



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

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From the Desk of Sheriff Darren Popkin



Nearly seven years ago, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) opened its doors. County agencies including the Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office, and Department of Health and Human Services worked alongside community partners like House of Ruth and Catholic Charities to better assist and support victims of domestic violence by providing wraparound services all in one location. Today, the FJC maintains this collaborative spirit, and has welcomed a variety of additional partners on-site, including the Montgomery County Police Department, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), and Career Catchers. The FJC is a true partnership in every respect of the word, and I take great pride in the Sheriff's Office being part of the team.

As we all know, domestic violence comes in a variety of forms, affecting many aspects of daily life, and impacting all communities regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. Providing culturally sensitive, multilingual services is essential for any service provider, and I am pleased to welcome the newest on-site FJC partner, the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project

(DVRP). The dedicated staff at DVRP provide services to domestic violence victims in the Asian/Pacific Islander community, representing more than 20 different Asian/Pacific Islander languages. Through mutual referrals, DVRP has always been an important FJC community partner, and we are thrilled to now have them on-site.



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

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) continues its outstanding efforts to address dating violence among Montgomery County teens

through its Choose Respect initiative. Sponsored by Verizon through its partnership with the MCFJC Foundation, and Montgomery County Public Schools, the 7th Annual Choose Respect Conference will be held on Sunday, March 20th this year from 1:00pm – 4:30pm at Richard Montgomery High School. Students, parents, youth service providers and educators will participate in separate programs to discuss important issues related to domestic violence such as warning signs of abuse, the ef-

fects of dating violence, and what to do if you or someone you know is being abused by a dating partner. I would encourage all interested parties to attend this important event, which will include interactive workshops, a Selfie Red Carpet event, free food, raffle prizes, celebrity guests, and much more. For more information, including how to register online, visit the Choose Respect website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect.html.

In the nearly seven years that the FJC has been in operation, more than 7,000 individuals representing over 100 countries of origin have received essential services from a team of motivated professionals from multiple agencies and organizations that share a common goal: helping those in need. In 2016, this team will continue to reach out to the community with its message of non-violence, and provide support to those who need it. To all those who made the FJC a reality seven years ago, to all those who continue to support the work of the FJC currently, and to the staff who provide support to victims every single day – you have my utmost respect and gratitude.

Wishing a happy, healthy and safe 2016 to all.

--
Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

FJC Spotlight: Meet the SVID Detectives



From left to right: Det. Stephanie Hesse, Det. Tenesha Jensen, Det. Michael Putman, Det. Theresa Durham, and Sgt. Jordan Satinsky. Not Pictured: Det. Kari Widup and Det. Elizabeth Young

The Montgomery County Police Department's Domestic Violence/Sex Section came to the Family Justice Center in June of 2013. The DV/Sex Section is charged with investigating the following types of crimes: certain felonies involving current or former intimate partners, any felony sex crime where the victim is at least eighteen years of age, and cases of elder/vulnerable adult abuse.

The investigative group is comprised of a Detective/Sergeant, six Detectives, a Program Manager, and a Client Assistance Specialist. The Investigators are either in the office or on-call twenty four hours a day in order to meet the needs of our victims.

The DV/Sex Section Investigators are provided with best-practices training in all the investigative areas they cover. These investigators are committed to working in tandem with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, The Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, and the other partner agencies housed at the FJC and off-site locations to bring the best possible victims services and investigations to the community.

The Montgomery County Police Department is committed to serving each victim with the utmost respect and sensitivity as the investigation progresses. The members of the DV/Sex Section are proud to be members of the unique working group at the FJC and will continue to forge ahead to assist the victims of Montgomery County.

Meet the New FJC Interns

Marilennis Cruz

Marilennis Cruz is entering her final semester at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) with a major in Psychology. At her institution she is President of Tau Sigma National Honor Society, Vice President of The Psychology Student Association, and serves as a Peer Advisor. Through these organizations she leads and organizes events that give back to the local community. In her role as a Peer, she serves as a source of support to both prospective and current students. Upon Marilennis' completion of her Bachelor's degree program at UMBC, she plans on pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work from The University of Maryland with a focus on mental health and occupational therapy. Marilennis also loves dancing and works as a Zumba Instructor. She loves motivating and helping her students achieve their goals!



