



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

GET TO KNOW THE MANY NEW FACES AROUND THE FJC!

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Bethany Holliday
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Sgt. Jordan Satinsky
Melissa Tozier

From the Desk of J. Thomas Manger, Chief of Police

On behalf of the men and women of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), I am excited we are an integral part of the Family Justice Center during its fifth year of operation. Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler recently visited our Center during his fact-finding tour of the State. Mr. Gansler stated that every Maryland city and county needs the services of a Family Justice Center. He identified our Center as the State model—praise well earned, thanks to the years of tireless efforts by its employees, volunteers and donors.

The Police Department continues to work hard in its partnership with the FJC. We have undertaken several new changes to provide a more collaborative, comprehensive and holistic effort. First, we have expanded our Domestic Violence program. We have created a stand-alone Domestic Violence Section with its own Sergeant and Corporal and we increased from four to six the number of assigned detectives. Our new Domestic Violence Section is now housed at the FJC. I greatly appreciate our **partnership with the State's Attorney's Office, who donated the office space and furniture, and the Sheriff's Office, who facilitated technological and logistical support to make this transition possible.**

We have re-launched our

"2951" initiative, a proactive effort to use computer-aided-dispatch information to identify at-risk victims and families. We created the program, named after the Montgomery County Police radio code 2951 for a domestic dispute, to find gaps in services that are delivered to domestic-violence victims.



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

The objective of the program is to identify the victims of frequent domestic violence through repeated 911 calls for service. If a location is identified by frequent 911 calls and three or more calls took place in the previous 90 days, the records are provided once a week to the Family Crimes Division.

Our domestic violence victim/witness coordinator reviews each location to see if an officer made a physical arrest or commenced an investigation. If neither of those activities has occurred, the victim/witness coordinator contacts the complainants of those calls to offer wrap-

around and intervention services. It is our hope to fill in the gaps that are created for volatile situations that occur with frequency but do not rise to the level that would warrant **an arrest. The program's innovation was recognized in 2010 by the National Associations of Counties.**

This year, the MCPD changed internal protocols to require patrol officers to refer all victims of domestic violence to the Family Justice Center during its hours of operation. (If the center is closed, officers will continue to refer victims to a District Court Commissioner AND to the FJC when they are not able to make an arrest legally). We distributed an informational bulletin and video to all police personnel to educate them about the FJC and this new procedure.

The residents of Montgomery County are indeed fortunate to benefit from a government that not only recognizes the value of internal collaboration but also partners with donors, volunteers, and non-governmental organizations to make our FJC the role model for Maryland. I pledge that the Department of Police will continue to strive to provide the best service possible to victims and to work with our partners to prevent and reduce the instances of domestic violence.

J. Thomas Manger, Chief of Police

Meet the New FJC Staff



Thomas Manion
Program Manager

Tom Manion's background is in forensic psychology, with a specialization in suicide and violence prevention. He has previous experience as an investigator for a federally-funded suicide prevention project, where he completed extensive interview protocols with the families and friends of suicide victims nationwide in order to **collect data and draw conclusions about each victim's life and the circumstances surrounding each death.** He has also spoken about violence data, prevention and victim advocacy at numerous events and conferences. Having managed a statewide violent death prevention project for the last 3 years, he understands the importance of collaborative partnerships in the prevention of all types of violence, and is excited to be joining the Family Justice Center team.

Daryl B. Leach, MSW, LCSW-C
Domestic Violence Coordinator
Daryl Leach is thrilled to be joining **the Sheriff's Office.** **She is a strong** advocate of the Family Justice Center model to provide a one-stop shop to meet the specific needs of domestic violence victims and their families, and has been a collaborative presence with the Family Justice center since its inception. For the past twenty-five years, Ms. Leach has worked for the Montgomery County Department of Police in the Family Crimes Division. During her time there, Ms. Leach proposed and developed forensic protocols for interviewing children who were exposed to domestic violence. This interview program works **collaboratively with the Sheriff's Office "Safe Start" therapy program** to break the cycle of learned violence. Ms. Leach credits Ms. Hannah Sassoon and Sheriff Darren Popkin for establishing an incredible Family Justice Center from the ground up, and extends her gratitude for **everyone's assistance during the upcoming transition.**

Montgomery County Police Department Joins the FJC



In July 2013, the Montgomery County Police Family Crimes Division Domestic Violence Section (DVS) moved to the Family Justice Center. The DVS is excited about the move and looks forward to fully participating in the collaborative efforts on behalf of the FJC clients.

