



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

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From the Desk of Phil Andrews

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Phil Andrews is a former chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. He is the Director of Crime Prevention Initiatives for the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office.



Montgomery County's Family Justice Center (FJC) provides in one location most or all of the services that a victim of domestic violence may need. Its opening was a quantum leap forward in improving assistance to abused people. In less than six years, the skilled and caring FJC staff has helped more than 5,000 people in their time of greatest need and vulnerability.

The next quantum leap forward in breaking the cycle of domestic violence requires effective and sustained prevention efforts with youth. That is the purpose of "Choose Respect," a prevention program coordinated by the Office of the Sheriff and staffed by volunteers, and by lawyers with the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office.

Under its auspices, Domestic Violence Coordinating Councilmembers Karla Smith and Donna Rismiller made dozens of presentations to middle and high school students about how to avoid abusive dating relationships. They and other volunteers, with the assistance of the Sheriff's Office and using space donated

by Montgomery College, established the "Choose Respect" conference attended by hundreds of MCPS students annually. Each year, teams of students from numerous schools have taken part in the conference's contest to create 60-second video PSAs to help their peers avoid domestic violence by choosing and insisting on respect.

The challenge is building on the strong foundation established. With approximately 12,000 county students entering their teens annually, the need for the "Choose Respect" prevention program is both large and continuous to break the cycle of domestic violence.



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

From the Desk of Councilmember Sidney Katz

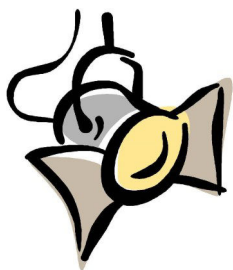


While visiting the Family Justice Center, with my wife Sally, for the first time, I was struck by the warmth of the surroundings, the dedication of the staff, and the number of services

provided to victims of domestic violence and their families – all in one place. I was pleased to see that while "mom" is receiving legal advice or learning about housing or health care options, her children can be cared for in the safe and welcoming playroom where they can have a snack, eat a meal, read a book or just play with the many games and toys surrounding them. Both the staff as well as the many volunteers who give of their time, have such a positive impact on the people receiving assistance at the FJC.

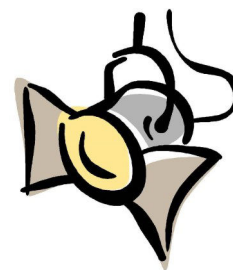
It was just a few short years ago, before the FJC became a reality in Montgomery County, that residents would have to travel around the County and make many stops in order to have all the information necessary to get out of a harmful or potentially harmful situation. Our FJC is a model in the region and has served more than 5000 people since it opened its doors 5 years ago. As a newly elected Montgomery County Councilmember, and as a member of the Public Safety Committee, I am looking forward to learning more about the Family Justice Center and the people it serves, and working toward the goal of expanding these much needed services.

--
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Montgomery County Council

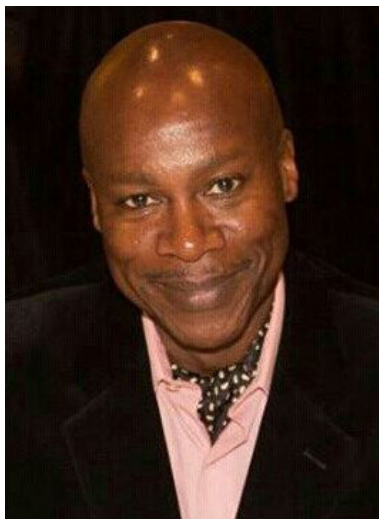


Family Justice Center
Spotlight Feature:

Welcome, Lieutenant Zachary Grant!



Lieutenant Zachary Grant began his career in law enforcement with the Montgomery County Department of Police. He transitioned to the Sheriff's Office and has 25 years of experience. He has worked in Court and Transport, Court House Security, Background Investigations, Internal Affairs, and Accreditation. He was promoted in 2003 to the rank of Lieutenant, he was a crisis negotiator for 15 years, and now he heads the office's peer support program. Lieutenant Grant has always had an interest in human services, and was previously employed with a Psycho Social Day Treatment



Program, and the Baltimore City Department of Social Services as a case worker in Foster Care and Protective Services. Coming to the FJC is a welcomed assignment as it brings Lieutenant Grant back to his

roots of working in a collaborative effort with and for victims of family violence.

It is always important to keep a balance between work and extra-curricular activities to help to minimize stress. Zach sings professionally, Anthems, Jazz, and RB, and is a Voice Over talent. He is actively involved with his professional fraternity Phi Beta Sigma. He also enjoys working out regularly. Zach is looking forward to assisting in making a difference at the FJC.



ATTENTION YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS: Save the Date for a FREE Training on Domestic Violence!

Do you work with youth on a regular basis?

