



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

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Special Guest Cover Article

**From the Desk
of Elissa
Schwartz,
Executive
Director,
JCADA,
on-site FJC Partner since 2014**



Over the course of their 20 year marriage, "Caroline's" husband became increasingly emotionally abusive and began to stalk her. She decided to leave the relationship, but soon after their divorce was finalized, he repeatedly broke into her home, stole personal items, and left threatening messages. Not knowing where to turn for support, "Caroline" went to the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) in 2015, who after exploring her options with her, connected her with the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) for individual counseling and other support services.

Through her work with JCADA over the past two years, "Caroline" has addressed her physical and emotional safety concerns and has moved forward from her trauma. In addition to her one-on-one therapy with her JCADA clinician, "Caroline" also worked with JCADA's Legal Access Program Director who provided her with information about Criminal Injuries Compensation, stalking, and victim's privacy rights. Recently, "Caroline" shared that she is no longer preoccupied

with fear and despair. Instead, she feels strong, joyful, and resilient. "Caroline's" story is just one of the many individuals who have benefited from the collaboration between JCADA and the FJC.

Since 2014, JCADA has been an onsite partner at the FJC. One day a week, a JCADA clinician provides free individual counseling to help survivors, like "Caroline", heal from their trauma.



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

The advocates at the FJC are also able to refer clients to access JCADA's counseling, legal and case management services at JCADA's confidential office. Many victims of domestic abuse feel overwhelmed when trying to access all the services available to them. Through its partnership with the FJC, JCADA envisions a future in survivors of domestic abuse who seek support will be able to lead safer and healthier lives and move forward on their roads to recovery.

In addition to providing support services, JCADA also works col-

laboratively with the FJC and the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) on its prevention efforts through the annual Choose Respect Conference. JCADA helps to promote healthy relationships and prevent teen dating abuse at the conference, through its signature AWARE® workshops, *It's Not Love®* and #healthyfriendships.

For more than 17 years, JCADA has been a crucial member of the domestic violence services community in the Greater Washington area. Through its free lifesaving counseling services, JCADA has empowered hundreds of survivors, like "Caroline" and so many others who seek support at the FJC, to obtain safer living environments for themselves and their children. JCADA tailors its services to address the cultural and religious barriers that are common to Jewish and other religious and ethnic minorities. JCADA has become a pillar in the community for survivors of domestic violence of all races, national origins, abilities, backgrounds, faiths, genders or sexual orientation. JCADA is proud to be one of the many agencies working collaboratively in the community to alleviate some of the burdens that victims face.

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Elissa Schwartz
Executive Director, JCADA

Meet the Summer 2017 FJC Interns!



From left to right: Anh-Thi Le, Caleb Atkinson-Barnes, and Ashley Noy



Anh-Thi Le (Victim Services Intern) is currently a rising Sophomore at UMD College Park, majoring in Public Health and minoring in Law and Society. After graduation, she hopes to pursue graduate studies or law school and work in the field of public health policy, as she is passionate about finding solutions to health inequalities in minority populations. In her free time, she loves trying new restaurants with her friends, cooking with her mom, and gardening. She is excited for her summer here at the MCFJC and hopes to learn more about domestic violence as both a legal and public health issue.

Caleb Atkinson-Barnes (Victim Services Intern) is going to be a senior at the University of Maryland at College Park this coming fall semester and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology. After finishing his degree and graduating in May 2018 Caleb plans on pursuing a career with the FBI. He loves the outdoors and being on the beach and would love to retire to Costa Rica after a long career.

Ashley Noy (Victim Services Intern) is a senior at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), pursuing her Bachelors in psychology with a minor in social work. After graduating in the winter, Ashley plans on continuing her education and moving forwards with her Masters in Social Work in the field of clinical behavioral health. Ashley looks forward to the new learning experience at the FJC. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys coloring mandalas and reading novels concerning mental health issues.