The DVS has recently been tasked with a new set of responsibilities. Prior to this year, DVS Investigators concentrated mainly on felony assaults. Now the DVS handles felony domestic violence investigation to include 1st and 2nd degree assaults, rapes, robberies, domestic related kidnapping, and stalking. These new responsibilities and being co-located in the FJC provide victims of domestic violence a true one-stop-shop approach.

The DVS staff brings a wealth of investigative experience to the FJC. With the new responsibilities and investigative experience, DVS presence at the FJC will enhance the collaborative work that has been ongoing since the center opened its doors in 2009.

On behalf of my unit, I want to take a moment to thank Captain Carter (MCPD), Captain Brown (MCSO), Christina Miles (SAO), and Daryl Leach (MCSO) for making our transition seamless.

MCPD DVS looks forward to working with all of you in the years to come.

—
 Detective Sergeant J. Satinsky #2178
 Domestic Violence Section
 Montgomery County Police Department

Stories from the Heart

Children who come to the Montgomery County Family Justice Center can now embrace the gift of reading! The Family Justice Center has been able to obtain highly discounted **books through Scholastic's Family and Community Engagement Program.** The mission of this program is to improve and promote child literacy in and out of the classroom. When children walk through the doors of the FJC, they receive snacks and refreshments, and now they can leave with a toy, stuffed animal and books. These may seem like small gifts to many, but the children often light up when they have the opportunity to choose something of their own. Parents are even offered the opportunity to take books

home to children who may not have come with them to the FJC.

The FJC has been able to



supply the children's playroom and take away areas with a broad range of titles in both English and Spanish. Ranging from board books, to coveted children's stories, to chapter

books, and books for older children, the Family Justice Center has them all. For children who may not know where they are sleeping from day to day or whose homes do not feel safe, having the opportunity to share time with a parent or sibling to escape into a world of adventure or share a warm story gives them enrichment and expands their learning. Special thanks to the individuals who donated to this project at the 2012 Benefit and to Scholastic Books for making the partnership possible. Putting a smile on the face of children who come to the FJC is priceless!

Meet the Sheriff's DV Sergeants

Sergeant Jack Lee began his career with **the Sheriff's Office at age 23. He has since worked** in Court & Transport, Attachments, Civil, Fugitive, and most recently Domestic Violence (DV) during which time he was promoted from Deputy to Sergeant. He is a SWAT school graduate, a Field Training Officer (FTO), and has served on the Special Events Response Team (SERT) for over 8 years. Jack received a bronze medal of valor for saving a teenager who was off his medications and **driving recklessly. Jack's most memorable Sheriff's Office experience** occurred his first day on the job when he responded to a residence for a DV call, where a man bearing an axe was threatening to kill his girlfriend. Jack had to pull his gun when the man ran towards them, and was prepared to shoot, but the man ultimately dropped the axe.



Promoted in May 2013, Keith Naff is the newest Sergeant on the team. Keith has **served the Sheriff's Office for over 14 years and is** pleased to be back in the DV Section. As Sergeant, he appreciates the daily variety, the challenges, and the pace of operations in DV. Keith has worked in Court & Transport, Civil, Evictions, and Attachments. He has been a Field Training Officer (FTO) for 12 years, a Certified Background Investigator, and has been a member of the Ceremonial Honor Guard Platoon for 12 years. Keith is the first law enforcement officer in his family. Like Sergeant Garten, Keith is an avid Green Bay Packers fan and shareholder.