Do you want to know more about the warning signs of domestic violence, the impact it has on children and teens, and local resources available to families?

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the MCFJC Foundation invite you to attend this dynamic and informative training developed by Dr. Mindy Thiel of Chesapeake Counseling Associates and funded through partnership with Verizon Wireless.



Tuesday, May 12, 2015

5:30pm - 7:45pm

(Light supper will be provided)

at

**The Universities
at Shady Grove**

**(9630 Gudelsky Drive
Rockville, MD 20850)**

*For more information,
contact Tom Manion at
Thomas.Manion@montgomerycountymd.gov*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Choose Respect Montgomery

#RespectYourSelfie2015



Healthy Teen Dating Conference

The cycle of violence ends NOW!

Sunday, March 8, 2015

1:00pm - 4:00pm (Doors open at 12:30pm)

The first 50 students in the door get a \$10 Chipotle gift card!

Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, Bioscience Education Center

The 6th Annual Choose Respect Conference will feature informative, interactive workshops for 6th-12th grade students, parents, and youth service providers in both English and Spanish. The day will also include a pre-conference red carpet, free food, amazing raffle prizes, and the unveiling of this year's PSA Video Contest winners - this is an event you do not want to miss!

Post your 'selfie' on social media using #RespectYourSelfie2015 to promote and support this important conference. Together, we can break the cycle of domestic violence!

Check out our NEW website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect.html

Sponsored by...



Montgomery College
endless possibilities



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Choose Respect Montgomery



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Holiday Miracles at the Family Justice Center

Special Thanks To...

- Montgomery College**
- Montgomery County Bar Association**
- Dataprise, Inc.**
- Sodexo**
- Zeta Phi Beta sorority**
- Crittenton Services of Greater Washington**
- Jeremy Rachlin, Esq.**
- Joseph Malouf, Esq.**

...for your kindness and generosity! On behalf of all FJC families, thank you for making the holidays a little brighter this year!





Family Justice Center Foundation News

FJC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

- Resa Levy
Executive Director
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Secretary
- Dorothy Fait
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- Catherine Leggett
- Melanie Ortel
- Jo Ann Ricchiuti
- Hannah Sassoon
- Lewis Selis
- Kristina L. Stuber

FJC FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- The Honorable Sha-
ron Grosfeld
- The Honorable
Constance A. Morella
- Rabbi David Rose
- The Honorable
Ida G. Ruben
- The Honorable
Duchy Trachtenberg

From the Desk of the MCFJC Foundation Executive Director, Resa Levy



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

*Special Thanks to
everyone who made
the 5th Annual
MCFJC Foundation
Benefit a huge
success!*

The Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit is an event that lasts for one night... Or does it?

Let's see.

At our October Benefit, our Chair, Catherine Leggett, welcomed almost three hundred guests. The guests had the opportunity to bid on Silent Auction items gathered by a dynamic Benefit Committee who received the gifts from dozens of local businesses who wanted to support our work. We had a fun Live Auction (auctioneered by the incomparable Councilmember Craig Rice), with great prizes offered. Our major sponsors including Verizon Wireless, William E. Cross and William J. Shaw Family Foundations, Enterprise Holdings, GEICO and Kaiser Permanente Foundations, (and others listed elsewhere in this newsletter) participated in the success of the evening. Our honorees, the Hon. Ida Ruben, Jo Ann Ricchiuti, Montgomery County Health and Human Services, Art Walenstein and Enterprise Holdings brought their friends and families to the event. A client (survivor) of domestic violence shared her very personal story with those in attendance. Chairwoman Leggett then held a Special

Appeal to raise funds for the various projects of our Youth Initiative.

In the year ahead, the funds raised for the Benefit will, in part, support our Youth Arts Initiative providing each child in our County's Safe Start program with an Artist-in-Training kit filled with paints, paper, colored pencils, etc., to have as their own to keep. Additionally, the children will now have the opportunity to work with an Art Therapist in the year ahead. Through our partnership with Montgomery College the children will be exposed to the performing arts as Montgomery College is donating tickets for many of the children to attend several appropriate school productions in the year ahead.

Some of the funds raised will help support the 6th Annual "Choose Respect Montgomery" a day long conference for pre-teens and teens about dating and healthy relations. Also, "Teen Talk," a program of individual psychological services for teens. We will also be able to provide funds so that every Safe Start child who needs one, can have their own "Courage Lion," a snuggle soft stuffed lion animal that has a little tummy pocket where children can put a note about their wishes and dreams.

The Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit: It is a one-night event - that lasts all year long.

Many thanks to all,

Resa Levy
Executive Director
MCFJC Foundation

From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President

Events publicized during this past year have served to underscore the importance of our Foundation's mission to "Raise awareness and funds for the Family Justice Center." The conversation about domestic violence and its devastating impact on entire families, as well as future generations of that family if the issue is not handled at the time of the occurrence, is now being more fully and openly written about in the news, discussed in the media, and talked about around dinner tables at homes throughout the country.

