



# Montgomery County Family Justice Center

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

### 4TH ANNUAL MCFJC BENEFIT

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## From the Desk of State's Attorney John McCarthy

*"The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die."*

Inspirational words uttered by Senator Edward (Ted) Kennedy at the Democratic National Convention in 1980. While clearly the context of those words was different, the spirit of that phrase has always seemed to describe accurately the work that is done to address the scourge of domestic violence.

As a community, Montgomery County has banded together to address the prevalence of domestic violence through the establishment of the Family Justice Center (FJC). While we certainly have advantages over many communities in the United States, even here in Montgomery County, almost one in four women and just over one in ten men report being victims of domestic violence at the hands of a current or former partner. Additionally, one in three teens experience some form of dating abuse.

We are fortunate in Montgomery County to have a one-stop-shop for victims of domestic violence. This year,

the State's Attorney's Office successfully advocated to bring the Montgomery County Police Department's Family Crimes Division to the FJC, so that crimes could be immediately investigated on-site in real time. The police unit joins many public and private partners providing services to the victims of domestic violence at a single location.



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

But our work continues. Domestic violence continues to exist in our community. Simply ask one of the more than five thousand people who have already received the services of the FJC. The need for critical and creative self evaluation is essential in assessing our ability to provide Montgomery County with the finest of services to the victims of domestic violence. We are the model for Maryland and increasingly for

some international groups that have visited the FJC to try and learn what the best practices are for combating domestic abuse.

Last year, over four hundred teenagers attended the Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference. This conference teaches young people, at the very outset of their dating lives, the proper boundaries for dating relationships. This creative strategy is key to achieving long-term reductions in the incidents of domestic violence in our community. The State's Attorney's Office is proud to play an integral role in the execution of this conference. Next year's conference will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College.

Again, on behalf of the State's Attorney's Office, I would like to thank our many public and private partners who work daily to help us achieve our dream of a community free of domestic violence.

*John McCarthy  
State's Attorney for  
Montgomery County*



## Family Justice Center Spotlight Feature:

### Meet the Sheriff's Domestic Violence Section Support Staff!



*From left to right:  
Melissa Oliver,  
Scarlet Gomes,  
Donna Hottinger,  
Adrianna Crutchfield,  
Tanya Bettis and  
Brandy Wilson*

A critical element in the County's response to domestic violence, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Section, relocated to the Family Justice Center when it opened. The Section's primary responsibility is the service and enforcement of Protection Orders, Peace Orders and Emergency Evaluation Petitions. The Section is a 24/7 operation comprised of 24 Sheriff's Deputies including 4 sergeants, 2 lieutenants and a captain. Along with the Sheriff's Deputies is a support staff of 7 full time and 2 part time Public Safety Telephone Reporting Aides (PSTRAs), available around the clock as well.

The Sheriff's Office PSTRAs provide support and information directly to the Deputies by conducting an extensive in-person interview with each petitioner. They inquire about such informa-

tion as the respondent's location, personal identification information, criminal history and caution information in reference to Deputy safety. They gather as much information as possible from the Petitioner in order to be able to conduct a thorough and extensive criminal background check on the Respondent. They also perform a search for and confirmation of outstanding warrants, both in and out of state, on the respondents. The PSTRA staff then enters and updates critical information into the criminal and civil databases in order to maximize the safety of all protected persons and to prohibit the sale or transfer of a firearm to a respondent. The PSTRA staff uses various investigative tools to obtain a respondent's location and addresses, when not provided by the petitioner, for immediate service of an order. All of this information is then provided to the Sheriff's Deputies prior to

their attempting service of a court order. They are liaisons between Sheriff's Office and the courts to ensure each court order is up to date with any changes or modifications that may be made subsequently. They work with other law enforcement agencies across the country to effect the service and enforcement of all protection orders whether issued in or out of state. This requires 24 hour coverage 365 days a year. It also includes handling crisis situations after hours and when other county services are closed.

As with all members of the Family Justice Center staff, the Sheriff's Office PSTRAs play a vital role in the service and enforcement of protective orders as well as the safety of the victims.

## Exciting New Community Collaborations



From left to right: Haruka Nobukuni, Jessica Li and Amara Tek

### Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP)

The DVRP's bi-lingual advocacy services will assist domestic violence victims in the Asian/Pacific Islander community with obtaining Peace and Protective Orders, securing temporary shelter and enrolling in continuing education classes. The DVRP will also assist in translation and interpretation services, and sponsor translated materials, speaking engagements and community events promoting domestic violence awareness and access to services.



