



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

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From the Desk of Uma Ahluwalia



As Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), it is with enormous pride that I am able to report that the partnership between HHS and the Sheriff's Office FJC continues to be strong as ever.

As the Abused Persons Program (APP) approaches their 40th year anniversary in 2016 I thought it would be enlightening to go down memory lane with some historical facts:

APP was created because of involved citizens expressing concerns about spousal abuse and making their votes count in the 1974 election. The Montgomery County Council created a taskforce in February 1975 to study the depth of the problem and appropriated \$33,608 by emergency resolution to establish a beginning program for abused spouses. By late 1976 work had officially started.

- Did you know that Terri Bennett, Senior Administrator for Crisis, Access and Trauma Services was the first hired shelter manager in charge of bringing the blueprint of the shelter to fruition?
- Did you know that APP's first DV shelter only had a

25 bed capacity and the stay was limited to 15 days?

- Did you know that APP had 8 legal volunteer advocates and Hannah Sassoon and Shelley Lipton were part of this corps?
- Did you know that the 1st Civil Order of Protection (COP) came about on July 1st, 1980 and gave 5 days of protection to victims legally married to the abuser?
- Did you know that APP and HOC partnered to secure 5 transitional housing units but the units were given up because domestic violence victims got priority points for HOC vouchers?



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

Presently:

- The County now has a model 54 bed capacity shelter where victims can stay up to 60 days with a possible extension up to 75 days.
- Protective Orders are now available to victims even if not legally married for one year and can be extended up to two years. Now there are victim assistants placed in many County and non

profit agencies to assist victims with their complex needs.

- In partnership with MCPD, APP reached out to over 245 victims whose lethality assessment protocols were called into the Crisis Center by the police.
- In FY15 APP clinicians conducted 300 intake assessments for offenders and run 14 weekly groups for 500 male offenders. APP now serves with group counseling a growing number of females who are both victims but also charged as offenders.
- Through the Safe Start Program we provide groups for children who witness domestic violence.
- The County has identified two townhouses which are being refurbished to be used for transitional housing for those victims exiting the BAK shelter who might need an extra temporary stay to maintain their independence and increase their safety.

We have come a long way and hopefully in the next 40 years we will eradicate domestic violence. However, if there is even one family left who needs assistance Montgomery County will continue to respond in a professional and coordinated manner to erase domestic violence from the lives of its residents.



Family Justice Center
Spotlight Feature:

Ch-Ch-Changes at the FJC!



Tom Manion **Acting Director**

Tom Manion has worked for the Sheriff's Office at the Family Justice Center (FJC) for the last two years as the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Program Manager. Due to the retirement of Daryl Leach, he was appointed Acting Director of the FJC as of June 15th. Mr. Manion holds a Master's degree in forensic psychology with a focus on suicide and violence prevention. While pursuing his graduate degree, he worked in the Family and Sexual Violence Division of the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Prior to coming to the Sheriff's Office, he worked as an investigator for a federally-funded suicide prevention project, and managed a statewide violent death prevention project for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He is very excited to continue working with all FJC partners both on and off-site in his new capacity.

Ngozi Obineme **Program Manager I**

Ngozi Obineme is excited to be joining the Family Justice Center team. She has a background in public health, with a specialization in community and population health. During her public health studies, she worked with the International Rescue Committee in Baltimore, where she created a Domestic Violence Protocol and Screening Guidelines manual, which is currently being implemented at the organization. Ngozi has made advocacy efforts towards women's empowerment and ending family violence, including co-facilitating women and children domestic violence survivor groups, and working with a local coalition against family violence. She also has experience as a domestic and sexual violence hotline counselor at Crisis Services, and as an intake and emergency relief counselor at Catholic Charities Victim Services in Buffalo, NY. Ngozi looks forward to continue her efforts in helping victims of domestic violence and working towards the prevention of family violence.

Identify, Support and Encourage Training

On May 12, 2015 the MCFJC Foundation hosted "Identify, Support, and Encourage: Children Exposed to Domestic Violence" which was made possible from a generous grant from Verizon Hopeline. The training, developed by Dr. Mindy Thiel from the Sheriff's Office Safe Start Program, focused on answering key questions that adults working with children exposed to domestic violence have.

ISE had 92 total people in attendance and 79 people attended the workshops. Impressively, over 40 schools and organizations that work with a wide vari-

ety of populations sent staff and/or representatives. Attendees also came from various locales such as Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, Frederick County and Washington, DC. The largest group of attendees was from Montgomery County Public Schools and included

teachers, guidance counselors, and school health workers. Also in attendance were several VIP speakers including Melanie Ortel from Verizon Wireless, County Council President George Leventhal, County Councilmember Sid Katz, Sheriff Darren Popkin, and Debbie Feinstein Chief of States Attorney's Office Family Violence Division.

