



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

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SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

MCFJC
FOUNDATION
BENEFIT

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From the Desk of Sheriff Darren M. Popkin

Four years ago, planning for the Montgomery County Family Justice Center began in earnest. At that time, we had only our concept of what the Center *should* be: an innovative, comprehensive model for the mid-Atlantic region. We had very few models to work from, and none of these few were local. Our essential task was to forge a path from concept to execution.

In forging that path, we have made strong allies from our partnerships with local non-profits. We have established a strong, vibrant community involvement. We have instituted innovative projects using the latest technologies. And we have made the path easier for our neighboring jurisdictions and states, by being the model we lacked for the establishment of a Family Justice Center.

We are most fortunate in Montgomery County to have a cadre of non-profits to join us at the FJC. Career Catchers has been able to assist clients seeking economic self-sufficiency; House of Ruth Maryland has provided critical legal support; Women Who Care Ministries has provided nourishing food; Catholic Charities has assist-

ed clients seeking immigration protections under federal laws. The Universities of Maryland Shady Grove and College Park have partnered to locate interns at the FJC, thereby expanding our ability to assist clients while giving these students an oppor-



The Montgomery County Family Justice Center is centrally located in the heart of Rockville, Maryland.

tunity to have direct experience working in the justice system.

While we have long recognized that no single agency can end the scourge of domestic violence, we have more recently recognized that we also need the support of the entire community to change attitudes. Domestic violence is no longer considered a private matter; it affects our children, friends, co-workers, neighbors. Just as our MCFJC Foundation Board members speak out, we have volunteers and in-

terns adding their collective voices to bring about change.

Neighboring Maryland jurisdictions and states such as North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey have toured the facility and consulted with Montgomery County staff prior to embarking on establishing a FJC. We are among a handful of Centers using technologies such as video conferencing and audio-video equipment for forensic interviews of victims and children.

Two years ago, we attended conferences to learn about innovative practices at Justice Centers elsewhere in the United States. This April 2012 we will be paying it forward, by presenting a workshop at the National Family Justice Conference on our video-conferencing project with the courts.

None of this would have been possible without the men and women of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. My gratitude to them is matched only by the unparalleled depth of their commitment to the safety of Montgomery County residents.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Darren M. Popkin



Ana Valdez with daughters, Ivana and Glendy at the Angels Against Domestic Violence Community Center.



Ana with Governor Martin O'Malley at the 2nd Annual MCFJC Benefit

There are Angels Among Us

On October 2nd, attendees at the 2nd Annual MCFJC Benefit had the opportunity to hear the incredible story of Ana Valdez, a courageous 25 year-old survivor of domestic violence. We believe it is a story worth retelling.

My abuse began in 2004 by my boyfriend Carlos. Like many in my situation, at first it was hard for me to ask for help. I feared financial loss, the Court system, losing my job, and upsetting my children. Of course, allowing them to continue to see domestic violence in their own home upset them more than words can say. Finally in 2006, I got the courage to put a stop to this situation and got a protection order. Carlos violated it three times. He wouldn't stop chasing me. He was

arrested in January 2008 and subsequently released.

Shortly afterward, I came home to my Takoma Park apartment and found him waiting for me. He grabbed an 18-pound crucifix off my wall and brutally beat me in front of our two young daughters before a neighbor called the police. When Officer Angela Donovan began knocking at the door, Carlos held a knife to my throat and ordered me to send the officer away. Seeing me in imminent danger, one of my daughters opened the door. Officer Donovan rushed in and shot Carlos twice as he tried to cut my throat. I myself was hit by a third shot when, falling to the floor, Carlos shoved me into the line of fire.

Thankfully, in October 2009, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Family Justice Center had opened its doors earlier that year and was instrumental in helping me and my daughters Ivana—now age 7 and Glendy age 6—get the therapy we needed to move forward with our lives. Now I have the strength to reach out and help others and have been giving many speeches. In June I started “**Angels Against Domestic Violence Community Center.**” My dream is to help other victims of Domestic Violence by being a bridge to their independence through support, prevention education, training and classes, and referral to the Family Justice Center, **(Continued page 8)**

USDJ Grant for Montgomery County

Good News! Montgomery County recently received renewal of funding for our coordinated community response to domestic violence. With a 24 month Arrest grant of \$998,955 from the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice, we will be able to continue to provide staff in the Sheriff's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, and the Departments of Health and Human Services, Police and Correction and Rehabilitation. Seven part-time and full-time County employees are funded through this grant to serve victims directly and to keep offenders accountable. It has enabled us to partner with 2 non profits – House of Ruth Maryland and Catholic Charities Immi-

gration Legal Services.

