited to share more about our Capital Campaign throughout the next year.

Our four-year term as co-presidents has come to an end. We could not have done it without all the support. We are blessed and grateful to be part of a dedicated group of individuals that has a passion to continue the mission.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Laurel House over this past year. We are grateful to have your time, talent, and dedication. It is because of you that we are the premier comprehensive domestic violence agency in Montgomery County.

Stay Well & Safe,

Dr. Colleen Lelli & Mary Alfarano



LETTER FROM A FOUNDING MOTHER

Beth,

My daughter directed me to the anniversary celebration website.

What a flood of memories it released! Many of them were the recollections of the experiences that we founding mothers had on our way to seeing our dream become a reality.

Also, I can still picture the first family, a mother with two sons, who started us off on the long journey that was to come.

And what a tribute to you, and your stewardship of Laurel House and its many offshoots over these many years.

Besides my congratulations, you have my gratitude. As far as I can tell you've managed to retain the "zeitgeist", the essential nature of the Laurel House that we founders wanted to establish. Even after all these years that means a lot.

So, Laurel House is forty years old, and I'm ninety six. So far, I still seem to have my mind working – my handwriting not so much.

Still from social distancing and actual distance I wanted to express my appreciation to you, and to join with you in this fantastic celebration.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Cheers!

Betty





PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Emergency Shelter** - The shelter is a safe haven for domestic abuse victims and their children. While in shelter, residents are provided up to 30 days of shelter, individual and group counseling, advocacy services, case management, legal representation, food, clothing, toiletries, and more.
- **24-Hour Hotline** - The confidential hotline is an entry point for those impacted by domestic abuse. The hotline ensures that those impacted by domestic abuse have access to vital information and can speak with a trained professional.
- **Counseling** - Individual and group 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, in-person support to domestic abuse victims and their children whenever law enforcement or medical personnel respond to a domestic abuse incident when an individual discloses domestic abuse.
- **Legal Advocacy** - The in-house attorney and paralegal offer legal counseling, advocacy and court accompaniment to victims of domestic abuse.
- **Transitional Housing** - The 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** - The children's advocate provides 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.
- **Community Education** - The community educators teach age-appropriate workshops to students about healthy relationships and safe dating.
- **Medical Advocacy** - The medical advocate visits hospitals, primary care offices, OB-GYN offices, and other specialty care facilities to provide domestic violence training, including what to do when a patient discloses abuse.
- **Thrift Shops** - The proceeds from items donated to our thrift shops, Marian's Attic & Laurel's Loft, are used to support Laurel House. The shops also contain information about domestic abuse and how to seek help.



FY 19-20 SERVICE STATISTICS

- Advocates answered 1,555 hotline calls
- Provided an average of 16 hours of clinical counseling services to 310 victims of domestic abuse and significant others
- Crisis intervention, case management, and legal advocacy was provided to 508 victims referred to the Domestic Abuse Response Team by law enforcement and medical professionals
- Provided 197 clients with free legal representation, information, and consultation
- Educated 7,115 middle and high school and college-aged students on healthy relationships and safe dating
- Trained 767 law enforcement officers, medical professionals, and allied professionals on the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse
- Educated 1943 individuals through either an educational presentation or an awareness event
- Celebrated the holidays with over 250 adults and children at our annual Holiday Party
- Provided holiday gifts for 112 families during the holiday season (adopt a family)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-President:
Mary Griffith-Alfarano
Dr. Colleen Lelli

Co-Vice President:
Jacqueline Allen
Terry Bovarnick, CFA

Treasurer:
Karianne Tomosky, CPA

Secretary:
Robert Rau

Lisa Altomare
Penny Satell Berman
Karen Christiansen, MBA, CMA
Colleen Coonelly, Esq.
Lynn Doerr
Dana E. Greenspan, Esq.
Kathryn Koller
Richelle Payne
Diana Scott
Scott Sterling
Brian Taylor
Jason VanBuskirk

KEY STAFF

Executive Director:
Beth Sturman

Accountant:
Sue Sammaritano

Senior Director:
Tina Quinci

Director of Fund Development:
Betsy Kilkenny

Director of Community Outreach:
Stacy Dougherty

Director of Counseling:
Minna Davis

Director of Shelter and Housing:
Britni Harris

THRIFT SHOPS

Laurel's Loft
1801 N. Broad Street
Lansdale, PA 19446
215.368.6037

Marian's Attic
139 E. DeKalb Street
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610.337.3068