ISE was the first in a series of trainings from the MCFJC Foundation. The next training will be held at the **University of Maryland School of Social Work in Baltimore on October 2, 2015.**



Annual Event Encourages Teens to 'Choose Respect'

#RespectYourSelfie2015

The 6th Annual Choose Respect Conference was held on Sunday, March 8th at Montgomery College, Germantown Campus. Winter weather and school closings did not stop hundreds of teens, parents and public officials from coming out to raise awareness for teen dating abuse. New this year was the 'Selfie Red Carpet' event, where teens walked the red carpet and posed with public officials and our emcees, Toby Knapp (HOT 99.5) and Jackie Bensen (NBC4). Teens were encouraged to post selfies and facts about dating violence to social media using #RespectYourSelfie2015, and the posts reached over 1 million people across the nation! Special thanks to those who made this event possible: Verizon Wireless, the MCFJC Foundation, Montgomery College, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, JCADA and Zoomph. Looking forward to making next year even bigger and better!

Meet the New Sheriff's Office Victim Assistants!



From left to right:
Samantha Hancock,
Martha O'Liddy,
Stefanny Aramayo, and
Angela von Stein

Angela von Stein

Angela von Stein holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology and a Bachelor of Science degree in family studies. For the past eight years, she worked as a Case Supervisor at the Court Appointed Special Advocate program of Montgomery County. In her role as a supervisor, she advocated for abused and neglected children involved in the Juvenile Court and Child Welfare Services by ensuring that the children's best interests were represented and their needs were met. Angela is very excited to be part of the Family Justice Center team.

Martha O'Liddy

Martha O'Liddy graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelors degree in criminology and criminal justice. After college, Martha was hired as a District Court Commissioner. She was responsible for issuing charging documents, conducting initial appearances and determining pre-trial release conditions for people under arrest. She provided information to residents when inquiring about bonds, restraining orders and emergency evaluation petitions. Martha is excited to be joining the Family Justice Center.

Stefanny Aramayo

Stefanny Aramayo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in social work, with a minor in sociology. Prior to coming to the Sheriff's Office, she worked as a Youth Development Counselor at Identity, INC., a community-serving non-profit organization based in Gaithersburg. As a counselor, she worked with her staff to provide at-risk Latino youth with the tools to promote change in their lives. Stefanny is very excited to be part of the FJC family.

Samantha Hancock

Samantha Hancock holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. She has previous experience as a Public Safety Aid (PSA) for the Sheriff's Office in the Domestic Violence section. As a PSA, she provided support and information directly to the deputies by conducting extensive in-person interviews with the petitioners and extensive criminal background checks on the respondents. Samantha is only moving down the hall at the Family Justice Center but she is looking forward to the new adventure ahead.



Family Justice Center Foundation News

FJC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

- Resa Levy
Executive Director
- Thomas M. DeGonia II
President
- Maura Lynch
Vice President and
Secretary
- Dorothy Fait
Treasurer
- Marilyn Bagel
- David Belkin
- Judith Clark
- Alicia Doherty
- Ari Ghosal
- Cheryl Kravitz
- Catherine Leggett
- Melanie Ortel
- Amy Shaw Palumbo
- Jo Ann Ricchiuti
- Hannah Sassoon
- Lewis Selis
- Kristina L. Stuber

FJC FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- The Honorable
Constance A. Morella
- 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

Folks,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. As such, each October The MCFJC Foundation hosts a benefit for the MCFJC, to recognize our outstanding community leaders and partners, talk about our plans for the coming year, and to reflect upon our accomplishments during this

past year.

Here are just a few of the accomplishments that – with your help – the MCFJC Foundation was able to accomplish this past year:

- Our GEICO funded "Ride to Safety" provided emergency transportation
- Our Lawyer's Initiative and engaged 30 new attorneys to help provide critically needed pro bono legal services
- Verizon's support allowed us to increase psychological therapeutic services for adolescents through Safe Start's "Teen Talk" counseling program
- A partnership with Montgomery College provided FJC clients the opportunity to complete a program in medical records administration allowing for enhanced career choices
- Your support enabled us to fund the printing of thousands of brochures and palm cards in multiple languages to be used by first responders to a domestic violence call
- Women Who Care Ministries and Panera Breads continued to provide snacks and

drinks for clients and their children who visit the FJC

- With a grant from Verizon we developed statewide trainings for educators, social workers, youth group leaders, etc. to further educate and inform about the impact on children who witness domestic violence. We are also partnering with the University of Maryland's School of Social Work to provide additional trainings
- We partnered with Montgomery County Recreation Department to enable children within the Safe Start program to attend County Day Camp programs
- Once again Verizon funded our Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Teen Dating Conference attended by hundreds of County pre-teen and teens
- Our Speakers Bureau made more than a dozen presentations about the work of the FJC to Rotary Clubs and other civic organization in the County.

