



Montgomery County Family Justice Center

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

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From the Desk of Sheriff Darren M. Popkin

After five years of operation, more than 5,000 clients and the recent expansion to occupy the entire 5th floor of 600 Jefferson Plaza in Rockville, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center has a lot to celebrate when we host our 5th Birthday Party on Monday, May 5th at 5:00pm. We look forward to celebrating with all of our FJC partners and supporters, and will provide additional details in the coming weeks.

What makes the FJC truly innovative is the unparalleled level of teamwork that goes into providing comprehensive services and support to victims of domestic violence in our county. Victim safety is our number one priority, and I am pleased to announce that the Family Division of the Sheriff's Office was selected to receive a 2014 Governor's Victim Assistance Award in recognition of its contributions to the field of victim services. The FJC faces new challenges every day, but through the exceptional level of determination and teamwork among the highly trained and caring staff and partners, the FJC is able to provide hope, support and safety to all its clients.

As we work to bring safety and security to Montgomery County residents, we must recognize that outreach to our youth is a top priority. Only

by addressing the issue of dating abuse among teenagers can we truly bring an end to the cycle of domestic violence. On February 23rd, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) hosted the 5th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference on Montgomery College's Takoma Park Campus. Nearly 300 students, parents and youth service



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

providers attended this important event, funded by the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation through its partnership with Verizon Wireless and Montgomery College. Hot 99.5 DJ Toby Knapp and NBC4 News Reporter Jackie Bensen served as emcees again this year, and the interactive conference workshops started an important dialogue among all attendees about teen dating abuse. Students learned how to identify and promote healthy relationships in their own lives and what to do if they suspect a

friend is in an abusive relationship. Parents learned how to talk to their kids about this important issue, and how to help if their child is a victim of dating abuse. Special thanks to the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) for developing and adapting this year's workshops. This event truly makes a difference in people's lives, which is why I am proud to be a part of it every year. Planning for next year's 6th annual conference is already underway, but in the meantime, the DVCC will continue its outreach efforts to teenagers through the Choose Respect Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum presentations. In the last year alone, the curriculum has reached 2,000 Montgomery County teens. Thank you to all those who continue make the Choose Respect initiative a huge success.

At the FJC, our commitment to client safety and security is without equal, and much of what we do would not be possible without daily collaboration among the many dedicated partners we have on and off-site. The FJC has come a long way in five years, and I look forward to working with all of our partners as we continue to serve and grow.

—
Darren M. Popkin, Sheriff



**Family Justice Center
Spotlight Feature:**

**Meet the Montgomery County
Pre-Trial Services Chief
Angela Talley!**



Angela Talley is the Chief of the Montgomery County Pre-Trial Services Division located in Rockville, Maryland. She manages all Pre-Trial programs including the Pre-Trial Assessment Unit located at the Montgomery County Detention Center, which makes release recommendation to the Courts; Pre-Trial Diversion programs, which offer opportunities for education and treatment services to first time offenders; and the Pre-Trial Supervision program, which monitors defendants in the community. Angela is a veteran manager of community corrections, offender assessment and case management with over 23 years of service dedicated to the criminal justice system. Most of Angela's tenure with the Montgomery County Government has been spent within the Department of Correction and



Rehabilitation, where she spent 20 years with Pre-Release and Reentry Services working with the offenders transitioning back into the community. Additionally, she has prior experience with the Department of Health and Human Services for Montgomery County, managing Juvenile Justice Services, Screening and Assessment Services for Children and Adolescents and the Substance Abuse Prevention Programs. She also managed two jail based programs for the Department of Health and Human Services: Jail Addiction and Clinician Assessment and Transition Services. Angela Talley holds a Bachelors Degree in Family Studies from University of Maryland, College Park and is currently working on her post-graduate degree in Criminal Justice/Management.

The FJC has EXPANDED!

The important, life-saving work done at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center is made possible through the collaborative spirit of numerous county agencies and community organizations. The FJC is fortunate to have so many on-site partners providing a wide array of services to victims of domestic violence and their families. Now, the center has room to grow even larger.

We are excited to announce that the FJC has expanded its office space and now occupies the entire 5th floor of 600 Jefferson Plaza in Rockville. The new space includes an additional conference room and offices for the Sheriff's



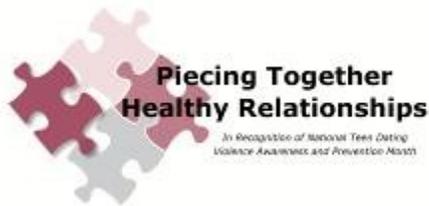
"Not only do we have additional office space, but we now have the opportunity to include more community partners to provide much-needed services for our clients."