FISCAL 2020 REPORT

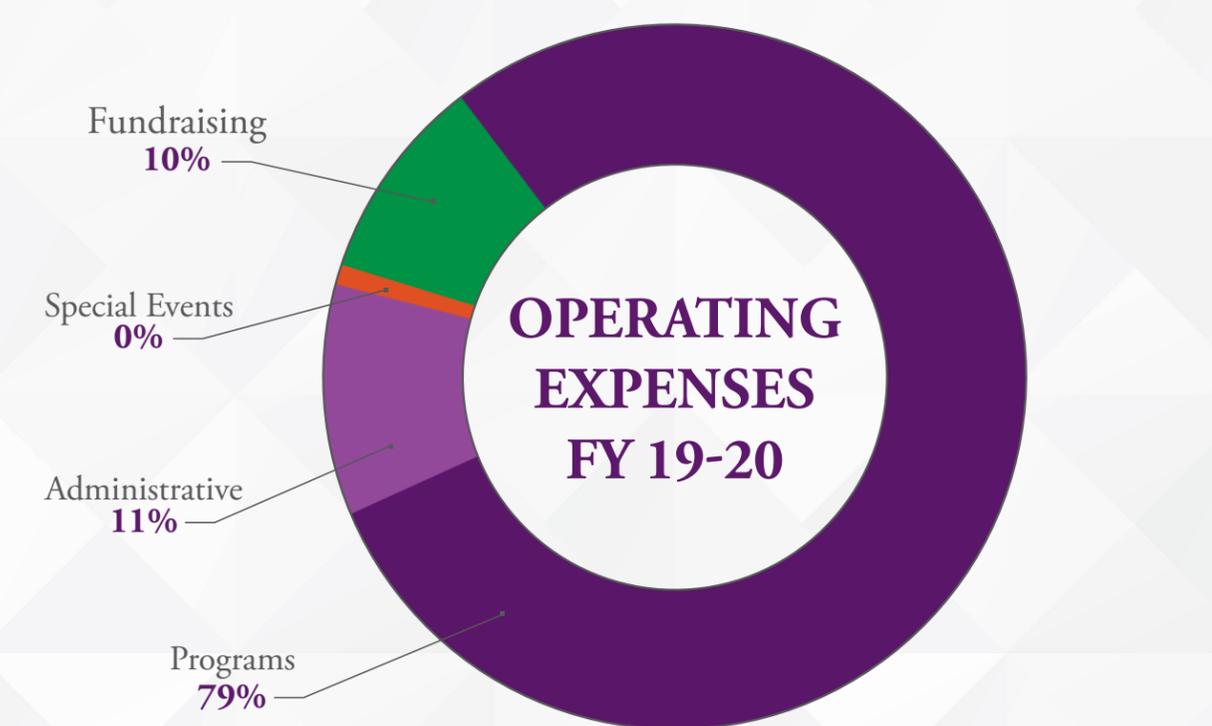
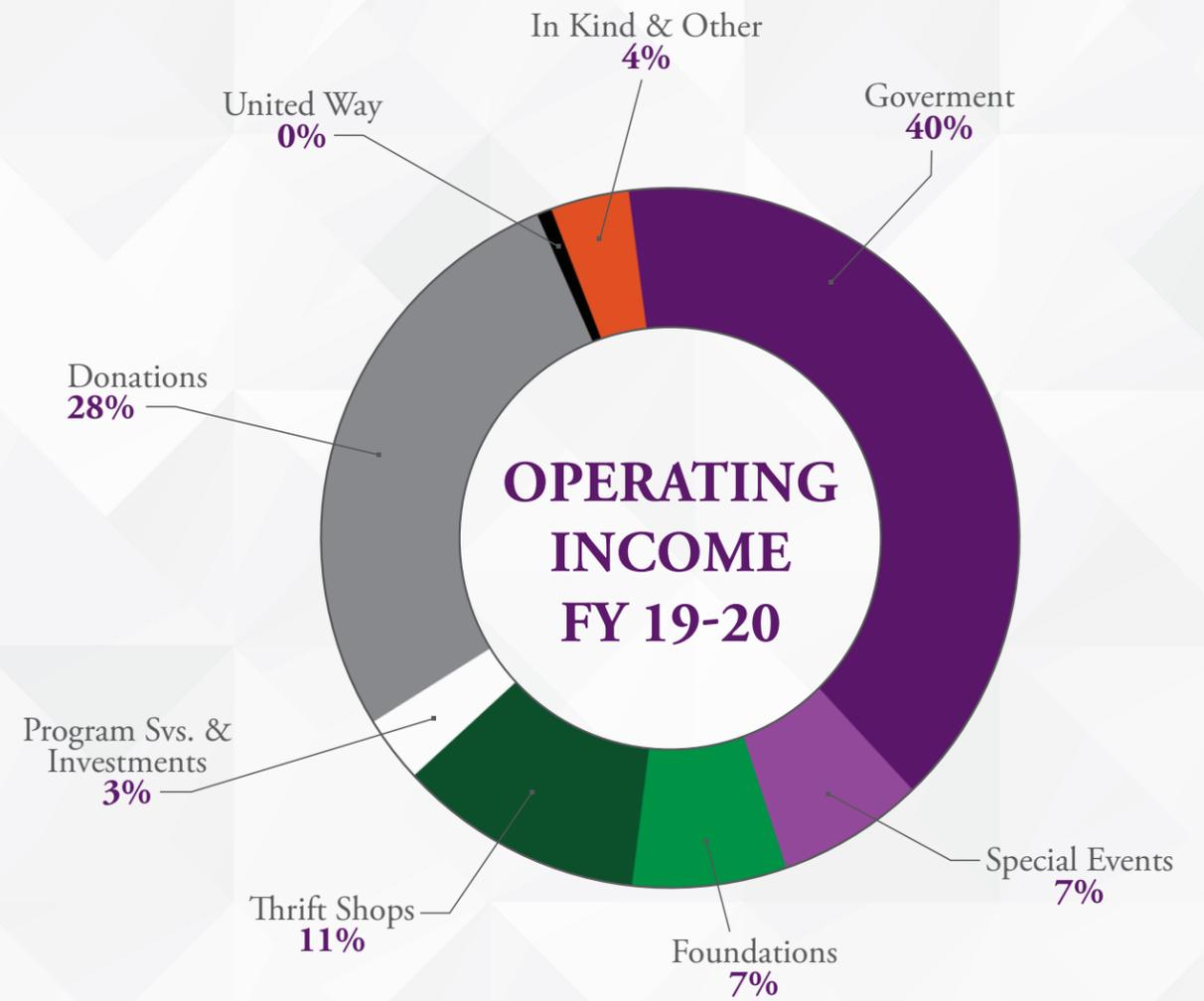