From left to right: Jessica Gada, Alyse Shulimson, Nancy Weisberger, Hannah Porter, Elissa Schwartz and Michaela Friedman

### The Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA)

JCADA will provide counseling services to victims of teen dating violence and assist with safety planning and obtaining Juvenile Peace and Protective Orders. We are also excited to announce that "It's Not Love," an interactive program developed by JCADA to raise awareness of and prevent teen dating abuse, will be featured at the upcoming Choose Respect Healthy Teen Dating Conference. The conference will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at Montgomery College's Takoma Park Campus, and is expected to bring in 500 attendees.



Dr. Azad Ejaz (left) and Abdulaziz Kamus (right)

### The Muslim Community Center (MCC)

The MCC will provide a bi-lingual case manager to offer support and safety planning to victims of domestic violence within the Muslim community. The MCC will also provide domestic violence education by sponsoring four prevention-based workshops in the faith community using a "train the trainers" format.

## Making the Holidays a Time of Joy for FJC Families

As the holiday season approaches, many of us are reminded of family dinners, spending time with friends and, in particular, seeing the smiles on children's faces as they open up brand new toys. Unfortunately, many of the children who come to the Family Justice Center do not have this joy to look forward to. Their parents have to worry about the family's next meal and making sure they have clothes to wear and a place to sleep.

In addition to providing a wide array of services, we at the FJC do our best to make our clients and their families feel as comfortable and relaxed as possible. Sometimes that includes giving the children a brand new game or toy of their very own. Now, thanks to the gen-



erosity of the Middleton Family, we can put smiles on the faces of more children than ever! For her daughter's 2nd birthday party, Grace Middleton requested

that, instead of gifts, guests bring a new, unwrapped toy that could be donated to the FJC. A few days later, Ms. Middleton arrived at the FJC with dolls, basketballs, art supplies, board games, and so much more!

During her visit, Ms. Middleton told us that a close friend of hers was previously in an abusive relationship, and that the support of everyone at the FJC allowed her to get out and build a new life for herself and for her children. Without the incredible generosity of people like the Middleton Family, much of what we do would not be possible, and their kind donation will certainly bring joy to many children who are going through an otherwise dark and difficult time.



# Family Justice Center: Making the Difference

**Special thanks to all of the honorees and attendees of the  
4th Annual Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation Benefit!**



(L-R) Sheriff Darren Popkin, State's Attorney John McCarthy and County Executive Isiah Leggett



(L-R) Greta Kreuz, Resa Levy, Sarah Tofte, Tom DeGonia and Catherine Leggett  
Ms. Tofte accepted the Chairman's Award on behalf of Mariska Hargitay and the Joyful Heart Foundation.



The Honorable Louise G. Scrivener, accepting the Founder's Award



(L-R) Greta Kreuz, Resa Levy, Msgr. John Enzler, Tom DeGonia and Catherine Leggett  
Msgr. Enzler accepted the Inspiring Leader Award on behalf of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, Immigration Legal Services Program.



(L-R) Catherine Leggett, Greta Kreuz, Resa Levy, David Sears, DeRionne Pollard and Tom DeGonia  
Mr. Sears and Dr. Pollard accepted the Community Partnership Award on behalf of Montgomery College.



(L-R) Greta Kreuz, Resa Levy, Tom DeGonia, Hannah Sassoon and Catherine Leggett  
Ms. Sassoon was presented with the Marilyn J. Praisner Founders Award.



## Warmth and Kindness

The Family Justice Center (FJC) Foundation would like to extend special thanks to **Al Simon** for his generous donation of over **THREE DOZEN** winter coats! These brand new coats will provide much-needed warmth for all Family Justice Center clients, young and old alike!

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**



# 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
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- Alicia Doherty
- Catherine Leggett
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- 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

Special thanks to everyone who made the 4th Annual MCFJC Foundation Benefit a huge success!



**Resa Levy**  
MCFJC Foundation  
Executive Director

On October 13, 2013, more than 300 people, including many dignitaries, elected officials, sponsors, and representatives from law enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office and the community-at-large attended the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit for the Montgomery County Family Justice Center. The event, held at the HYATT Regency Bethesda, was chaired by MCFJC Foundation Board Member, Catherine Leggett, and emceed by the award-winning reporter and anchor, Greta Kreuz. By all accounts, the evening was a huge success.

The Benefit Committee worked tirelessly during the year, enabling attendees the opportunity to view and bid on more than eighty silent and six live auction items including trips and vacation packages, jewelry, gift baskets and tickets to the theater and sporting events. The centerpiece at each table was an adorable and loveable stuffed "Courage Lion" named "Duffy." The lion is accompanied by a book and CD, and is used in a therapeutic environment to help children who have witnessed domestic violence. A Special Appeal was held to raise funds for the purchase of as many "Duffy

Lions" as would be needed in the year ahead.

