SAINT MARTHA’S HALL
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Annual Report
July 2013 - June 2014
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters,

This letter is being written in the midst of much violence and unrest in our community and at the beginning of what so many of us call the Season of Peace. So we are hopeful and believe in the “better angels of our nature” and anticipate that love will prevail, peace will be with us and that all will be well.

By virtue of the fact that you have received this annual report you are part of the anticipation that love will prevail, peace will be with us and that all will be well. You are among those people who walk the earth and think of others. You put yourselves in someone’s shoes whose journey has been troublesome and void of peace and you reach out and support us. Sometimes we humans forget just how good we are and can be and that those who do for others, who operate from a base of love far outnumber those who don’t.

What else can I say but thank you and peace be with you always.

With profound gratitude for your kindness to St. Martha’s,

Michelle Schiller-Baker, Executive Director

MISSION

Motivated by Christ’s imperative to love neighbor as self, we dedicate ourselves to improving the dignity of family life and of the persons involved by meeting the challenge and resisting the evil of all forms of abuse: physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual.

Our mission is to help abused women and their children break the cycle of violence in their lives. St. Martha’s Hall is guided by the social justice teachings of Jesus Christ. We attempt to accomplish this by providing safe shelter and supportive services that empower women to rebuild their lives.

WHO WE ARE

Since 1983 St. Martha’s Hall has been providing confidential emergency shelter and support services to abused women and their children.

We provide a supportive environment with a strong emphasis on peer support; implement a self-help philosophy to enhance self-esteem and decision-making skills; provide accurate information and referrals to abused women and their children and when appropriate to their abusers; provide advocacy services; provide individual crisis, group and family counseling; and offer community education to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic violence.

The program tries to ensure community effort, cooperation, independence and support of the women and their children that reside here. The staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors of St. Martha’s Hall are dedicated to empowering women to live violence-free lives.

ETHICS AND VALUES

Our primary value is for human dignity and life. Ethics are our code of conduct.

Dignity is the sacred respect for others and self. Ethics are the actions we implement in our work to help assure the dignity of our clients, co-workers, community representatives and volunteers. Our specific values and ethics focus on violence against women and how oppression is played out and implemented through well-defined and systemic use of power and control.

NAME AND LOGO

St. Martha lived in the time of Jesus. She was recognized for her nurturing and caring ways as well as her courage and outspokenness. She was highly respected for her service to others and recognized for such by the Catholic Church. Our logo, a cross, which also resembles a windowpane, gives a sense of place - representing a window of opportunity and a balance of power.
ENVISIONED FUTURE
Peace and safety for all women and their children.

2013-2014 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Shelter Program

Fathers’ Support Center
We continue our partnership with the Father Support Center, a nonprofit organization that provides services to parents, with a particular focus on fathers. The Center’s program, Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Family Formation Project, seeks to strengthen the role of fatherhood in the family. St. Martha’s Hall provides on-going domestic violence orientation to Father Support Center staff. We also work directly with the fathers providing education about the effects of domestic violence on children. We feel privileged and honored to continue this partnership.

Safe Connections and YWCA Sexual Assault Center
In the fall of 2013 we began answering the hotline of Safe Connections and the YWCA Sexual Assault Center, sister agencies whose missions are also to end domestic and sexual violence, from 11:00pm to 7:30am, 7 nights a week. Safe Connections approached us with the idea because we have staff awake and working and they needed a reliable agency that could provide this service for them. Because Safe Connections answered the YWCA Sexual Assault Center’s phone on the overnight shift we also agreed to take those calls. We were not sure that we could handle the volume and still provide services to our residents and hotline callers but we were willing to give it a try and to do it for free. After working out a few kinks the collaboration has been working just fine. We are grateful we are able to help our sister agencies and in doing so freeing up their resources to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri –LSEM
LSEM received a grant from U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, to address the holistic legal needs of victims and to expand collaboration with partner victim agencies. We were so very pleased that LSEM asked us to be a partner agency. We have worked informally with LSEM for over thirty-one years referring women in need of domestic, immigration, housing or other legal services. This collaboration helps provide our residents priority intake services at LSEM and LSEM then provides expanded and enhanced services to our residents. As always we are grateful to work with LSEM.