The grant will be used to provide much needed FJC services to help victims of domestic violence and their families live safe, violence-free lives, to help the Center staff remove barriers for victims seeking safety, reduce the stress of proceeding through the court system, break the intergenerational cycle of violence in families, and provide services to address the needs of children exposed to domestic violence. Since 2009, Montgomery County and the Family Justice Center have received nearly \$2 million in Arrest grants.

We are extremely grateful to our congressional delegation for their supportive efforts on our behalf. In announcing the grant award Senator Mikulski said, “We **(Continued Page 8)**

FJC
Update:
Since the
Grand Opening
3200
domestic
violence clients
representing
100 different countries
of origin have received
services at the FJC.

Women Who Care Ministries: Partnering with the FJC Since DAY ONE!

Twenty-five hundred juice boxes and two thousand granola bars - that's just a small representation of food items donated to the FJC from Women Who Care Ministries (WWCM) since the FJC Grand Opening in April 2009. WWCM's was founded over ten years ago by Executive Director Judith Clark and is an organization with a mission to help hurting people transition into a brighter day. While WWCM has many programs to assist County residents who are trying to establish themselves after a difficult time in their lives, Judith states that their Kids Backpack Food Program and Helping Others Eat food pantry provide basic sustenance to

the County's neediest and are their signature programs.

Judith said she learned about the FJC shortly before the grand opening and recognized an opportunity to help victims of domestic violence and their children by providing an abundance of nonperishable and nutritional food items from their pantry. Clients who come to the FJC do so with their children and often don't think about, or have the chance to pack, anything to eat. The snacks nicely displayed in a basket on the table and the refrigerator stocked with juice and water in the family area adds to the welcoming environment clients and their children experi-

ence at the FJC.

The FJC staff is extremely grateful to Judith Clark and WWCM for their ongoing commitment to assist the citizens of Montgomery County and look forward to a longstanding partnership.



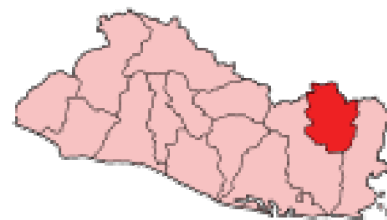
Two volunteers from Women Who Care Ministries delivering food items from the pantry to the FJC.

FJC Hosts International Leader from Sister City, Morazán, El Salvador

In August, 2011 several FJC staff members had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Miguel Ventura, Governor of Morazán, El Salvador, his wife, Evelyn Ventura and Evelyn Gonzalez to the FJC. Their visit to Montgomery County and the FJC followed a trip to El Salvador made by a Montgomery County delegation led by County Executive Isiah Leggett in July, 2011 as part of the Sister Cities International program. Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. It strives to build global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development. Morazán, located in the northeastern part of El Salvador, was selected as the County's first Sister City partnership because El Salvador is the

number one country of origin of Montgomery County's immigrant population.

During his visit to the FJC, Governor Ventura discussed his strategic plan to improve conditions and create opportunities for the citizens of the Department of Morazán, the poorest Salvadoran state with 174,000 people, an illiteracy rate of 30 percent and an extreme poverty rate of 36 percent. He and his wife described vividly the unfathomable conditions in which the Morazán citizens live. They expressed particular concern for the plight of women that reside in their state and explained that they experience extraordinarily high levels of domestic violence, and have little to no education, employment skills and resources. Due to the tremendous rates of partner abuse, women often bear the burden as the sole provider for their fami-



Sister City to Montgomery County, Morazán, El Salvador is highlighted in red.

lies.

Collaborative efforts between government, nonprofit coalitions and women's organizations are aiming to make a difference for the women of Morazán. Both the Governor and Mrs. Ventura recognize that more needs to be done. Their visit and tour of the FJC allowed them to see firsthand how law enforcement and victim service agencies working together at one location can provide comprehensive services that benefit victims of domestic violence.



Family Justice Center Foundation News

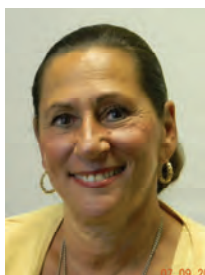
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- The Honorable Duchy Trachtenberg

From the Desk of the Executive Director MCFJC Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

The MCFJC Foundation is pleased to announce that Judith Clark, Founder and Executive Director of Women Who Care Ministries and Maria Ryan, Vice President, Bank of America, Rockville, have recently been elected to the Board of The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Founda-

tion.