During these last four years, more than 5,000 clients have come to the FJC seeking the wrap-around services that the Center provides. The support of our sponsors, supporters and donors is critical to helping to meet some of those needs.

We thank our major sponsors, Verizon Wireless, the William E. Cross Foundation, the William J. Shaw Family Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, GEICO Philanthropy, Hunton & Williams LLP, and Montgomery College for making so many life-changing activities possible for FJC clients. A complete list of all our sponsors is located in another area in this newsletter.

Additionally, we wish to thank our County Executive, Ike Leggett, and the Montgomery County Council for their support. Thanks also to Sheriff Darren Popkin, State's Attorney John McCarthy, Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia and the staff of the Family Justice Center for their unbelievable commitment and determination to help the survivors of domestic violence begin their journey towards a safer, healthier and better life for themselves and their families.

*Resa Levy*  
Executive Director



## From the Desk of MCFJC Foundation President, Tom DeGonia II



**Thomas DeGonia**  
MCFJC  
Foundation  
President

Thanks to the dedication of our 2013 Benefit Chair, Catherine Leggett, and the outstanding work of her entire Committee, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation's 4th Annual Benefit was a huge success. Catherine, with the help of our Emcee Greta Kreuz, Award-winning Reporter and Anchor for ABC 7/ WJLA-TV, led us through a fun-filled yet poignant evening.

My sincerest congratulations go to our five honorees Hannah Sassoon, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. Immigration Legal Services, The Honorable Judge Louise Scrivener, Montgomery College and Mariska Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation. Each honoree was recognized for their outstanding contributions in helping to

change and save the lives of those afflicted with the traumas associated with domestic violence and relationship abuse.

The Benefit is critical to our work, but why?

The Benefit helps to fulfill the mission of the MCFJC Foundation, which is to raise both awareness and funds for the work of the MCFJC. My special thanks to the sponsors, donors and supporters of the Benefit whose contributions allow us to support our four key initiatives. The full list of sponsors and donors is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our Lawyer's Initiative, chaired by Foundation Vice President, attorney Maura Lynch, works to engage pro bono attorneys to help FJC clients receive the legal advice and services they need in order to move forward in life. Our Educational Initiative, chaired by former FJC Director and current Foundation Board member, Hannah Sassoon, seeks opportunities to partner with Montgomery Col-

lege and other educational institutions to help raise the educational and financial potential of FJC clients enrolled in the College, to help them on their road to financial self-sufficiency. Our Business Initiative, co-chaired by Board Member Alicia Doherty who leads our Speakers Bureau, as well as Melanie Ortel, Lewis Selis and David Belkin all of whom provide numerous other opportunities for the Foundation, is actively outreaching throughout our community. Recently retired Sheriff's Office professional and current Board member, Jo Ann Ricchiuti is chairing our newly created Arts Initiative. You'll find additional information about these initiatives throughout this newsletter or you can read more in our newly created MCFJC Foundation Brochure, created by Board Member Marilyn Bagel. Please request your brochure at [mcjcfoundation.org@gmail.com](mailto:mcjcfoundation.org@gmail.com).

*Tom DeGonia*  
President

## Rotary Club Partnership

The FJC, the FJC Foundation and local Rotary Clubs have formed a partnership to help further inform the community about the wrap-around services for victims of domestic violence and relationship abuse provided by the Family Justice Center under the guidance of the Sheriff's Office. Rotarians, recognizing the importance of this community message, eagerly signed on to the idea, and eight clubs have already arranged their dates of engagement.

Each speaking opportunity includes Sheriff Popkin, or a member of the FJC staff, if he is unavailable. Information provided includes an overview of the services provided by the FJC such as pro bono legal support, law enforcement, emergency services, help with Temporary Protective Orders and counseling. Additionally, a Foundation Board Member pro-



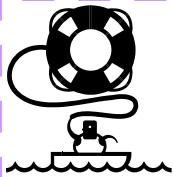
vides information about the critical role of the Foundation, a community citizen's board. This new partnership will allow the FJC to expand community awareness and involvement with FJC services not otherwise provided.

Our thanks go out to the various Rotary Clubs, including Potomac, Silver Spring, Montgomery Village, Potomac-Bethesda, Metro Bethesda, Olney, Rockville, North Bethesda and Gaithersburg. We greatly appreciate your interest and involvement in helping to further spread the word about this critical community effort.