Writing Shelter with the Campus Y at Washington University
The Writing Shelter with Washington University is a mentoring program designed to build self-confidence and create outlets for self-expression through the written word. Students from Washington University volunteer through the Campus Y to go to domestic violence shelters and work with the women through journaling, poetry and prose. The Writing Shelter project helps create a safe place for exploration, where mentors and survivors of domestic violence can engage in creative writing. The goal is to empower these women who had been silenced by their intimate partners and larger systems — women who felt that if they spoke no one would hear them. The volunteers assist in helping the women find their voices and let them know what they have to say is important.
Court Watch Project – St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network

St. Martha’s Hall is a member agency of the St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network -SLEVAWN. SLEVAWN is a network of organizations and individuals who serve in the interest of victims of domestic and sexual violence. Its mission is to end this violence.

In the fall of 2103 St. Martha’s, as a member of SLEVAWN, became the lead agency in reigniting what is known as the Court Watch Project. The Court Watch Project is a volunteer staffed project under the auspices of the St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network, in which court proceedings in the St. Louis Circuit Courts are monitored. That information is made available to the court, the Bar and the public to ensure transparency and to give victims a greater voice in how the court processes domestic violence cases. Volunteers attend court on specific days to observe Civil Protection Order cases and record case outcomes on a form. We are in a research partnership with St. Louis University's School of Sociology on this project. They compile all of the forms that the trained court monitors fill out during their court room observations. A report is then sent to the judge whose courtroom proceedings were monitored and a meeting with the members of the Court Watch Project discuss the findings with the judge(s).

We have seen some positive results from this project which include better courtroom safety and timely dockets. We had close to 50 volunteers trained to participate and will continue the project into 2015.

Community Support

Board of Directors

• Technology and Safety
Part of the Board's strategic plan is to evaluate the agency’s use of social media. A Technology subcommittee was formed of board and staff members to look at how we advance our mission through technology and in so doing how we maintain safety and security of the women and children we serve as well as staff, volunteers and board members.

Over the past year and a half the committee has looked at how we use our website, Facebook, cell phones, laptops and computers. The committee met and consulted with an expert on technology and safety with AT&T’s own security division; spoke with multiple other local and national organizations regarding their security systems; and researched much information online. This process resulted in an updated website and Facebook page with enhanced security measures and a new Social Media and Technology Security Policy. Both staff and board members are following the use of the new policies. A few examples are the board meetings are no longer held at the shelter because GPS devices on their phones and laptops can pinpoint our location; staff members must disable all tracking devices on their phones before entering our boundary areas; and residents phones are placed in a signal-blocking bag upon pick-up and she may be offered a Verizon Hopeline Phone while in shelter in order to not be tracked.

• Computers, Telephones and Database Program
While going through this process the decision was also made to update our phone and computer system. Our phones were over 20 years old and were in some spots being held together with duct tape. We now have a completely functioning phone system, updated computers and are finishing work on a new database program. We entered this brave new world with trepidation but confidence that we could embrace our new “geekiness.” Gratitude to the board of directors for their guidance and financial support.
• **Children’s Support Group and Play Rooms**
  After thirty-one years of hard but loving use our Children’s Support Group and Play rooms are getting a much needed overhaul.

  The Board of Directors approved the rehabilitation and helped to raise the funds. Private donations, a successful fundraiser in February 2014 featuring local artist Mary Engelbreit, several small grants and money from our reserves made the project possible. The renovations should be complete by the end of 2014. We are thrilled in having our children enjoy and feel comfortable in their new spaces!

• **Showers**
  Last year our board had two “showers” for the shelter, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. These two “showers” provided the shelter with thousands of dollars’ worth of supplies and gift cards. We are most grateful to Meg Brown, Michelle Dean, Courtney Plunkett and Wendy Cornett-Marquitz for hosting these showers and making the shelter more comfortable for our residents.

