



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

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Contributors:

Tom DeGonia
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From the Desk of Sheriff Darren Popkin

When I look around at all of the amazing work being done to serve and protect victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County, I cannot help but feel a great sense of pride in the collaborative spirit that is so readily apparent here. Between all of the Family Justice Center (FJC) partners, the FJC Foundation and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC), Montgomery County truly is the place to see real partnerships at work in Maryland.

One June 11th, the county hosted two senior safety events – one in Rockville and one in Wheaton – to commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. When people think about domestic violence, elder abuse may not be what immediately comes to mind, but it is an extremely serious component of domestic violence that cannot be ignored. Each year, 1 in 10 older Americans becomes the victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation. In Montgomery County, several of our on-site partners at the FJC assist both victims of intimate partner domestic violence and victims of elder abuse and neglect. I am proud to work alongside these individuals who labor so diligently to protect senior citizens and other vulnerable adults in our community.

Domestic violence affects people of all ages, and the DVCC's teen outreach efforts are continuing to expand. The Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM)

program, which started as a pilot program at Springbrook High School last year, will be expanded to Montgomery Blair High School next year. CBIM is a national program that was developed by Futures Without Violence, and engages athletics coaches to help shape the attitudes and behaviors of young male athletes. Coaches play an extremely influential role in the lives of young men, and are in a unique position to influence how



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

their players think both on and off the field. The program is a huge success at Springbrook, and I look forward to its continued growth throughout the county.

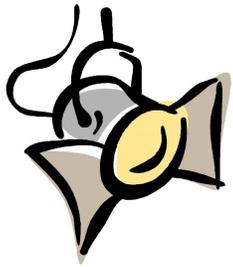
I am also pleased to report that a work group has been established to look at an issue that many see as a significant gap in domestic violence victim services in Montgomery County: supervised visitation and monitored exchange. Currently, no county program offers these services to families exposed to domestic violence. These situations are extremely volatile, and asking parents to exchange or visit with children in an unsecure or

unsupervised environment can be extremely high-risk. This newly-created work group will explore ways to establish supervised visitation and monitored exchange programs for domestic violence victims, and I hope to have more to report in the future as this process progresses.

Word of our efforts on behalf of domestic violence victims in Montgomery County is continuing to spread, even internationally! On May 15th, the U.S. Department of State sent a delegation from the Near East and North Africa to the Family Justice Center as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program. The delegation received a full tour of the facility and participated in a Q&A session with representatives from the Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office and Police Department. The feedback was extremely positive, and the State Department has already expressed interest in sending additional delegations to the FJC in the future.

As always, thank you to the many FJC partners, the Family Justice Center Foundation, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, and all those who work so tirelessly to protect and serve victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County. Have a happy and safe summer.

--
Darren M. Popkin
Sheriff



Family Justice Center
Spotlight Feature:

Comings and Goings at
Catholic Charities



When Debi Sanders joined Catholic Charities, she already had an impressive record of accomplishment. In subsequent roles as an attorney with CLINIC, and founder and executive director of the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIR), she advocated for meaningful access to justice for numerous individuals. At Catholic Charities, she played a key role in establishing the immigration legal intake program at the Family Justice Center of Montgomery County, where abused immigrant women are now being represented by pro bono counsel. As one of the first partners to collaborate with the Family Justice Center, Debi organized attorneys and law firms to pro-



vide screening of victims for relief under the immigration laws.

Debi's work on behalf of others has been recognized through numerous honors and awards. Last year the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation's Inspiring Leader's Award was awarded to Catholic Charities in recognition of Debi's work. The award is given to "An individual or organization whose

inspiring leadership has helped reduce the scourge of domestic violence and furthered the ideals of the Family Justice Center in keeping families safe, giving them hope, and a new start." As Debi retires from Catholic Charities she leaves a legacy of programs that provide help to those in need. Jim Feroli an experienced immigration attorney has been hired to take her place as the new pro bono coordinator for Catholic Charities. Jim is a long time Catholic Charities volunteer and is committed to helping fulfill the mission of the Family Justice Center to provide protection for families victimized by domestic violence.

TOYS!
TOYS!
TOYS!