For more information, please email [mcjcfoundation.org@gmail.com](mailto:mcjcfoundation.org@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.mcjcfoundation.org](http://www.mcjcfoundation.org)

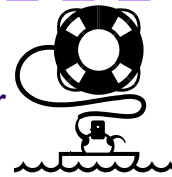


**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**



## MCFJC Foundation Lifeline Campaign

Families fleeing abusive relationships often leave with just the clothes on their backs and little or no access to funds for their most basic and urgent needs.



Here's how you can be a lifeline:

Your contribution to our Lifeline Campaign can directly impact a survivor in need and provide a lifeline of hope for the future. For example:

**\$250** Can provide for a family of four to purchase winter coats, blankets and basic hygiene products.

**\$100** Can provide groceries for a week for a family of four.

**\$ 75** Can provide funds for emergency transportation to and from the hospital, FJC or court dates.

**\$ 50** Can provide backpacks, school supplies, diapers and pajamas.

**\$ 25** Can provide gift cards for use at grocery stores, CVS, Walmart, Target.

Please decide on your totally tax-deductible donation and mail your check to MCFJC Foundation, PO Box 10692, Rockville, Maryland. 20849. Or you can contribute on our secure web site at [www.mcfjcfoundation.org](http://www.mcfjcfoundation.org).

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. No goods or services will be received in exchange for this contribution.

## Lawyer's Initiative - An Ideal Opportunity Awaits...

Anyone facing marital or relationship problems, or is aware of others who have faced that problem, understand that this is a tumultuous, painful and difficult time in that person's life. If you take that situation, couple it with domestic violence and perhaps having children who witnessed that violence, then add to it the myriad of elements necessary to navigate a complicated and expensive legal system, you can begin to understand the ordeal that these victims and survivors of abuse face –and for many - English may not be their first language!

One of the Foundation's goals is to assist the Family Justice Center in finding legal aid for their clients. To that end, the Lawyer's Initiative, chaired by the MCFJC



Foundation's Vice President, Maura Lynch, Esq., was created to reach out to area attorneys to donate their time and expertise in protective order and immigration cases. For their participation in our Lawyer's Initiative, our sincere thanks goes to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Immigration Legal Services and House of Ruth for their stellar

coordination with the Family Justice Center on immigration and protective order cases. Many law firms have already signed on to assist in this initiative including, the Rismiller Law Group, Hunton & Williams and Baker & McKenzie.

We have an ideal opportunity for those attorneys who wish to provide some pro bono support to the clients of the Family Justice Center!

Members of the Lawyer's Initiative team are providing free training and other incentives in order to recruit more attorneys. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Amy Shaw Palumbo, Esq. at [ashawpalumbo@gmail.com](mailto:ashawpalumbo@gmail.com) for more information. Let's work together on this immensely helpful and satisfying project.

# We Love Our Sponsors!

The MCFJC Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of our many community partners – our sponsors, donors and friends. It is only with their support that the Foundation has been able to help support the life-changing and life-saving work of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.

## Leadership Circle

Montgomery County Maryland  
Verizon Wireless

## Community Builder – Gold

William E. Cross Foundation William J. Shaw Foundation

## Community Builder- Silver

Kaiser Permanente

## Community Partner

GEICO Philanthropic Foundation Hunton & Williams, LLP  
Montgomery College

## Community Advocate – Gold

Alicia Doherty Ethridge, Quinn, Kemp, McAuliffe, Rowan and Hartinger  
Catherine and Ike Leggett Pepco Foundation  
Rismiller Law Group, LLP Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll, LLP

## Community Advocate – Silver

Adventist Health Care Baker & McKenzie, LLP Bert Smith & Company  
William D. Casey Jane Fairweather Falt, Wise & DiLima, LLP  
Debby Sanders & Dennis Shannon Rex Smith Carol Trawick  
Victim's Rights Foundation Women's Bar Association of Montgomery County

## Our In-Kind Sponsors

Comcast – Montgomery & Frederick Counties/Beltway Region Marilyn Bagel, writer  
Panera Bread Alex Imirie & AMI Auctions Women Who Care Ministries

## Thanks also to our Honorarium Ticket Supporters

Dr. Brian and Carole Avin Laura Chase Cathy Chiriaco  
Solomon & Dorothy Graham Maj. Gen (Ret.) Arthur & Mrs. Wilma Holmes  
Susan Magazine Milagros Velez McGuire Sheriff Darren & Suzanne Popkin  
Rabbi David and Natalie Rose Dr. Alan & Hon. Duchy Trachtenberg

*On behalf of the women, children and families who have come to the FJC and whose lives you have helped save, we thank you!*