From left to right: Marilennis Cruz and Kwadwo Buadu

Kwadwo O. Buadu

Kwadwo O. Buadu just completed his first semester at the University of Maryland Baltimore, School of Social Work. In addition to being a Master's of Social Work student and an intern at the Family Justice Center, Kwadwo works as a full time overnight Security Officer and a part time Loss Prevention Officer. Recently, Kwadwo had the opportunity to experience court proceedings first hand by shadowing members of the SAO in his limited free time. Kwadwo obtained a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland College Park.

Upon Kwadwo's completion of his Master's degree program, he hopes to become a victim advocate. In his free time he enjoys attending comedy shows for a good laugh. Kwadwo is also the undisputed King of the Dancehall.



Choose Respect Montgomery

Healthy Teen Dating Conference

#RespectYourSelfie2016

Sunday, March 20th, 2016

1:00pm - 4:30pm

Richard Montgomery High School

Register Online:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect.html

**Pre-Conference
Selfie Red Carpet!**

**Free Food and
Raffle Prizes!**

**Celebrity
Guests!**

**PSA Video Contest
Winners Will Be
Announced!**

**Separate Programs for
Students, Parents,
Youth Service Providers,
and Educators!**

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Holiday Donations!



Special thanks to:

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Heather Thompson
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Family Justice Center Foundation News

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From the Desks of the MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia and Executive Director, Resa Levy



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

The MCFJC Foundation's mission is to raise awareness and funds for the FJC. We accomplish that effort through a series of initiatives. Some of the funds are designated to specific programs or projects, while others are directed to wherever the needs are greatest. The partners of the FJC determine those needs and share them with the Foundation who then, in turn, seek your support.

In the "Year in Review - 2015" below, you will read some of the ways that your support has been able to change and - even save lives.

The Year in Review - 2015

- Raised thousands of dollars for emergency transportation services to women and children fleeing domestic violence
- Launched "Baskets of Hope" – provided 100 gift baskets with health care essentials to over 100 women and children
- Partnered with Safe Start and initiated "Teen Talk" - individual psychological counseling for over 100 teens who have witnessed domestic violence
- Arranged for free summer day camping experience at County Recreational facilities for 18 Safe Start children (20-25 for the upcoming year already arranged)
- Worked with FJC to supply over 1,000 teddy bears, stuffed animals and toys to children who came to the FJC
- Offered five statewide trainings to over 500

participants including Guidance Counselors, religious leaders, therapists, youth group leaders, health care professionals, and others to recognize and help students who have witnessed abuse.

- Provided funds for the 6th year in a row for interactive teen conference "Choose Respect -Montgomery. Focus on building healthy relationships. Event includes award-winning student created PSA's More than 3,000 participants have attended to date
- Funded quarterly Safe Start Art Therapy sessions for more than 60 children. Outcomes: children created "Tree of Hopes and Dreams"
- We provided funds for FJC professionals to attend senior level national conferences
- Arranged for 20 Safe Start children to attend performance art including the Nutcracker Ballet
- Provided funding for "Stop the Bull-y-Montgomery" an in-school multi-faceted anti-bullying program attended by more than 1,000 in area County schools
- Supported FJC partner's World Elder Abuse day long awareness conference
- Partnered with Montgomery College to arrange for 5 scholarships for FJC clients to provide educational opportunities to increase job skills that will help lead to financial independence
- Sold out Annual Fundraising Benefit

For all the above, and more – we thank you! Looking forward to WORKING TOGETHER IN 2016!

Tom DeGonia and Resa Levy

MCFJC Foundation's 6th Annual Benefit

"Sold Out"



Almost 350 guests attended the MCFJC Foundation's sold out 6th Annual Benefit this past October (Domestic Violence Month) at the Hilton Hotel on Rockville Pike. The event, chaired by Board Member and 1st Lady of Montgomery County, the incomparable Catherine Leggett, featured a marvelous cocktail hour and Live Auction led by the outstanding Montgomery County Councilman, Craig Rice.