-Darren M. Popkin, Sheriff

Office Victim Case Managers and administrative personnel. This relocation of staff will allow for the reorganization and expansion of other FJC on-site partners and services.

"We are thrilled with this expansion," says Sheriff Darren M. Popkin, "Not only do we have additional office space, but we now have the opportunity to include more community partners to provide much-needed services for our clients." Special thanks go to Geoff Parr (Facilities Manager, Sheriff's Office), Christine Goon (IT Manager, Sheriff's Office) and all those involved in the planning, development and implementation of the recent expansion.

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) Encourages Teens to “Choose Respect”



The 5th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference was held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 from 1:00pm – 4:30pm at the Montgomery College Takoma Park Campus in the Cultural Arts Center. Nearly 300 Montgomery County students, parents and youth service providers were in attendance at this amazing event, hosted by Hot 99.5

DJ Toby Knapp and NBC4 News Reporter Jackie Bensen. This year’s theme was “Piecing Together Healthy Relationships.” In order to break the cycle of domestic violence, it is crucial that teens not only understand the various components that make up healthy and unhealthy relationships, but also recognize the differences.

Attendees participated in brand new, interactive workshops developed by the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) that sparked important discussions about the many forms that dating abuse can take, including physical, emotional, sexual, financial and technological. Dancers from the Eclipse Dance Company performed three powerful routines related to domestic violence, and Councilmember Phil Andrews presented a proclamation from the County Council recognizing February 2014 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in Montgomery County.

The Choose Respect Conference was made possible by the MCFJC Foundation through its partnership with

Verizon Wireless and Montgomery College. The DVCC would like to thank David Sears, Jim Walters, Montgomery College, Toby Knapp, Jackie Bensen, JCADA, Chesapeake Counseling Associates, the Teen and Young Adult Health Connection, Eclipse Performing Dance Company, our wonderful workshop facilitators, and all those involved in planning this fantastic event. The 5th Annual Choose Respect Conference was a huge success!



Teen Talk



Last Fall, the Family Justice Center Foundation was awarded a grant called “Teen Talk” through its partnership with Verizon Wireless. This grant provides individual counseling services for teens. Adolescents exposed to domestic violence are at a greater risk of experiencing psychological, academic, and behavioral issues. The FJC identifies teen participants from the county whose families have been referred to the center. Counseling is a safe and confidential place where teens can learn to use effective coping strategies. Counselors work with them using talk therapy techniques to

process their feelings, increase their coping skills, identify behavioral solutions to problems, and engage in constructive communication techniques.

The feedback from teens and parents has been very positive and we anticipate that there will be maximum participation over the course of the grant term. Many of the families have indicated that it would not be possible for them to utilize or afford counseling without the help of the “Teen Talk.” They are greatly appreciative of the support that the program provides. “Teen Talk” is another way

that the FJC is able to extend its assistance throughout the community. We would like to give a tremendous THANK YOU to Verizon and the MCFJC Foundation for making this amazing program possible.

—
Mindy Thiel, PhD, LCSW-C
Director
Chesapeake Counseling Associates, LLC



Holiday Miracles at the FJC!

Special Thanks To...

*OLBN

*Montgomery County Bar Association

*Montgomery College

*Sodexo

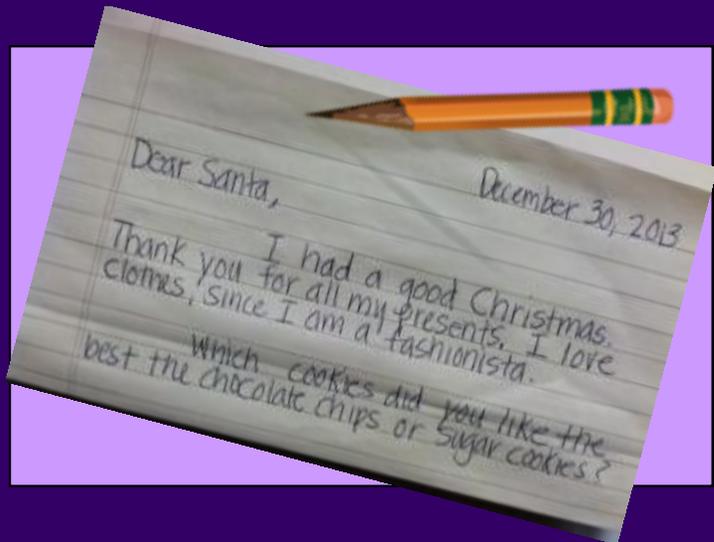
*Crittenton Services of Greater Washington

*Phi Eta Pi sorority

*Rismiller Law Group, LLC

*Enterprise Holdings

...for your kindness and generosity! On behalf of all FJC families, thank you for making the holidays a little brighter this year!