Lydia Abraham (Victim Services Intern) is entering her final year at University of Maryland, College Park at the Universities of Shady Grove. She will be earning her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. After graduation she plans to take a year off to work and to travel around Europe. Then she would like to go on get a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology. Lydia is excited to gain experience this summer interning at FJC.

Elizabeth Cardinale (Legal Services Intern) is a senior at the University of Delaware majoring in Criminal Justice and Sociology. After graduation in the Spring of 2018 she plans to attend law school. Upon receiving her Juris Doctor degree she plans to enter the sports industry world, and to continue her community service efforts. She is also passionate about her work with helping children with cancer through her involvement with UDance at the University of Delaware. Elizabeth is excited to learn and help many more people this summer at the FJC!



From left to right: Lydia Abraham and Elizabeth Cardinale

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

Welcome Our New FJC Volunteer



Hyun Kim has earned her Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is planning to obtain a Master's degree and PhD degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice in order to become a professor. She is especially interested in violence and terrorism. In her free time, she likes to play piano, ride horses, and surf.

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

Meet the New DVCC Program Manager: Smita Varia



Smita Varia, the Program Manager for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, joined the team in May. She has over 20 years of experience working on intimate partner violence and sexual assault prevention. Most recently, she was the Training and Outreach Specialist at the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She has also worked in the suicide prevention and reproductive and sexual health fields – always exploring the intersectionality between these issues and intimate partner violence and sexual assault. She has run workshops, campaigns and presented at local, state and national gatherings. Smita has her BA in Communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her Masters in Women's Studies from the George Washington University.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Another Record-Breaking Year for Choose Respect Montgomery!

#respectyourselfie2017

On Sunday, April 2nd, nearly 600 students, parents, public officials, educators, youth service providers, and volunteers attended the 8th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Conference, shattering last year's record to become the most well-attended conference to date. Held at Richard Montgomery High School, teens and adults alike walked the pre-conference red carpet and posted selfies with friends and honored guests using #respectyourselfie2017. One of our sponsors, iHeartRadio, was well-represented at the event, with Toby Knapp (HOT 99.5) and Sabrina Conte (97.1 WASH-FM) serving as emcees for the opening and closing sessions of the program, and Lisa Berigan (BIG100), Michael-J (98.7 WMZQ), and Mike Jones (DC101) showing their support with selfies on the red carpet. The opening plenary included a powerful testimonial from a dating violence survivor, and the closing included the unveiling of this year's Public Service Announcement (PSA) Video Contest winners. "Because He Loves Me," submitted by a group from Northwest High School took first place *and* won the first ever "Fan Favorite" award by popular vote, receiving a combined \$1,500 cash prize. Congratulations! The unique, interactive workshop content in the student breakout sessions was developed by JCADA, and once again received overwhelmingly positive reviews. The Choose Respect Conference Planning Committee would like to thank all planning members, committee chairs, partners, staff, and volunteers who made this event possible. We hope you will join us in 2018 for another great event!

Choose Respect is an initiative of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. It is made possible with funding from the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation through a generous grant from Verizon, and is co-sponsored by Montgomery County Public Schools. Other sponsors include iHeartRadio, JCADA, and Zoomph.





Family Justice Center Foundation News

FJC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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- The Honorable
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- The Honorable
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- Hannah Sassoon

STAFF

- Resa Levy
Executive Director
- Kristy Smith Warren
Program Manager

From the Desk of Executive Director, Resa Levy



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

“BREAK the CYCLE of SILENCE” – Raise Your Voice! is the theme for this year’s Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit. This is our 8th Benefit and we are emphasizing two critical points – first we must speak out about the issue of domestic violence and not keep silent. Second – and just as important – we must all work as partners in eradicating the cycle of domestic violence. We are truly “stronger together.”

While our Benefit is an annual event, and is planned for each October as that is Domestic Violence Month, we work throughout the year on interactive teen programs such as “Choose Respect Montgomery,” and provide enhanced psychological services such as “Teen Talk.” Our Send-a-kid to Camp Summer program led one parent to remark “It is a blessing that they will be able to spend the summer with other children their age with amazing activities to do and a great group of people to watch over them.”

