



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

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From the Desk Sheriff Darren Popkin



Eight years ago, our community came together in support of domestic violence victims when we opened the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC). From local community advocates and non-profits all the way to our elected officials, Montgomery County said with a unified voice, "Enough is enough." Since then, more than 9,000 families have received life-saving and life-changing support from the dedicated staff at the FJC. From immediate safety planning to protective orders, to criminal investigations, to more long term concerns like therapy and career counseling, the FJC is there to help victims of intimate partner violence and their families get out of dangerous situations and go on to live free of abuse.

Each year, I watch in awe as the community comes together again and again in support of our FJC. Whether citizens are donating brand new stuffed animals, toys, games, gift cards, books, toiletries, or winter coats, the message is clear: our community cares about its own, and people will

do whatever they can to ease the suffering of those experiencing the terrible effects of intimate partner domestic violence. Now that we have reached the end of 2016, I would like to personally thank all of the talented, compassionate individuals who work at the FJC, as well as every single group, program and individual who made any type of donation to the FJC this year.



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

We appreciate it more than you know, and your generosity is truly making a difference in so many lives. Thank you.

As we begin a new year, our work still continues. Through our incredible outreach programs and intervention services, we will continue to provide essential support to those who are suffering. Through our prevention initiatives, we will continue to strive to break the cycle of domestic violence by encouraging our teenagers to be respectful and engage in healthy relationship behaviors.

The 8th Annual Choose Respect Conference will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2017 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 the warning signs of abuse, the effects of dating violence, and what to do if you or someone you know is being abused by a dating partner. I would encourage any and all of you to attend this important event, which will include interactive workshops, a pre-conference 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.

To all of those who worked tirelessly to make the FJC a reality in 2009, to those who continue to support the work of the FJC, and to those FJC staff who work day after day to keep people safe, you have my sincerest gratitude. Wishing a happy, healthy and safe 2017 to all.

--
Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff

Meet the Spring 2017 FJC Interns!



From left to right: Jordan Stanek, Tamara King, and Kate Donegan

Jordan Stanek

Jordan Stanek is a senior at the University of Maryland, College Park, pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. After graduating in May of this year, she plans to obtain a Master's degree in Genetic Counseling so she can further pursue her passion for helping others in the medical field. Jordan has experience volunteering with kids, families, and elderly in medical distress, and is excited to bring her experiences to help the victims and their families at the FJC this semester. After graduation, she hopes to continue working with and fighting for those in crisis.

Tamara King

Tamara King is entering her final year at Montgomery College Takoma park/ Silver Spring, earning her Associates of Science in Criminal Justice. After graduation, she is planning to transfer to the University of Maryland in hopes of earning a Bachelors in Criminal Justice and Criminology. After earning her Bachelor's, she would like to work with the F.B.I. Tamara loves to spend her free time with her family in addition to walking her dog and reading many novels, especially suspense and unsolved crimes.

Kate Donegan

Kate Donegan is a senior at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park majoring in Family Science and minoring in Human Development. At UMD, Kate has enjoyed working on research projects that focus on the learning of children in Head Start preschools. After graduation, she plans on taking a year off to gain more experience in the Human Services field before entering graduate school for to earn a degree in psychology. In her spare time, Kate volunteers with the Humane Rescue Alliance of Washington D.C. and is passionate about helping animals find new homes.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or intern at the FJC, send an email to mcfcvip.montgomerycountymd.gov@outlook.com for more information

Holiday Donations



Thank you to the following donors:

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Montgomery County Bar Association, New Practitioners Section

Montgomery County Police Department

Verizon

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Zeta Chapter



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

Choose Respect Montgomery

#RespectYourSelfie2017

♦ Healthy Teen Dating Conference

Save the Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017

Richard Montgomery High School

1:00pm - 4:30pm

(Doors open at noon)

♦ PSA Video Contest

Create a 60-second video, win up to \$1,000!