OPERATING INCOME

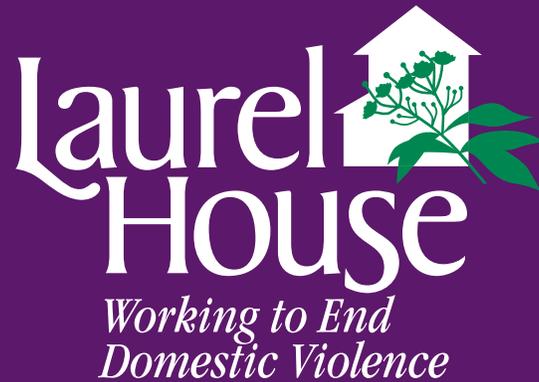
Government	\$1,354,370	40.30%
Special Events	\$230,370	6.85%
Foundations	\$233,530	6.95%
Thrift Shops	\$376,099	11.19%
Program Svs. & Investments	\$96,360	2.87%
Donations	\$927,051	27.58%
United Way	\$12,600	0.37%
In Kind & Other	\$130,600	3.89%
Total	\$3,360,980	100.00%

OPERATING EXPENSES

Programs	\$2,606,873	78.65%
Administrative	\$360,515	10.88%
Special Events	\$18,476	0.56%
Fundraising	\$328,603	9.91%
Total	\$3,314,467	100.00%



Income and expenses specific to COVID-19 were approximately \$90,000 and \$65,000, respectively, and are expected to be one-time items.



P.O. Box 764 • Norristown, PA 19404

Office: 610-277-1860 • 24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-642-3150

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