• **LEAF Board**
  The LEAF Board, formerly known as the Junior Board, reorganized itself and established a new structure including officers, terms of office, committees and a new name-LEAF Board. LEAF stands for Leadership, Education, Awareness and Fundraising which describes their vision and concrete objectives. They wish to be an organization that promotes leadership training opportunities for its members; educate themselves on the issue of violence against women; promote awareness of the issue; and raise money for the shelter.

**Volunteers**
Volunteers contributed 1,528 hours of service. This doesn't include the countless hours that are contributed by our dedicated board of directors. Our volunteers provided childcare, tutoring, mentoring, picked up and sorted donations, cleaned and organized parts of the shelter, facilitated arts and crafts groups, brought therapy dogs to the shelter to work with the children, helped with resumes, cleaned our fish tank, packed snack boxes, organized fundraising events and many other jobs.

We would like to take this opportunity to spotlight our high school volunteers from Barat Academy.

Periodically we have area high school seniors or juniors do their community service hours with us. From September 2013 through May of 2014 we had three outstanding young women from Barat Academy doing their community service with us: Taylor Hanson, Taylor Arnold and Jennifer Fabian. These students provided childcare, cleaned rooms, ran errands and anything else they were asked to do. Additionally they organized and orchestrated a full-fledged fundraiser for the shelter- Mpower Charity Fashion Show raising over $2,400 for the shelter. This is the second time that Barat Academy senior girls put on this fashion show for us. They put in hundreds of hours and the show was extremely well done. We are grateful to them for sharing so much of their lives with us. We know these women will make the world a better place for all humankind.
• **In-Kind Donations**
  Also many generous and loyal groups have been providing special in-kind gifts to our shelter for a number of years and did so once again this past year. This list includes organizations that have donated to us for more than two years.

**A special note of sincere gratitude to:**

- Altrusa
- Assistance League of St. Louis- Project Rose
- Bonhomme Presbyterian Church
- Bath and Body Works, Chesterfield Valley
- Bath and Body Works, West County
- Bath and Body Works, MidRivers
- Bouffant Daddy
- Boy Scout Pack 778 Stanton Elementary
- B’nai B’rith
- Bridge Club
- CDG Engineers
- Custom Crystal and Glass
- Girl Scout Troop 1867- Muffins for Martha
- Gray Design Group
- Holy Infant Church
- Holy Infant Church Men’s Faith in Action
- JD Streett and Company
- Jewish Women International
- Life Church

- Lutheran South High School-Future Business Leaders of America
- Major Brands
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- St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish
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- Traditional Congregation
- Victoria’s Secret-West County
- Wise F & I
- Women of St. Roch
- Wydown Middle School

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**We Had to Say Earthly Goodbyes to One of Our Sisters**

Jacqueline Courtois Tapper Feldewerth, our co-worker, friend and sister advocate passed away on Sunday August 17, 2014 after a long illness. Jacqueline had faced and conquered the fear of cancer; sadly her body could not.

Jacqueline worked at St. Martha’s Hall for thirteen years as an advocate. She was passionate about her work at the shelter and in ending violence against women. Jac’s passion continued to infuse her spirit even after she stopped working. Days before she passed away we were able to visit with her in hospice and she told each one of us to carry on the mission.