Thank you all! I'm proud to say it's been a great year and we are grateful to all those who helped us bring the issue of domestic violence "**Out of the Darkness and Into the Light.**"

Please join us for our 6th Annual Benefit, on Sunday, October 18, 2015 from 5:00-8:30 pm at the Rockville Hilton, Rockville, Pike, Maryland. Invitations will be sent in August, and/or you can register on-line at www.mcfjcfoundation.org.

From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President

This year's honorees are proof positive that it truly does take a village, working together for a common goal, each bringing to that effort their time, talents, skills and leadership, in order to reach a successful outcome. They make our village stronger - and with their input we continue to improve, enhance and increase our potential for successful outcomes.

This year's honorees cover a significant portion of the spectrum of needs in handling the issue of domestic violence:

- Dr. Mindy Thiel, Chesapeake Counseling and their Safe Start

panoply of psychological services for those who have either experienced or witnessed the trauma of domestic violence;

- Dodie Fait, a Super Lawyer who has drafted bills and consistently represented survivors of domestic abuse;
- Laurie Duker, Court Watch Montgomery, whose transformational thinking and work with the judicial system helped to improve outcomes for all;
- The Honorable Karla N. Smith, now serving on the Circuit Court, who among many other activities, was instrumental in helping to create and bring to fruition our Family Justice Center;
- And first among leaders,

Sheriff Darren Popkin, whose background and experience in law enforcement and his guidance and leadership of the Family Justice Center has made it a model for the entire metropolitan area.

On behalf of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, thank you to all our honorees for all their tremendous work throughout the years. Thank you to the folks who work at the Center and who save lives every day. Thank you also to our Board of Directors, our Executive Director, Resa Levy, and Program Manager, Kristy Smith Warren, and all of our sponsors and supporters. We couldn't do what we do, without all of you!

Safe Start Training: Counseling for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence



Friday, October 2, 2015

1:00 pm– 4:15pm

University of Maryland Baltimore
Registration will be through UMBC



Tuesday, November 10, 2015

1:00pm - 4:15pm

1301 Piccard Dr

Registration opens September 15th

Out of the Darkness, Into the Light

Help domestic violence sufferers stop hiding and come into the light.

This private crisis won't be helped until we make it a public priority.

Join the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation Benefit in continuing to shine the light on domestic violence and protect its victims.

Preparations are in full swing for our 6th Annual Benefit, which will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2015 from 5:00-8:30pm at the Hilton on Rockville Pike. This event is held on a Sunday evening every October to remind us that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Dignitaries will join corporate and foundation leaders, as well as numerous individual supporters to help raise awareness and funds for the Montgomery County Family Justice Center. Our Benefit Committee under the chairmanship of Catherine Leggett is working hard to make this another fantastic and fun event. Event highlights will include **'Red Carpet,'** Live Selfies (#darknesstolight), Cocktail Party, Live Auction, Dinner, and Recognition of this Year's Honorees.

If you wish to become a part of this dynamic team of volunteers, please email klwsmith@gmail.com or visit our website:

<http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org/>

For information on donating items or becoming a sponsor, email Resa Levy at resalevy@gmail.com or Kristy Warren at klwsmith@gmail.com

Do we have your current mailing address? Please update your information here: <https://mcfhcf.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/AddressBook/UpdateMyAddress/tabid/701701/Default.aspx>

Calendar of Current Foundation Activities

August 11 – Benefit Committee Meeting

August – Benefit Invitations mailed

September 2 – Foundation Board Meeting

September (Date TBA) – Benefit Committee Meeting

October 2 – Safe Start Training at University of Maryland Baltimore from 1-4:15pm

October 18 – Annual Benefit

November 10 – Safe Start Training at 1301 Piccard Dr from 1-4:15pm.

For information on any of these events please visit our website

<http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org/> or email us at mcfjcfoundation.org@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MCFJC FOUNDATION 2015 HONOREES!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Court Watch Montgomery - Laurie Duker, Executive Director

CORPORATE LEGACY AWARD

Dr. Mindy Thiel, Executive Director, Chesapeake Counseling

FORERUNNER AWARD

Dorothy Fait, Esq., Fait, Wise & DiLima, LLP

MARILYN J. PRAISNER FOUNDER'S AWARD

Judge Karla Smith

INSPIRING LEADER AWARD

Sheriff Darren Popkin



If you would like to congratulate one of our Honorees in our Benefit Program Book, please visit our website <http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org/> or email us at mcfjcfoundation.org@gmail.com