



Laurel House Happenings

Fall 2021 Newsletter

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM).

DVAM is a time to remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence, celebrate survivors, and raise awareness in an effort to prevent future violence. Laurel House staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers participated in a variety of events in recognition of DVAM. We are very grateful to all who joined us in these efforts.

This year's DVAM theme was **#Every1KnowsSome1**. This theme served as a reminder that it is likely that someone you know either has or is currently experiencing domestic abuse, regardless of whether or not you know about it.

Laurel House staff spent the last several months collecting stories from survivors and their loved ones. These stories were compiled, with some being made into videos, and some used in various other formats, in an effort to spread awareness about domestic abuse. Some of the stories you will find featured in this newsletter.

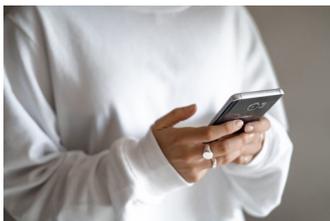
In order to stay mindful of COVID-19, we offered educational programs through a series of webinars throughout October. Webinar topics ranged from how faith leaders could support survivors to discussing domestic violence from the perspectives of both survivors and abusers. We also held our annual **5K DASH Against Domestic Violence** virtually. We appreciate everyone who participated and **hope to see everyone in person next year!** Special thanks to our sponsors for helping make it possible!

With Domestic Violence Awareness Month wrapped up, we would like to thank everyone for helping us spread awareness about domestic abuse. Your support helps deepen our impact and gives those affected by domestic violence a chance for a better life.

Thank you for making our work possible!



Laurel House Launches Textline



Individuals who are in need of help but are uncomfortable or unable to call our hotline are now able to text with trained staff and volunteers. Through the textline, advocates can help victims by providing support, information, resources, and safety planning.

The textline is currently available Monday—Friday from 5pm to 10pm by texting **HOPE** to **85511**.

Years of Recognition Award

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) recently recognized Andrea Devenney, Executive Assistant, for her ten year anniversary at Laurel House, as well as Minna Davis, Director of Counseling Emeritus, for over 20 years of service with Laurel House. Thank you both for everything you do for Laurel House!

Congratulations!

The Safe Haven Center is Almost Here!

Have you heard the news?

Laurel House's shelter is relocating to a brand-new space that will expand our shelter and combine it with on-site access to supportive services.

While our original shelter has been a safe haven for thousands of families seeking safety, with your help, this new **Safe Haven Center** will increase our capacity and accessibility. With your support, we will offer enhanced on-site services, including a 24-hour hotline, crisis response, legal advocacy, individual and group counseling, case management, and programs for children.

Here is where we need you! You can help guarantee the safety of some of the most vulnerable people in our community. You will help to ensure that desperate calls get answered and victims have a safe space to go to heal. Through the healing process, they will become survivors and lead a new life, one that is free from abuse.

Your gift matters now more than ever! An anonymous donor recently agreed to match all donations to our Capital Campaign up to \$50,000. **That's \$100,000 to help get us to the finish line!**

No one deserves to be abused. Please join us and stand up for domestic abuse victims and help survivors stand up for themselves.

Learn more about how you can get involved in this campaign by visiting: www.laurel-house.org/capital-campaign or contact **Tina Quinci** via email at tquinci@laurel-house.org or via phone at **610-277-1860 ext. 102**.



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT
LAST YEAR LAUREL HOUSE:

Provided emergency
shelter for 191 adults
and children



Responded to 2,248
hotline calls

Provided crisis
intervention to 564
victims



Provided legal
representation or
consultation to 310
victims of abuse

Provided prevention
education to 3,350
students through 215
presentations



Provided 54 trainings to
professionals in law
enforcement, medical,
mental health, and more

Gave over \$69,000 in gift
cards for groceries and
other necessities to 223
individuals and families



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In Her Own Words...

*I met my ex-husband through his sheer persistence. He called the hostess booth from the table where he was seated in the restaurant that I was working as a hostess. My manager was very protective of his staff and he would not let customers near the hostesses. Despite my manager's best efforts, my ex-husband figured out a way. He waited outside until my shift was done at 2 am to talk to me. **Hindsight is 20/20**. This determined near-obsession with wanting to possess me continued for almost 20 years, during which time we married and had our son.*

*Today, my son is almost 17 and just started high school, and I am grateful and proud to say we made it! But, I believe it happened because of the grace of God, support from family and friends, as well as therapy, and support from places like the first domestic violence shelter in California that I fled to when our son was three months old, to **Laurel House** now. We went from living in a shelter to a 400 sq ft one-bedroom rental to a two-bedroom. I am now remarried and in a stable career, own our home, have another child, and our family is living the best way we know how - with love, respect, patience, and gratitude. My ex-husband did not succeed in owning me. **The best 'revenge' is learning to move past and live well.***

- Ruth



What is one donation worth?

Everything.

When you make a donation to Laurel House, you are showing victims of domestic abuse, like Ruth, that their lives matter, and their community believes and supports them. **Support a survivor** and help them to make the transition from an abusive life to one that is free from abuse. **Please make your donation to Laurel House today using the enclosed remittance envelope, or visit our website to make a secure online donation.**



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Words of Wisdom

We recently asked survivors of domestic violence *"If you could offer advice to someone who is in a supportive role to a victim of domestic violence, what would you say?"* Below are several of the responses.

Be present and listen to someone who might be in a domestic violence situation and encourage them to get help through resources available, like Laurel House.

- Bobby

Offer acceptance and love to them as a person. They don't get that, and they will remember your supportive nature when they are able and willing to leave.

- Jill

Be confident and reassuring. Remember the client is likely traumatized.

- Cynthia

Happy Holidays

Thank you so much for the Target gift cards! I was able to get my boys all the toys they wanted for Christmas! We are so grateful for all your help with the holidays. We went through so much recently and this put a smile on my face and I can't wait to see how excited my sons will be to see their gifts!



As we begin to look forward to the upcoming holidays, we at Laurel House are working to ensure that our families experience the best possible holiday season. Will you help us give the individuals and families we serve a holiday to remember?

This holiday season, we are asking that you donate gift cards so that those in our shelter, transitional and rapid rehousing programs, as well as those who are in our community counseling programs, can enjoy the experience of shopping for gifts for their children.

For more information on how you can help during the upcoming months visit our website at www.laurel-house.org or call our office: **610-277-1860 x 117.**