A County employee since 1989, Sergeant Jeff Garten **was hired by the Sheriff's Office in 1990.** He worked in Court and Transport, Civil, Fugitive, and Evictions, then in March of 2009 he was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to DV. Jeff **participated in News Cable 21's "Sheriff's Most Wanted," recording a 90 second segment about two featured subjects with outstanding warrants.** He has taken the Physical Training Test every year since its inception, receiving 100% each time, and has served on the Honor Guard for 13 years. Jeff enjoyed attending two DV conferences this year – the Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas, TX and the Regional Protection Order Summit in Washington, DC. During the Summit, Jeff **spoke publicly about Maryland's policies on weapons seizures, highlighting the collaborative competencies of the FJC.**



Sergeant Byung (Andy) Rim was hired by the **Sheriff's Office in 1990 and** promoted to Sergeant in 2001. He was previously a D.A.R.E. Officer, during which time he was nominated for *Police Officer of the Year* by the Baltimore Sun. He took his guitar into the classrooms and **changed the lyrics to children's sing-a-longs to promote a message of staying drug free, making good decisions, and practicing safety. Andy's most memorable moment in DV** was when a petitioner, who had recently emigrated from Guatemala, came to the FJC for help. During the interpreter-assisted interview, FJC services were explained to the petitioner. Public Safety Aide Cecilia Wilson mentioned that the system is not perfect and that we wish we could do more for her. **The petitioner's response was sincere, stating, "To me, your system is perfect."**



Making a Difference



"I can never adequately repay the stellar support, patience, and competence of all staff associated with the work of the Family Justice Center—all of it for the benefit, protection, and wellbeing of the community and of families and individuals who would be helpless but for your efforts."

"Not for a moment did we doubt that we were supported as we made our way through each step of this arduous process."

"When someone hits bottom, it is nice to feel like you are worth being treated well in a nice place."

"You have my gratitude and thanks which are driven by the demonstrated commitment of the caring and competent personnel whose life-sustaining efforts have directly benefited my daughter and my family."

"I am very grateful to the County for such a wonderful group of people, helping me deal with something that I honestly thought I could not be helped."



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
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- Marilyn Bagel
- David Belkin
- Judith Clark
- Alicia Doherty
- Catherine Leggett
- Melanie Ortel
- Jo Ann Ricchieti
- Hannah Sassoon
- Lewis Selis

FJC FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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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

**SAVE THE DATE:
4th Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit
Sunday, October 13, 2013**



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

Preparations are in full swing for our fabulous 4th Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit, which will be held on Sunday, October 13, 2013 from 5:00-9:00 pm at the HYATT Regency Bethesda.

MCFJC Foundation Board Member, Benefit Chair, and First Lady of Montgomery County, Catherine Leggett,

notes, "I am so proud to be a part of this fantastic effort to help those families impacted by domestic violence. Our Benefit Committee and Board have been fantastic. Their efforts have already secured sensational Silent and Live Auction items including vacation packages, jewelry, artworks, accessories, sporting and concert event tickets and more!"

You'll have the opportunity to be part of a special appeal to help raise funds to purchase Duffy, the Courage Lion, to give to hurting children who come to the Center. The Courage Lion program introduces the story of a young lion who faces the challenge of recovering from an injury.

Greta Kreuz, Award-winning Reporter and Anchor, ABC7/WJLA-TV, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for a second year in a row. **While Greta's professional credentials are impressive, they are made the more so by her**

consideration and caring for the well-being of those most in need.

The MCFJC Foundation Benefit, held each year on a Sunday evening in October, helps remind us that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Dignitaries, corporate and foundation leaders and caring individuals will gather to help raise awareness and funds for the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.

Highlights of the evening include cocktails and dinner, silent and live auctions, remarks and greetings by dignitaries, an awards presentation to our event honorees: Catholic Charities, Judge Louise Scrivener, Hannah Sassoon and **Montgomery College and a special Chairman's award to Mariska Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation, to be accepted by the Joyful Heart Foundation.**

Invitations will be mailed in mid-August. Our website provides information on how you, your family or your company can sponsor the event. Check out our website www.mcfjcfoundation.org, email us at mcfjcfoundation.org@gmail.com or contact Amy Palumbo at ashawpalumbo@gmail.com. Hope to see you on Sunday, October 13th!

*Resa Levy
Executive Director*

From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President

Exciting things are happening! Work on our 4th Annual Benefit, to be held on October 13, 2013, chaired by our Board Member and First Lady of Montgomery County, Catherine Leggett, is well underway and fantastic things are being planned to create a wonderful evening as well as to help raise

funds for the MCFJC.