Judith is a long-time community activist with expertise in outreach and building grass roots support. Under Judith's leadership, Women Who Care Ministries has been providing nutritious snacks to the Pantry at the FJC since the first week the Center opened. These items are provided to the families who come to the Center for what may be a very long day, eliminating the need for them to leave in order to get something to eat for themselves or their children. Judith has served, and will continue to serve, on the MCFJC Foundation's Commu-

nity Initiative Committee. Her incredible commitment to her work, the community-at-large and to the MCFJC Foundation earned Judith her place as this year's recipient of the Foundation's Marilyn J. Praisner Award.

Multi-lingual Maria Ryan's history of engaging individuals from all walks of life - recruiting, training and managing sales teams, as well as the marketing and branding of both products and companies, are just some of the reasons that earned Maria the Latina Leader of the Year Award for Maryland 2003, as well as subsequent top team awards in the banking industry. She is an outstanding leader, and has a passion for the rights of others, founding the Professional Women's Pride networking group.

It is a pleasure to have both Judith and Maria join current MCFJC Foundation Board Members Tom DeGonia, Donna Rismiller, Dorothy Fait, Marilyn Bagel, David Belkin, David Cohen, Catherine Leggett and Lewis Selis.

Resa Levy,
Executive Director

The MCFJC Foundation Launches our "It's Everybody's Business!" Campaign

What do Verizon, Liz Claiborne, Clairrol, TJ Maxx, and so many, many other businesses have in common? They all recognize that domestic abuse is not only a scourge on society, but it also costs the business community millions of dollars a year in workday absences and worker productivity.

Now in its second year, The MCFJC Foundation Business Initiative continues to partner with both the local and national business community in an effort to help raise awareness and

funks for the MCFJC Foundation's support of the MCFJC. Having a healthy workforce is good business for everyone - In fact, **It's Everybody's Business!**

Whether you are a large business or a small company, *we need and want your help.* To find out more about how you or someone you know can partner with the MCFJC Foundation in this important initiative, please email us at mcfjcfoundation@yahoo.com. After all, **It's Everybody's Business!**

MCFJC Foundation Hosts 2nd Annual Benefit Event Ushers in Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Governor O'Malley and Judge Katie O'Malley joined Event Chair Catherine Leggett, and more than 250 additional guests who attended the MCFJC Foundation's highly successful 2nd Annual Benefit to help raise awareness and funds for the Montgomery County Family Justice Center. The event, held each year on the 1st Sunday in October, helps usher in Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and brings together corporate, foundation and individual supporters from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. Event highlights included recognition of our honorees: First Lady of Maryland, Judge Katie O'Malley with the Foundation's Forerunner Award; Judge Marielsa Bernard, Inspiring Leader Award; GEICO Philan-

thropic Foundation, Corporate Legacy Award; Judith Clark, Marilyn J. Praisner Award. Each was honored for their work in the field of domestic violence and for their support for the MCFJC and the MCFJC Foundation.

Inspired by the success of the 1st Annual Benefit, this year's Event Committee, led for the second year in a row by MCFJC Foundation Board Member and First Lady of Montgomery County, Catherine Leggett, worked for close to a year to create what all agreed was an inspiring, fun-filled, and informative event. Outstanding committee members included Lori Askinazi, Marilyn Bagel, Susan Heltemes, Wilma Holmes, Reza Levy, Lisa Mandel-Trupp, Donna McKinney, Cindy Mogel, Jo

Ann Ricchiuti, Hannah Sassoon and Karla Smith.

Their combined efforts, along with those of the MCFJC Foundation Board, secured sensational items for both the Silent and Live Auctions including vacation packages, jewelry, artworks, numerous fashionable accessories, and more. A special appeal led by a professional auctioneer raised additional funds specifically for psychological services for adult victims of domestic violence, as well as additional support for the Safe Start Program for children.

Mark your calendars for our 3rd Annual Benefit - to be held the first Sunday in October 2012! See you then!

MCFJC Foundation Prepares to Launch Montgomery County's Local Initiative of the National Project CUT IT OUT



Salons Against
Domestic Abuse

As part of its Community Initiative, the MCFJC Foundation is planning to launch its local participation in the national initiative of the Salons Against Domestic Abuse, entitled *CUT IT OUT*.

CUT IT OUT builds awareness of domestic abuse through awareness materials to be displayed in salons as well as helping salon professionals to recognize warning signs and safely refer clients to resources.