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
Treasurer
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- Catherine Leggett
- Melanie Ortel
- Jo Ann Ricchiuti
- Hannah Sassoon
- Lewis Selis

**FJC
FOUNDATION
ADVISORY
BOARD MEMBERS**

- The Honorable
Sharon 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



Happy 5th Birthday!
You are cordially invited...



Resa Levy
MCFJC Foundation
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to invite you to something very special – something that YOU made happen!

At 5:00 pm on Monday evening May 5th (That's five pm on the fifth day of the fifth month!) The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation will host its Fifth Birthday Party in celebration of the more than 5,000 clients who have come through the doors of the Family Justice Center since it first opened on May 19, 2009.

We truly cannot thank you enough - YOU - our amazing donors and supporters throughout these first years. Special thanks to Verizon Wireless Foundation, a truly phenomenal partner, GEICO Philanthropic Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, the Cross and Shaw Family Foundations, as well as the many wonderful businesses, partner organizations, law firms, foundations and individuals who have been involved, engaged and caring. With your support the MCFJC Foundation has been better able to offer

our support to the incredible FJC staff and partners as they help the clients towards their immediate needs of safety, then on to security and finally to sustainability.

This will be a special time to thank and recognize those who have “made it happen,” to hear some stories of those who have been most impacted by the work of the Center and the efforts of the Foundation and to learn about new ideas as well as exciting outcomes of our current initiatives.

The event will be held from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Delightful refreshments will be served and – of course – a birthday cake.

Details will be provided in future emails, but one thing is certain – you will have the opportunity to tour the Center’s newly expanded offices so that the FJC now has – no need to guess – the entire 5th floor of course!

Thank you all,
Resa

—
Resa Levy,
Executive Director

From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



Thomas DeGonia
MCFJC
Foundation
President

“What exactly is the role of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation in our community?” is a question that often comes up in conversations about the Family Justice Center.

The Foundation’s overall mission, along with all of the partners of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (MCFJC), is to help survivors move from needing immediate, emergency services for safety, to a more secure living situation, and, ultimately, to a completely self-sustaining life style. As a 501(c) (3) non-profit, the MCFJC Foundation raises funds and awareness through our partnerships with businesses, family foundations, civic organizations and individuals to support the life-saving work of the MCFJC.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injuries to women, more than all others combined. One in five teenage girls in a relationship reports that a boyfriend threatened violence or self-harm.

Through our partnership with Verizon Wireless, the MCFJC Foundation is able to fund a major prevention initiative: the Choose Respect Teen Conference. Over 300 pre-teens and teens attend this day-long prevention and education program each year. Another partner, Montgomery College, generously hosts and provides the physical space for the program. The college also works one-on-one with individual MCFJC clients and, through the Foundation, provides educational guidance and financial support.

The Foundation supports an Arts Engagement Initiative for children who witness domestic violence. This program allows children to experience art as a therapeutic means to their well-being. Additionally, the Foundation has secured funds for a program entitled “Teen Talk” which provides individual therapy for pre-teens and teens suffering from the aftermath of witnessing violence in their families.

Through our partnerships and outreach, local Rotary Clubs generously provided funding and met the needs for specific items such as pajamas and coats for the children who come to the MCFJC

for emergency services. Many other individuals, clubs and groups donate through the Foundation to meet other immediate needs of children such as scarves, mittens, teddy bears, blankets, food and more.

The continued support of our legal community, including the various Bar Associations, law firms and individual attorneys, allows us to provide some pro bono legal services to those most in need. Both the Montgomery County Executive and the Montgomery County Council also support our efforts. To all of our supporters, we are most grateful.

So, to answer the question, “Our role is to provide, through the determined efforts of our Foundation board, supporters and partners, all of the help and aid we can to the hard working men and women of the MCFJC in their continuing efforts to break the cycle of domestic violence and to build a better, safer community for everyone.”