We would like to extend a **HUGE** FJC "Thank You" to the Middleton Family (left) and the Meyer Family (right) for donating brand new toys, games and stuffed animals to the Family Justice Center. Thanks to the incredible generosity of these families, we can put a smile on the faces of dozens of children who are going through a very difficult time. On behalf of all of us here at the FJC: Thank you for your kindness!



Sheriff's Office Recognized by Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention



Each year, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention hosts an awards luncheon to show appreciation and recognition to individuals, agencies and organizations who do work on behalf of crime victims in Maryland. The Family Division of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office was recognized this year as a group in the Outstanding Victim Services Professional category. This award recognizes outstanding work done in the area of victim advocacy and services that exceeds expected work responsibilities, and exemplifies a high level of commitment and dedication to the field of victims' services and to the victims themselves. **Congratulations!**

Continuing Education: There's Always More to Learn!

No matter how many years you have on the job, or how many cases you have seen, or how many stories you can tell, there is always more to learn! On April 29, 2014, the Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, sponsored a training entitled: "Strangulation: A Multi-Disciplinary Response" at the Universities at Shady Grove. Attendees came



from a wide array of county agencies, programs and community organizations to listen to presentations by Audrey Bergin and Roz Berkowitz. This informative training focused on identifying symptoms and treatments of strangulation, recognizing the prevalence of strangulation in domestic violence, and a review of screening, assessment and documentation best

practices.

The seminar received excellent reviews from all who participated. Special thanks go to Bill Schlossenberg, Taishan Blige, and the rest of the staff at the Universities at Shady Grove who were so accommodating and helpful during the entire event. The Sheriff's Office looks forward to working with community partners to sponsor more trainings on a wide array of topics related to domestic violence in the future. After all, you can never stop learning!

“Movers for Moms” Program Benefits FJC Clients!

Every spring, TWO MEN AND A TRUCK franchises all over the country collect and deliver donations to local women’s and family shelters, and other similar establishments on or before Mother’s Day. This annual charity drive is called “Movers for Moms,” and according to the TWO MEN AND A TRUCK WEBSITE, it has continued to expand and grow every year. This year, the TWO MEN AND A TRUCK franchise in Rockville partnered with the MCFJC Foundation and collected donations for the Family Justice Center. The program received a great deal of support from the community, including from students at Maryvale Elementary School (pictured).



As we all know, the Moms that come to the Family Justice Center are going through unfathomable struggles, and facing countless challenges. But thanks to the generosity of TWO MEN AND A TRUCK, the Family Justice Center is able to not only provide services and support, but also much-needed supplies. Many, many thanks to TWO MEN AND A TRUCK, and everyone in the community who contributed to this year’s “Movers for Moms” donation drive. On behalf of all FJC clients, thank you all for your kindness and generosity. Much of what we offer to our clients would not be possible without your support!



Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council on the continued expansion and success of their teen outreach initiatives! During the 2013-2014 school year, the Choose Respect Initiative, which includes in-class curriculum presentations, the annual Healthy Teen Dating conference, and annual PSA video contest, reached a record 2,000+ students! Plans are already underway to make 2014-2015 another record-breaking year...



Family Justice Center Foundation News

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From the Desk of the MCFJC Foundation Executive Director, Resa Levy



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

This year we celebrate the 5th anniversary of the MCFJC and the MCFJC Foundation. We do so with the recognition and understanding that it is because of our supporters and friends that we have been able to accomplish so much in such a short period of time.

There are many worthwhile organizations doing outstanding work in our County. With that in mind, I am always humbled when the work of the Family Justice Center and the Family Justice Center Foundation becomes the recipient of an individual, foundation or corporate gift. What is even more gratifying is when that support continues year in and year out.

There are many people who are impacted by violence at home, but none the more so than children who are exposed to those horrors every day of their lives. Studies show that three to four million children between the ages of three and seventeen are at risk of this type of exposure each year. If untreated, these children go on to experience a vast array of emotional, physical, psychological and behavioral issues as a result of this exposure.