We miss Jac every day yet feel her spirit with us always. We are especially grateful to Jac’s husband Don, Mom Joyce, Dad Joe, son Tony, and sister Tina for sharing her with St. Martha’s. Jac’s memory will always be a blessing to us.
**FINANCIALS  JULY 2013 - JUNE 2014**

**REVENUES**  
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<th>Description</th>
<th>% of Revenue</th>
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<td>Private Contributions</td>
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<td>Government Grants/Contracts</td>
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<td>United Way</td>
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<td>Other Grants</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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**EXPENSES**  
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Net Unrestricted Surplus**  
$152,171

**Total Year End Net Assets**  
$1,367,297.94

*Saint Martha’s Hall is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit agency. All donations to Saint Martha’s Hall are tax-deductible.*

*The Missouri Department of Social Services offers a special Domestic Violence Shelter Tax Credit equal to 50 percent of the amount of a donation. St. Martha’s Hall has a limited number of these tax credits each year, and may be able to offer this tax credit for any cash donation of $250 or more, over and above the value of goods and services received. Please call 314-533-1313 if you are considering giving for tax credits to ensure that we have them available. All donations to St. Martha’s Hall are still 100% tax deductible. The amount of the credit cannot exceed your state tax liability for the taxable year, but if it does, it can be carried over for four successive years.*

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

In 2013-2014, St. Martha’s Hall staff provided the following services:

- Support and information to 2,416 callers through the 24-hour crisis and support hotline.
- Emergency shelter for 107 women and 112 children who were forced to flee their homes to escape abuse.
- Peace, safety and hope for 7,041 days and nights.
- Support and healing through 47 support groups and 48 parenting groups for women and 79 support groups for children.
- Resources to build for the future through 1,489 referrals to other services for our residents.
- Continued support and resources through follow-up services to 102 women.
- Assistance for 75 women establishing a goal plan for their lives freed from abuse.
- Support, information and accompaniment for 24 women going through the judicial system.
- Community education to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic violence to 85 community groups.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, which is part of larger federal legislation, provided funding to develop nationally standardized surveys to help document the work of domestic violence organizations. The two key survey questions that are used at St. Martha’s Hall ask: As a result of staying in our shelter do you know more ways to plan for your safety and do you know more about community resources. 96% of the women responding said they know more ways to plan for their safety and 81% said they knew more about community resources.
WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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St. Louis Regional Business Council
St. Louis Service Bureau Foundation
St. Louis Unitarian Foundation for Children
Robert and Sandra Stearns
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Lily and Rooji Sugathan
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Eleatha Surratt
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Erwin Switzer
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UFCW Local No. 88
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United Way Suncoast
Owen Vandenberg and Jane Zeni
Neville and JoAnn Vatcha
Villa Duchesne/City House Alum. Assoc.
Angela Vitale
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Mark and Lynn Walsh
Molly Walsh and Kevin Farrell
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Timothy Wiegers and Stephanie Pulliam Wiegers
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Larissa Williams
Lucy and Roger Willis
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Charles and Patty Wiswall
Women’s Closet Exchange, Inc.
Women’s Foundation of Greater St. Louis
Troy Woytek and Emma Harty
Elizabeth Wright
Linda Yohe
Julie Zentz
David and Carolyn Zwart
Loving Memorials

In Memory of Jacquelyn Adams
   St. Louis Gym Centre
In Memory of Robert Bradshaw Sr.
   Rachel Goltzman
In Memory of Henry Calbreath
   Joseph and Elaine Daus
In Memory of Lucille Dunn
   Mary Barnard
In Memory of Jacqueline Feldewerth
   Ambassador Floor Company
   Charlotte Behle
   Don Feldewerth
   Misty Hause
   Catherine Kluge
   Elena Switzer
In Memory of Herb Greenberg
   Maria and Jay Shields
In Memory of Celestine Kirrane
   Marilyn Geiger
In Memory of Jamie Ruth Kyriakos
   Dawn and Steve Alley
   Surgical Pathology Residents, Barnes-Jewish
   Hospital Department of Surgical Pathology
   Sally and Mike Clime
   Code 3 Public Safety Equipment
   John and Marion Commerford
   Mary and Craig Donis
   Nancy and Richard Dunne
   Carolyn and Dale English
   Kate and Derek English
   Keith Fulling
   Sue and Richard George
   Debbie and Louis Gilula
   John Goebel
   James Herrick
   Mike and Julie Holley
   Huntleigh Hills Homeowners Association
   Michael Kyriakos
   Cathy Lickenbrock
   Musculoskeletal Radiology Section,
   Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology
   Theresa and David Niemeyer
   Ottawa High School
   Gregory and Jan Scott
   Rick and Barbara Sneddon
   Earleen Stockwell
   Marie and Harold Theerman
   Dale Tompkins
   WCP Pathology, P.C.