Deadline: Friday, March 3, 2017

To Enter: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect.html

**Stay up-to-date on all things Choose Respect! Go to:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect.html**

**Questions? Contact Tom Manion at
Thomas.Manion@montgomerycountymd.gov**

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Family Justice Center Foundation News

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From the Desk of Executive Director, Resa Levy



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

"The Seven Year Itch"

The FJC and the MCFJC Foundation are now seven years old – *And we're itching to keep doing great things in the year ahead!*

The MCFJC Foundation's philosophy is that, while we recognize that domestic violence is a broad-brushed title for an expansive and far-reaching issue, we approach our daily work with a spotlight on the heart tugging tales of the individual women, children and families who are living within the nightmare of domestic violence.

While working together with you during all these years, but particularly during this past year, our Foundation has grown exponentially and we've been able to support significant programs and projects that address real-life, individual and immediate needs.

These programs includes our Send a Kid to Camp project, a joint effort with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, providing more than two dozen children who have witnessed domestic violence with the opportunity to have a great six week Summer Camp experience. GEICO helped fund our Ride to Safety project which provided emergency transportation more than 120 times to help families fleeing the violence. Support from clubs, businesses and youth groups enabled us to create more than 300 Baskets of

Hope packages for both women and children, two dozen new winter coats for kids in need, hundreds and hundreds of teddy bears and toys for the children who visit the FJC so no one leaves without some new item to let them know that they are special, they are worthy, and that they are not alone.

Montgomery County Public Schools has been a great partner in helping us reach thousands of our school children thru several of our major Youth Initiative projects such as: Stop the Bully Montgomery, Choose Respect Montgomery, Expect Respect Montgomery, and our student created Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E., with hundreds of student participants. Our partnership with Safe Start in programs such as Teen Talk has been outstanding.

We've just begun to scratch the surface of our ***"Seven Year Itch" to help more families suffering from abuse and to work with our youth to help break the cycle of domestic violence.***

There is significant work that needs to be accomplished in the year ahead – and we need you! To find out how you can be a part of the movement to end domestic violence and make this first year of the next seven years even better! Please feel free to contact me at resalevy@gmail.com or by phone at 301-509-6832.

--
Resa Levy, Executive Director
MCFJC Foundation

From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President

As the calendar rolls the end of one year into the start of another, it is a perfect time to pause for a moment and reflect.

When it comes to the work of the MCFJC and the MCFJC Foundation, this is always particularly rewarding. The year 2016 was one of expansion, exceptional work by the staff and partners of the FJC, and enormous growth of the programs, projects and partnerships of the MCFJC Foundation.

Here are a few of our Foundations highlights: We were accepted and participated in Allstate Foundation's Purple Purse Challenge and raised an additional \$10,000 for

the Foundation. Our Annual Benefit sold out for the second straight year in a row. In just three months our partnership with DVS Legal Services provided legal support for 60 clients. Volunteers created and filled with toys and stuffed animals more than 300 Kits for Kids. Our partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation provided for more than two dozen children who had witnessed domestic violence, the opportunity to go to a six week daily Summer Camp. Our multi Youth Initiative efforts reached thousands of children through a range of programs that cover anti-bullying, the impact of cyber bullying, how to build strong and healthy relationships, expansion of our youth group led Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E.

The MCFJC Foundation continues to move forward by deepening and expanding its range of important programs. Fundraising is critical to our achievements, and we heartily thank our hundreds of donors and supporters for their commitment of time, energy and resources. We have every good hope that you will continue to support our life changing and life-saving work as we go forward in the year ahead.

To learn more, please see our website at www.mcfjcfoundation.org.

Thank you,
Tom DeGonia, President
MCFJC Foundation

CLUB P.R.O.V.I.D.E. HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!



Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E., the student created club from Churchill High School, led by students Brook Rosenbauer and Shayna Gutridge, with support from both their parents as

well as Churchill teacher and Advisor Margo Hopkins, picked the busiest shopping week of the year, the last week in December, to host their second annual fundraiser in partnership with Chipotle Restaurant at Westfield Montgomery Mall. The Club raised more than four hundred dollars in cash, games and toys for the children who visit the Family Justice Center.

Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E. continues to grow and prosper with chapters now at Walter Johnson High School

and one beginning at Walt Whitman. The various Clubs have a united mission: to raise awareness for domestic abuse and to promote healthy teen dating relationships.

In addition to their fundraising, the Club participates in year-round activities with the Foundation. Student Intern, Almu Diaz, from the Universities of Shady Grove works with MCFJC Foundation Program Manager, Kristy Smith Warren, to engage the students in community led events such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Choose Respect Montgomery, a project of the County's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council that is funded by the MCFJC Foundation through a grant from Verizon.

To learn more please see our website at www.mcfjcfoundation.org

Review of the 7th Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit



By all accounts, the sold out 7th Annual Benefit was a huge success. The event was chaired by the incomparable 1st lady of our County, Catherine Leggett, and was attended by key leadership, county staff, friends and families of the honorees and hundreds of supporters from various interests and backgrounds. Everyone joined forces to celebrate the work of the MCFJC, the MCFJC Foundation, and the honorees who have worked so hard to help those suffering from the perils of domestic violence.

The Forerunner Award was gated to Donna Rismiller, the Community Partnership Award recognized Gabe Albornes, the Forerunner Award was bestowed on Cheryl Kravitz, our recognition for the Inspiring Leader Award was given to Police Chief Tom Manger, and the MCFJC Victims Assistants received the Marilyn J. Praisner Founder's award.

The event, held at the Hilton on Rockville Pike, on Sunday October 30, 2016, opened with a delectable reception in the Atrium, and was hosted by Mike Hydeck, Anchor, WUSA-TV. The evening included dinner, the awards and video tributes of our 2016 honorees, as well as a very special speak out from one of the survivor of domestic violence who praised the many ways in which all of the partners of the FJC had helped her run from the fear of violence to the safety of a new life ahead.

We look forward to seeing you at our 8th Annual Benefit, Sunday evening, October 29, 2017. Location TBD.



MCFJC Foundation 2017 Calendar of Events

<u>January</u>
<p>Cupboards Need Bears Stuffed Animal Drive <i>Drop off new stuffed animals at the FJC, 600 Jefferson Plz., Rockville, MD, 9am-5pm</i> The MCFJC Foundation provides a new stuffed animal for each child that comes to the FJC for services. The FJC distributes approximately 21 stuffed animals each week. Please help us make sure our cupboards aren't bare.</p>
<p>MCFJC Foundation Benefit Steering Meeting <i>January 26th via Conference Call at 6:30pm</i> Kick-off meeting for 2017 Benefit</p>
<u>February</u>
<p>Walter Johnson P.R.O.V.I.D.E. Teddy Bear Drive Walter Johnson's Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E. is hosting a Teddy Bear Drive to add to Kits for Kids</p>
<u>March</u>
<p>PSA Video Contest <i>Deadline: March 3rd</i> This contest challenges teens to create an original Public Service Announcement (PSA) video to promote awareness of dating abuse and domestic violence among teens. To enter your PSA go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect.html</p>
<u>April</u>
<p>Happy Birthday FJC & MCFJC Foundation!</p>
<p>Choose Respect Montgomery <i>April 4th at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Dr, Rockville, 1pm-4pm (Doors open at noon)</i> The 8th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Conference</p>
<u>May</u>
<p>Walter Johnson P.R.O.V.I.D.E. Toiletries Drive Walter Johnson's Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E. is hosting a toiletries drive to collect items for creating Emergency Care Kits for victims of domestic violence.</p>
<u>June</u>
<p>World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2017 <i>Date TBD at Holiday Park Senior Center</i> The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.</p>
<u>October</u>
<p>8th Annual Benefit <i>October 29th (Location TBD)</i></p>
<u>November</u>
<p>Give Thanks Gift Card Drive Donate gift cards directly to the FJC or go to our website http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org/ to donate funds to purchase Gift Cards for Giant, Safeway, Target, etc.</p>
<u>December</u>
Holiday Drives

7th Annual Benefit Sponsors

Our heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors:

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