That's a good thing. A difficult conversation, perhaps, but raising awareness of the issue and supporting the work that is being accomplished is essential if we are to encourage positive and permanent change.

Our highly successful recent 5th Annual Benefit, chaired by Catherine Leggett, brought together many of our partners, sponsors, donors and friends, and we are so grateful for their tremendous support. It is through your support that we are able to accomplish our mission.

It was a time to honor those who have helped to change and heal the lives of those

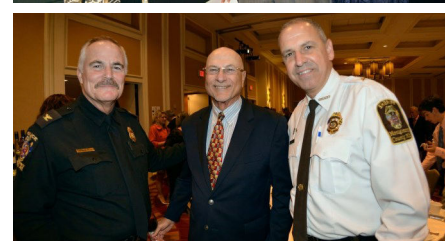
afflicted by the trauma associated with domestic violence. My congratulations again to honorees The Hon. Ida Ruben, Jo Ann Ricchiuti, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Athur Wallenstein and Enterprise Holdings, Inc.

I thank you all for your help and - Let's keep the conversation going!

--
Tom DeGonia II
President
MCFJC Foundation



The 5th Annual Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation Benefit: Thanks to all for a wonderful evening for an important cause!



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER



Victim's Rights Foundation - A Special Friend



At its recent 19th Annual Gala entitled, "From Victim to Victory," The Victims' Rights Foundation presented Sheriff Darren Popkin with its Public Safety Award. This distinguished honor was bestowed upon Sheriff Popkin for his thirty years of law enforcement work, his continued involvement in innovative programs designed to reduce domestic violence in the County, as well as many other activities of note. Congratulations, Sheriff Popkin!

For almost 20 years, The Victims' Rights Foundation has provided critical help and support for people in some of their most dreaded circumstances – as victims of violent crime. Under the leadership of Founder and President, Greg Wims, the Victims' Rights Foundation has continued to support the MCFJC and the

MCFJC Foundation in critical ways such as a "blanket drive" that provided about 100 colorful, cozy, beautiful new blankets for FJC clients.

Additionally, the Victims' Rights Foundation provides the MCFJC Foundation with a \$1,000 silver sponsorship each year. We are extremely honored and proud that at the Gala, Mr. Wims announced that once again, the MCFJC Foundation would be one (of only two given) honored with this generous sponsorship.

Thank you to a magnificent organization and a special friend – Greg Wims and the Victims' Rights Foundation.

Summer Camp!



Welcome New Partner
Montgomery County Department of Recreation!

The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation extends its deepest thanks to Gabe Alborno, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, for providing the opportunity for a number of children who have been exposed to domestic violence and are currently in the County's Safe Start program, to spend some time this Summer at a Montgomery County Recreation Department day camp.

According to Safe Start Director, Dr. Mindy Thiel, "Fifteen very excited children are already planning to attend, and there will probably be at least five more by camp time."

We are thrilled that the County's Department of Recreation is providing this outstanding opportunity. Thank you!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Thank You



**The MCFJC Foundation
thanks Enterprise
Holdings and its
employees for donating
more than 2,000
diapers to the FJC!**

5th Annual Benefit Sponsors...

Thank you!

It is through the caring hearts of our donors and supporters that The MCFJC Foundation is able to support and enhance the life- saving work of the FJC. From immediate safety, to enhanced sustainability and finally to security, your gifts have made a difference at every point along the way. We know you could support many worthwhile organizations, and we are honored and humbled that you have chosen us in which to offer your generosity. Thank you.

Leadership Circle

Montgomery County, Verizon Wireless

Community Builder - Gold

William E. Cross Family Foundation
William J. Shaw Family Foundation

Community Partner

Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
GEICO Philanthropic Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Foundation

Community Advocate - Gold

Catherine and Ike Leggett, Comcast-Montgomery & Frederic Counties/Beltway Region; Ethridge, Quinn, Kemp, McAuliffe, Rowan and Hartinger; Fait, Wise & Di Lima LLP; Pepco Foundation; Rismiller Law Group LLC; Stein, Sperling, Bennett, DeJong, Driscoll LLP; Marilyn Bagel, Women Who Care Ministries, Panera Bread

Community Advocate – Silver

Adventist Health Care, Hon. Shirley Brandman
Carol Trawick, Montgomery College Foundation
Rex Smith, Victims' Rights Foundation
Eta Pi Zeta Chapter - Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

Honorarium Supporters

David and Ellen Belkin, The Chazen Foundation, Jo Benson Fogel, PA
Laurence Johnson, June Linowitz
Hon, Constance Morella, Debi Sanders and Dennis Shannon
Dr. Alan and Hon. Duchy Trachtenberg