Teens are getting more and more engaged in trying to get the word out to their peers about the importance of building healthy relationships. Our Clubs P.R.O.V.I.D.E. programs at Winston Churchill and Walter Johnson High Schools are strong and continue to play an interactive part in several of our events. Special congratulations go to Brook Rosenbauer and Shayna Gutridge, the leadership of Club P.R.O.V.I.D.E. at Winston Churchill High School for submit-

ting the second place winner in the PSA Video contest revealed at the recent ‘Choose Respect’ conference in April.

In the near future we will be announcing this year’s MCFJC Foundation’s Honorees. We are so excited to share with you their names and contributions to the issues surrounding domestic violence.

This summer you will receive your invitation to our Benefit, and we hope you will attend. Be sure to send me an email at resalevy@gmail.com if you do not get yours so that we can update our records with your contact information. Sponsorships are critical to our effort. (Please see the sponsorship form at the end of this newsletter).

We hope you will partner with us and join us for another fantastic, poignant and fun-filled evening!

Please mark your calendar:

MCFJC Foundation
8th Annual Benefit
Sunday evening, October 29, 2017
5:00 – 8:30 PM
Hilton Hotel 1750 Rockville Pike Rockville

On-line registration details will be provided as the time gets closer. Thank you for your wonderful support.

Resa Levy
Executive Director
MCFJC Foundation

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President

PARTNERSHIPS The key word.....

Critical to the MCFJC Foundation being able to truly help in the safety, security and sustainability of the survivors of domestic violence is the relationship that we have with our community partners.

Most recently, we partnered with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation and its Executive Director and former MCFJC Foundation honoree, Gabe Albornoz, in a joint effort with Radio One and held a radiothon to raise funds to "Send-A-Kid to Camp". In the two years since the Foundation has been involved in this project, more than three dozen children have attended a six week camp experience at any number of County Recreation Centers. This project allows the children to be in a safe, structured and positive environment while their parents can go to work.

Our new partnership with DVS Legal Services is working to provide a comprehensive clearing-house approach to include multiple legal partners, all working jointly to provide much needed resources of additional low and pro bono legal services. This partnership allows for the most support possible so that when an FJC client needs representation in any number of critical situations, they have the greatest opportunity to receive the support they need.

Our partnership with Verizon continues to support core projects of the Foundation. Most significantly, our April "Choose Respect-Montgomery," a half day conference for middle and high school students on how to build healthy relationships, was held at Richard Montgomery High School. This is a massive community partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools as well as numerous other entities. The event grows every year, with nearly 600 students, parents, public officials, educators, and youth service providers, attending this year.

We are always seeking new partners to help in our effort to make our community a better, safer place to live. Please see our website at www.mcfjcfoundation.org, or contact our Executive Director, Resa Levy at resa Levy@gmail.com to learn more about how you can join our partnership.

Partnerships are what have helped us to support the work of the Family Justice Center in their outreach effort to the more than 8,000 clients who have come to the FJC since its opening in 2009. We value your partnership and hope we can count on you for years to come.

Thank you,

Tom DeGonia, President
MCFJC Foundation

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

The MCFJC Foundation partners with the MCFJC Foundation, the MC Department of Recreation and Radio One in support of the joint "Send - A - Kid to Camp" Project



A Special Thank You

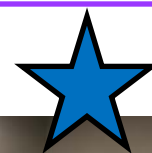
To everyone who supported our online fund-raising drives!

We raised over \$1000 for our “Cupboards Need Bears” and “Mother’s Day” drives.

When we combine our efforts, we are #StrongerTogether2017!

Additional thank yous to the following groups who donated hundreds and hundreds of new stuffed animals, toys, books, clothes and handmade items:

- American Sewing Guild, Maryland Chapter, Rockville Morning Pin-Ups
- Group Bar-T
- Enterprise
- Katie Hall & Fitzgerald Auto Malls
- Potomac Kiwanis Club
- Harriet Rosenberg
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc



Kits for Kids!