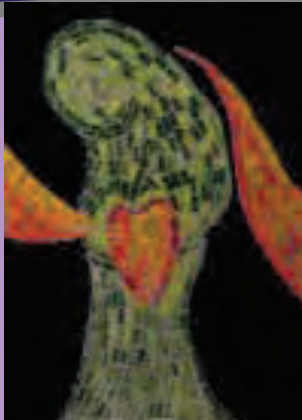
CUT IT OUT was initially created for the State of Alabama by the Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham. It was then taken to the na-

tional level by the Salons Against Domestic Abuse, a partnership between Clairol Professional, the National Cosmetology Association, and Southern Living at Home.

For additional information about how you or your personal salon professional can learn more, please email mcfjcfoundation@yahoo.com and note your interest in learning more about *CUT IT OUT*!

The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation 2nd Annual Benefit October 2, 2011

Jan Stewart, GEICO Vice President pictured with Catherine Leggett, Michael Maiorana and Tom Degonia accepts the Corporate Legacy Award.



Judge Marielsa Bernard accepting the Inspiring Leader Award from MCFJC Foundation President, Tom Degonia.



Ist Lady of Maryland, Judge Katie O'Malley



Governor Martin O'Malley and County Executive Ike Leggett with Judith Clark, Founder of Women Who Care Ministries and recipient of the Marilyn J. Praisner Award.



Manny and the Honorable Adrienne Mandel



Judges Louise Scrivener, John Debelius, III and Ann Sundt



Police Chief Thomas Manger, Fire Chief Richard Bowers and Sheriff Darren Popkin



Councilmember Craig Rice and County Executive Isiah Leggett



The Honorable Duchy Trachtenberg



Ist Lady of Maryland, Judge Katie O'Malley and Montgomery County State's Attorney, John McCarthy



Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler

Special Thanks to the Following New and Continuing MCFJC Foundation Sponsors

Thank you to our wonderful supporters!

It is through your gifts that we are able to provide the social, legal, psychological and protective services necessary to rebuild the lives of the women, children and families who have survived domestic and relationship abuse.

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*The William J. Shaw Family
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David Cohen and Karla Smith*

Catherine and Ike Leggett

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Benefit Honorariums

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Laura Chase and Dan Barnett

Cathy Chiriaco

Margaret Engel and Bruce Adams

Wilma Holmes

Hon. Ben Kramer

Hon. Adrienne Mandel

Donna McKinney

Sheriff Darren Popkin

Kelly Price

***We wish to sincerely thank all of those who supported our
Silent and Live Auctions,
as well as our Special Appeal.***

To make a secure donation on line go to www.mcfjcfoundation.org

Fighting Domestic Violence

The Montgomery County Council on November 1st emphasized the



County's efforts to address domestic violence by saluting the efforts of the County's Family Justice Center, which opened in Rockville in 2009. Resa Levy, Executive Director of the Family Justice Center Foundation, was among those who spoke about the many avenues the County pursues to help victims of domestic violence.

Also at the ceremonies, left to right, were: County Sheriff Darren M. Popkin; Council President Valerie Ervin; Councilmember Phil Andrews; Hannah Sassoon, Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; and David Belkin, a member of the Family Justice Center Foundation's Board of Directors.

The "Busy Bees" Continue Their Support of the FJC

For the second consecutive year the "Busy Bees" at The Gardens of Traville, a senior residence in Rockville have been knitting away for the clients at the FJC. The group of several women has produced boxes of colorful and warm hats, mittens and scarves, donations that are an especially welcomed sight for our clients as they prepare their children for the

winter of 2011.

The group calls themselves "Busy Bees" because they live in Building "B." Some of the women are new to knitting and some, such as Cynthia Farringer, have knitted for years. Ms. Farringer organized the knitting circle to take the emphasis off of the aches and pains of the residents and onto helping the larger community. It is truly a

"win-win" situation and we are grateful to them for their wonderful gifts.



Hats and a scarves donated by the "Busy Bees" are displayed at the intake area of the FJC for clients to select.

We're on the Web:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc & www.mcfjcfoundation.org

Angels Continued: which has all the services they need to help them begin new lives.

Thank you for supporting this amazing organization. Because of you, victims like my children and me can get the life-saving help we need.

DOJ Continued: can't just combat domestic violence. We have to end it. This funding will protect women, families and our communities, and help rebuild lives. No woman in this country should live in fear for her life or that of her kids. That's why I strongly support legislation and grant programs that help protect women

and their families from continued violence and abuse."