Most recently, Verizon Wireless Hopeline Foundation, who has adopted the issue of domestic violence as one of their key initiatives, has provided the MCFJC Foundation with a significant grant that will be used to help provide psychological services to these children. Our thanks and gratitude for the unending support from Verizon throughout these initial five years. No doubt, it has been partly

through Verizon's generosity that programs and projects could be established that helped to save the lives of women, children and families affected by domestic violence.

Thanks also to the Cross and Shaw Family Foundations. Each of these multi-year supporters have shown their tremendous commitment to the work of the MCFJC and the MCFJC Foundation by supporting our various and growing patchwork of initiatives, programs and projects. The greatest compliment we can receive is the multi-year commitment from these foundations as it is those commitments that tell us that what we are doing together is truly "making a difference."

GEICO Philanthropic Foundation, Kaiser Permanente Foundation and Pepco Foundation, as well as others, continue to support our work every year. We now welcome one our newest multi-year committed Corporate donors, Enterprise Holdings. Enterprise is not only helping to fund our work, but also engaging their individual area locations in ways to support the work of the MCFJC and the MCFJC Foundation.

Thank you to all the individuals and foundations – both corporate and family - who have continued to support the work of the MCFJC Foundation. We look forward to working together with you during the next five years in the hopes that eventually we will end the scourge of domestic violence.

--
Resa Levy
Executive Director
MCFJC Foundation

From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President

Our May 5th birthday party marked five years of partnership and growth between the MCFJC, the MCFJC Foundation and our numerous community partners. Our joint accomplishments have been extensive.

The MCFJC has seen more than 5,500 clients. With equipment purchased from Verizon Wireless grants, we have been able to conduct over 600 video conferences between the District and the Circuit Court and the MCFJC. We have also sponsored the printing of over 5,000 palm cards – in multiple languages - for first responders to hand out discretely. Furthermore, we have distributed more than one thousand children’s books from numerous community and civic groups. Finally, we’ve provided emergency transportation for MCFJC clients to bring

them to safety.

Individuals, family and corporate foundations, bar associations, civic and community clubs, Montgomery College, numerous attorneys, and so many more have contributed to the effort. Most recently, the MCFJC and the MCFJC Foundation, working together with companies and groups such as Enterprise Holdings, Inc., Two Men and a Truck, and Leadership Montgomery, have created projects that gather needed personal grooming items for MCFJC clients such as baby diapers, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and more.

So what plans do we have for the next five years?

The Foundation’s role is to enhance the work of the MCFJC. We respond specifically to the needs of the MCFJC and its clients. We will continue to raise awareness through our Business and Community Initiatives. We are also working with Montgomery College to help MCFJC clients

move from crisis to sustainability through education. Furthermore, we continue to expand support of our Safe Start program providing psychological services and art therapy to children who have been exposed to domestic violence. Finally, we provide children with books and toys throughout the year – but especially during holiday times.

We hope you will join us for our 5th Annual Benefit on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the HYATT Regency Bethesda. Information about our benefit, plus many other exciting activities that the MCFJC Foundation is accomplishing, can be found on our website at www.mcfjcfoundation.org.

Thank you for an incredible “first five!”

--
Tom DeGonia II
President
MCFJC Foundation



Out and About with the MCFJC Foundation

Through its Business and Community Initiatives, the MCFJC Foundation continues to expand its partnerships with dozens of companies and civic groups around the County. Chair, Alicia Doherty, leads our Speakers Bureau by arranging for presentations by Sheriff Darren Popkin and Foundation Board Members.

Several goals of this joint effort include: bringing information about the MCFJC’s one-stop shop philosophy for access to services; raising awareness about the impact on a business’s bottom line when an employee is faced with the

perils of being in an abusive relationship; and reaching out to all cultural groups.

Sheriff Popkin and MCFJC Foundation Board Members have spoken to numerous Rotary Clubs, Lion’s Clubs, Women Business Owners, Chambers of Commerce and other civic groups. These presentations have already sparked interest in additional speaking engagements.

If you or your group have an interest in learning about these presentations, please email the Foundation at mcfjcfoundation.org@gmail.com.