The MCFJC's founding Executive Director, Hannah Sassoon, has retired from her Director's role. Her wisdom and guidance is still very much needed, and we are thrilled to welcome her as a new Board Member of the MCFJC Foundation. In true Hannah style, she wasted no time in getting busy as the Chair of our Educational Initiative, and is already working extensively with Montgomery College.

Also new to our board is Jo Ann

Ricchiuti, who only last year retired from **a 35 year career with the Sheriff's Office.** No words can adequately describe Jo **Ann's unbelievable contributions to both** the MCFJC and the MCFJC Foundation. There are so many projects that Jo Ann handled that it is impossible to recount them all. Gratefully, Jo Ann has also agreed to join our Board. Jo Ann will be continuing her role of working on numerous technical and creative details as well as coordinating a significant part of the Benefit. Thank you, Jo Ann!

We welcome the MCFJC's new Executive Director, Daryl Leach, MSW, LCSW-C. Daryl has a long and productive history with Montgomery County. Some of her many accomplishments include extensive work with abused children and their families, conducting forensic interviews, creating protocols and providing numerous other services. The MCFJC Foundation looks forward to working with Daryl to continue to help us understand the needs of the MCFJC and how the Foundation may support those needs.

New to our Foundation Staff is Amy Shaw Palumbo, JD, MSW. Please read about Amy below in this newsletter. Amy is a long-time supporter of the work of the Foundation, and in the short time that Amy has been part of the team, she has already accomplished fantastic things. Amy is already working closely with our Vice President and Secretary, Maura Lynch, Chair of **the Foundation's Lawyer's Initiative, as well as working on the Foundation's website,** and numerous other duties. We are so pleased that Amy agreed to join our team.

Our Educational, Business, Community and Lawyer's Initiatives, as well as our Benefit, are the heart and soul of the work that we do. We thank you all for joining us in this life-changing and life-saving effort. I look forward to seeing you on October 13, 2013 at the 4th Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit!

*Tom DeGonia
President, MCFJC Foundation*

Welcome Amy Shaw Palumbo



Amy Shaw Palumbo
MCFJC Foundation
Board Member

We are delighted to share with you that Amy Shaw Palumbo, JD/MSW joined the staff of the MCFJC Foundation in February of 2013. She brings with her a depth of knowledge in the field of domestic violence. Amy received her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1995. She went on to earn her Juris Doctorate and Master of Social Work from Washington University

in Saint Louis. While working on her Master's, Amy concentrated her studies on violence against women and children and volunteered with sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. Amy practiced law for 10 years before working in area schools. She is currently a part-time counselor at an area parochial school.

Amy lives with her husband in Montgomery County. They have a 6-year old daughter and a 3-year old son. Amy has been a big supporter of the FJC since its opening and says that she is **"thrilled to finally become a part of the organization."** Since her arrival, Amy has been an amazing asset to the work of the MCFJC Foundation. Should you wish to contact Amy, please email her at ashawpalumbo@gmail.com.

Be sure to check out the [newly designed MCFJC Foundation Website:](http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org)
www.mcfjcfoundation.org

Questions? Comments? Send us an e-mail!
mcfjcfoundation.org@gmail.com

Our Special Thanks to Hannah Sassoon



Hannah Sassoon
Former FJC Director

For the last four and half years, The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation has been the grateful recipient of the multitude of skills, broad-based knowledge, amazing talent and unending hard work and effort of Hannah Sassoon, the founding Executive Director of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center. To say that the Foundation would not have been

nearly as successful as it has been without her guidance and leadership, would be an understatement of significant measure.

Through the million tiny decisions that Hannah made during these past few years, one cohesive fact was established – she was the perfect person to have been the founding director, and no one could have done it better. For her generosity of spirit, for her on-going efforts and for a job superbly done, the MCFJC Foundation will present Hannah with the Marilyn J. Praisner Founder’s Award at the MCFJC Foundation’s 4th Annual Benefit on October 13, 2013. We hope you will all join us in honoring Hannah.

You are Invited...

4th Annual MCFJC
Foundation Benefit

Sunday, October 13, 2013
5:00PM—9:00PM

HYATT Regency
Bethesda

Hope to see you there!

The MCFJC Foundation Thanks Our Wonderful Donors

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Montgomery College

William J. Shaw Family Foundation,
Inc.

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