Fill em up!

with pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, brushes, soap, toothpaste and more!

Families fleeing from an abusive relationship have almost nothing. Help us fill up our Kits for Kidz so they have bare essentials for summer, for school, for life.

Go to our website to donate today!

www.mcfjcfoundation.org



MCFJC Foundation 2017 Calendar of Events

June

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2017

1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD

Join us for a day of important information and fun! Exhibitors and presentations on topics such as resources for seniors, technology, personal and financial safety.

MCFJC Foundation Benefit Steering Meeting

June 28th at 5:45 pm
Rockville Hilton

July

MCFJC Foundation Benefit Steering Meeting

July 19th at 5:45 pm via conference call

August

MCFJC Foundation Benefit Steering Meeting

August 16th at 6 pm via conference call

Catherine Leggett and the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation invites you to our



8th Annual Benefit
BREAK the CYCLE of SILENCE
Raise Your Voice!

Rockville Hilton Hotel
Sunday, October 29, 2017
5:00-8:30 pm

One great night benefitting countless lives! Join us to honor the men and women on the front lines of transforming the lives of domestic violence survivors, and help the Foundation raise funds to enhance the Family Justice Center's (FJC) vital programs that have helped more than 8,000 victims and their families since the Center's opening in 2009.

We are STRONGER TOGETHER

To find out more see our website at www.mcfjcfoundation.org
or contact Resa Levy, Executive Director resalevy@gmail.com
or 301-509-6832



Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation's
8th Annual Benefit for the Montgomery County Family Justice Center

BREAK *the* CYCLE of SILENCE

Raise Your Voice!

Sunday, October 29, 2017 • Rockville Hilton

#strongertogether2017

Sponsorship Form

Stronger TOGETHER

Leadership Circle \$25,000

10 tickets to Benefit

All benefits listed below plus:

- Media announcement of your gift
- Presentation of Special Certificate to Company
- Opportunity for one representative to serve on Foundation Advisory Board

Community Builder – Gold \$15,000

10 tickets to Benefit

All benefits listed below plus:

- VIP recognition at all Foundation events
- Your name on appropriate FJC Foundation printed materials

Community Builder – Silver \$10,000

10 tickets to Benefit

All benefits listed below plus:

- VIP recognition at Benefit
- Logo on our website with a link to your company
- Periodic visibility on Facebook or Twitter
- Premier table placement
- Mention in Benefit Press Releases
- Special mention in quarterly joint FJC/FJC Foundation e-newsletter

Community Partner \$5,000

8 tickets to Benefit

All benefits listed below plus:

- Podium recognition at benefit
- Logo recognition on foundation website
- Trainings for your group or establishment based on protocols developed

Community Advocate Gold \$ 2,500

6 tickets to Benefit

All benefits listed below plus:

- Opportunity to work with Foundation to develop or update your company's domestic violence protocols

Community Advocate Silver – Business \$ 1,500

Community Advocate Silver – Nonprofit \$ 1,000

4 tickets to Benefit

All benefits listed below plus:

- Table tent recognition at Benefit
- Speakers Bureau opportunity to have a speaker at your next event or meeting

Friend \$500

2 Tickets to Benefit

- All evening sponsor scroll recognition

Individual Ticket \$125

Please select your payment options

☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to MCFJC Foundation

☐ To pay by credit card, visit our website
www.mcfjcfoundation.org or contact
Kristy Smith Warren at 202-294-7503 or
email her at klwsmith@gmail.com

Please help us defray expenses by writing a check

Contact Person

Organization

Street Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail address

Daytime Phone

Please return this form no later than Monday, October 16, 2017.

Please mail to Resa Levy, Executive Director, MCFJC Foundation,
PO Box 10692, Rockville, Maryland 20849
or email this form back to Resa at resalevy@gmail.com

Questions or comments? Contact Resa at 301-509-6832

The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, registered in the State of Maryland. As such, all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.