—
Tom DeGonia
President

Lawyer’s Initiative

A great big **THANK YOU** goes out to the fifteen attorneys who attended the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation’s November first-time training on both Protective Orders and Immigration. The training was offered through our partners at House of Ruth Maryland and Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services.

The Foundation’s mission is to raise awareness and funds for the work of the Family Justice Center (FJC). Through the generosity and kindness of our donors, and due to the commitment of these fifteen attorneys who have agreed to assume a minimum of four pro bono cases a year, the Foundation agreed to pay the \$250 fee for these

attorneys to be included in the Lawyer Referral Service which is sponsored by the Montgomery County Bar Association.



This effort is a giant step in the Foundation’s goal of assisting the FJC in finding legal aid for the clients who need the representation. According to FJC Foundation’s Vice President, attorney

Maura Lynch, as well as the Foundation’s Program Manager, attorney Amy Palumbo, both of whom worked so diligently on this important initiative, “the first training was such a big success and held such great interest that the Foundation has decided to hold four trainings a year.”

Attendance at the training is **not a prerequisite** to volunteering your legal services. To learn more, or to express your interest in future trainings, please contact Amy Palumbo at ashawpalumbo@gmail.com.

Rotary Club Partnership with the FJC and FJC Foundation

Rotary Clubs across Montgomery County have welcomed Sheriff Darren Popkin and FJC Foundation board members to speak about domestic violence and relationship abuse and how victims can obtain an array of free services provided by the Family Justice Center.

As part of our Foundation's Business Initiative, we reached out to the Rotarians and offered to speak about this serious issue. They could not have been more receptive and willing to learn more about how they could be involved and help. We would like to personally thank the following Rotarians for making these speaking engagements possible:

**Darrin Campen, President
Rockville Rotary Club**

**Stephanie Fenner, President
Olney Rotary Club**

**Barton Goldenberg, President
Metro Bethesda Rotary Club**

**Don Harrison, President
Potomac Rotary Club**

**Dale Howard, President
Montgomery Village Rotary Club**

**Tom Leuchtenburg, President
Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club**

**Nick Martinez, President
North Bethesda Rotary Club**

**John Scheirer, President
Silver Spring Rotary Club**

The Olney Rotary Club held a pajama and Pampers drive for the babies and toddlers that come to the FJC and the Potomac Rotary Club made a \$1,000 donation to the FJC Foundation to advance our work. If you are interested in donating, providing necessities for victims, or have speaking engagements available, please contact Lee Doherty at adoherty@blhtech.com or 240-399-8732. We are truly thankful for all of the community support we have received.

Thanks to all!

—
Lee Doherty
MCFJC Foundation Board Member
Chair, Business Initiative

**“Strangulation:
A Multi-Disciplinary
Response”**

**Tuesday,
April 29, 2014**

12:30pm-3:00pm
(Registration at Noon)

**The Universities
at Shady Grove**

RSVP to:
Daryl.Leach@montgomerycountymd.gov

From the Montgomery
County Sheriff's Office

**Mark
Your
Calendars!**

From the Montgomery
County FJC Foundation

**The 5th Annual
MCFJC Foundation
Benefit**

will be held on

**Sunday,
October 19, 2014**

from

5:00 pm-9:00 pm

at the

**HYATT
Regency
Bethesda**

Our Wonderful Sponsors...

What does your gift mean to someone?

We know that there are many worthwhile organizations to whom you could offer your kindness. Knowing that, we are especially grateful that you have selected us to be the recipient of your generosity. In addition to the seamless scope of critical, life-saving services all under-one-roof, here's a small sampling of what your recent gifts have provided:

- Winter coats for children who were without
- "Courage Lion" stuffed animals with a "secret wish" pocket for children exposed to domestic violence
- Psychological services for children exposed to domestic violence
- Pro Bono Legal Services
- Grocery Store gift cards
- "Emergency Kits" filled with diapers, baby bottles, etc.
- Hundreds of new children's books and Teddy Bears

We are most grateful to the following new or continuing sponsors:

Verizon Wireless
 Montgomery County
 Montgomery College
 Al Simon
 Ida Ruben
 Burlington Coat Factory
 Ethridge, Quinn, Kemp, McAuliffe, Rowan & Hartinger Law Partnership
 Alicia Doherty
 Enterprise Holdings
 Potomac Rotary Charities, Inc.
 Olney Rotary Club
 OLBN Architectural Services
 Montgomery County Bar Associations
 Women Who Care Ministries
 Sodexo
 Crittenden Services of Greater Washington
 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Pi Zeta Chapter
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