Later in the evening a survivor spoke of her own experience with domestic violence, and then she shared with the audience the many ways in which the Family Justice Center had helped change – and even save – her life. The evening also featured a highly successful Special Appeal, led by Foundation President Tom De-Gonia and Ms. Leggett. The Appeal raised significant funds for our Youth Initiative which provides funds for more than a dozen Foundation programs and projects benefitting children.

Through a series of pre-taped videos, created by Board Member Marilyn Bagel, leaders in the struggle against domestic violence were honored. Recognized that evening were Laurie Duker – Executive Director Court Watch, Dorothy Fait, Esq., Sheriff Darren Popkin, the Honorable Karla N Smith, and Dr. Mindy Thiel, PhD, LCSW-C.

Thanks to all our Sponsors, donors, partners and attendees. Your support has truly saved lives.



P.R.O.V.I.D.E. -Winston Churchill High School Students “Provide”

Churchill High School students Brookie Rosenbauer and Shayna Gutridge, with the support of their Student Advisor, teacher Margo Hopkins, recently co-chaired a fundraising event at Chipotle at Montgomery Mall. More than a dozen students participated in Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E. and raised almost \$400 for teddy bears and toys for the children who come to the Family Justice Center for services. The Club plans to partner with the MCFJC Foundation in the future.



SAVE THE DATE!

**7th Annual MCFJC
Foundation Benefit**

Rockville Hilton

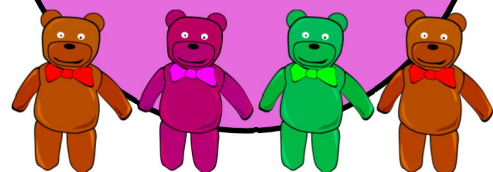
**Sunday evening
October 30, 2016**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

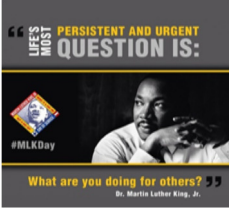



**Teddy Bear
Campaign !**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Teddy Bear Campaign. You will be putting a smile on the faces of hundreds of boys and girls!



MCFJC Foundation 2016 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Details
January 7th	MCFJC Foundation Board Meeting	5:45pm - 7:30pm	FJC - 600 Jefferson Pl., Rockville	N/A
January 18th	MLK Day of Service 	1pm - 3pm	Bethesda North Marriot Hotel and Conference Center - 5701 Marinelli Rd., Rockville	Volunteers will assemble Comfort Kits for Kids. Each kit will include a coloring book and crayons, a stuffed animal, and an encouraging/uplifting note. You can donate supplies for this event to the FJC or fund to purchase supplies on our website.
January 21st	Benefit Committee Meeting	6pm - 7:30pm	FJC - 600 Jefferson Pl., Rockville	First benefit committee meeting of the year to plan the 7th Annual FJC Foundation Benefit.
January 25th - February 29th	Kids Love Books Drive 	9am - 5:30pm (If dropping of donation at the FJC)	www.mcfjcfoundation.org FJC- 600 Jefferson Pl., Rockville	Help us make sure we can keep providing children with a book and a happy ending. Donate a new Book directly to the FJC or go to our website to donate funds to keep our shelves stocked.
March 16th	MCFJC Foundation Board Meeting	5:45pm - 7:30pm	FJC - 600 Jefferson Pl., Rockville	TBD
March 20th	Choose Respect Montgomery	1pm - 4pm	Richard Montgomery High School- 250 Richard Montgomery Dr., Rockville	The 7th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Conference - A FREE and FUN event for students in grades 6-12, their parents, youth service providers, and educators. #RespectYourSelfie2016
October 30th	7th Annual FJC Foundation Benefit	5pm - 8:30pm	Hilton Hotel - Rockville Pike, Rockville	TBD

Thank You to Our Generous Benefit Sponsors

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Hon. Duchy and Dr. Alan Trachtenberg; Patience H. White, MD, MA

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With Special Thanks for the Wonderful Partnership

Councilmember Craig Rice

Mike Hydeck, Weekend Morning News Anchor, WUSA 9

Kat Posada