Updates from the MCFJC Foundation's Lawyers Initiative

Thank you to the 20 area attorneys who recently attended the free training on Protective Orders, U Visas and VAWA issues. This was the Initiative's second training, and was put on by our partners at House of Ruth Maryland and Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services. All attendees have generously agreed to take at least two pro bono cases each for MCFJC clients. The MCFJC Foundation provided all materials, including an MCFJC thumb drive and free lunch. This training was so successful that two of the attorneys had pro bono cases before leaving the building.



The MCFJC Foundation plans to sponsor their next free training on Thursday, October 2, 2014 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Please check our website at www.mcfjcfoundation.org for additional details and other events sponsored by the MCFJC Foundation.

Attendance at the training is not a prerequisite to volunteering your legal services. To learn more, or to express your interest in the next training, please contact Amy Palumbo at ashaw-palumbo@gmail.com.

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Thank you to all our most recent donors and sponsors.
We truly could not do what we do without your help!

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Two Men and A Truck

MCFJC FOUNDATION'S 5TH ANNUAL BENEFIT!

Sunday, October 19, 2014
at the
Hyatt Regency Bethesda

COMING SOON:

**“Save the Date” e-mails
have been sent!
Watch for your invitation in the
coming weeks!**

**Check out the
next page to
see a list of
this year's
honorees!**



The 5th ANNUAL MCFJC FOUNDATION BENEFIT WILL HONOR KEY COMMUNITY LEADERS



At our Annual Benefit each year, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation recognizes those individuals, corporations and community partners who have helped to advance the movement to end domestic violence. On Sunday, October 19, 2014, at the 5th Annual Benefit the following individuals and organizations will be recognized for their outstanding work:

The Marilyn J. Praisner Founders Award will be presented to Ms. Jo Ann Ricchiuti.

This award is given to an individual who has shown active commitment to furthering the mission of the MC Family Justice Center through his or her personal support, as well as engaging and inspiring other organizations and individuals within the community. Jo Ann is receiving this award for her vision in creating and designing the MCFJC facility that enhanced the ability for law enforcement, social services and private partnerships to work together for the best possible outcome for all and allowed for ground breaking innovations. Jo Ann continues to support the mission of the MCFJC by serving on the Board of Directors of the MCFJC Foundation and leads the Arts Initiative.

The Forerunner Award will be presented to the Honorable Ida G. Ruben, former Maryland State Senator.

This award is given to an individual who has been instrumental in combating domestic violence and working for the protection of its survivors.

Ida is receiving this award for her decades long work in the area of domestic violence. Long before it entered the mainstream of the community's consciousness, Ida worked on bringing forth legislation to help end the scourge of family violence. She continued to be a leader on this issue for decades and currently serves on the MCFJC Foundation's Advisory Board.

The Community Partnership Award will be presented to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), under the leadership of Director Uma Ahluwalia.

This award is presented to a Business leader or organization that has engaged in support of the mission of the Family Justice Center, has adopted as part of its own mission to raise awareness of domestic violence and encourage its colleagues to reach out in partnership efforts.

The DHHS has continually reached out to different cultures in the community to help address the issue of domestic violence in a culturally sensitive way. They have collaborated with multiple partners and groups to raise awareness about the issue and to help stem the violence within all communities.

The Inspiring Leader Award will be presented to Mr. Art Wallenstein, Director, Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.

This award is presented to an individual or organization whose inspiring leadership has helped reduce the scourge of domestic violence and further the ideas of the Family Justice Center in keeping families safe, giving them hope, and a new start.

Art is receiving this award for his tremendous leadership and full understanding that supervision of offenders is incomplete without addressing the safety of victims. Art has created and sustained extraordinary collaborations among his many partners and colleagues.

The Corporate Legacy Award will be presented to Enterprise Holdings, Inc.

This award is presented to a business leader who has engaged in philanthropic contributions and support of the Family Justice Center and has adopted the issue of its mission to raise awareness of domestic violence and encourages its colleagues to reach out in volunteer efforts.

Enterprise is being recognized for its generosity in making a multi-year commitment to the MC Family Justice Center Foundation, as well as for its outreach to the entire area of Enterprise Store locations to conduct a "Diaper Drive" to help the mothers and children who come to the MC Family Justice Center in need.