In Memory of Marlene Mestres
   Joseph and Elaine Daus
In Memory of Bill Northern
   Joseph and Elaine Daus
In Loving Memory of David Overkamp
   Claude and Kay Martin
In Memory of Lois Petruso
   Lenore Petruso
In Memory of Rosemary Petruso
   Lenore Petruso
In Memory of Daphne “Bambi” Runge
   Elena Switzer
In Memory of Bette Jane Schreiber
   Ann and Stephen Cortinovis
In Memory of Marjorie Steinmetz
   Mark Bauer
   DWD-B Fund Members
   Julie Gibson and Bill Shoehigh
In Memory of Andrew Torosian
   Joseph and Elaine Daus
In Memory of Vladimir Tustanowsky
   Joseph and Elaine Daus
In Memory of Walter Voyles
   Joseph and Elaine Daus

Pillars of St. Martha’s Hall

A pledge of $1000 a year for three years and a pledge to pray for the safety and well-being of the women, children, staff and volunteers once a month for three years

Jim and Trary Barnes
Joan Doyle
William Kumke
Tony Patti and Cathy Koch Patti
Michelle Schiller-Baker and Alan Baker
Scott and Teresa Turner
Lucy and Roger Willis

Matching Gift Companies

Boeing Company
Bank of America
Code 3 Public Safety Equipment
Energizer Corporate Human Resources Department
Nieman-Marcus
Tracy Family Foundation

May their memories be a blessing.
In Honor of Alan Baker
Brad and Jan Scherzer
In Honor of Judge Mike Burton
Sheila Burton
In Honor of Janine DiMarco
Marian and Christopher Ahlering
Happy Chanukkah to Joe and Joan Goltzman
Rachel Goltzman
In Honor of Meg and Jim Huber
Jim and Trary Barnes
In Honor of Jim Huber
Anders, Minkler, Huber, & Helm LLP
In Honor of the Birth of Amos Benjamin Keller
Donny and Lissa Anthon
In Honor of Jack Kelly
David and Cristina Walden
In Honor of Jack and Amy Kelly
Jim and Trary Barnes

In Honor of Trudy Marshall
Linda Blosser
In Honor of Julia Pereira
David Landau and Marybeth Pereira
In Honor of Megan Daly Rebore for her Continued Commitment to Saint Martha’s Hall
Bill and Carey Keller
In Honor of Kathy Rehmer
Jan Rogers and Bryan Tramont
In Honor of Michelle Schiller-Baker
Mary Burns
In Honor of Michelle Schiller-Baker
Ann Frawley
In Honor of Steven Thomas for Christmas
Claudia and Lawrence Ennis

In Honor of the Birth of Amos Benjamin Keller
Donny and Lissa Anthon
In Honor of Jack Kelly
David and Cristina Walden
In Honor of Jack and Amy Kelly
Jim and Trary Barnes

Mother's Day Tributes

In Tribute to Maria Altrudo
Joseph and Bonnie Devoti
In Tribute to Caron Benoist
Maureen and Steve Hannon
In Tribute to Maria Childress
Katy and David Keller
In Tribute to Emily Cuddihee Wagner
Dennis and Susan Cuddihee
In Tribute to Sarah Cuddihee
Dennis and Susan Cuddihee
In Tribute to Susan Cuddihee
Katy and Mike Kapilla and Dennis Cuddihee
In Tribute to Stephanie Devoti
Joseph and Bonnie Devoti
In Tribute to Susan Howk
Katy and David Keller
In Tribute to Margaret Ingrum
Patty Kernell
In Tribute to Dee Kapilla
Katy and Mike Kapilla
In Tribute to Katy Cuddihee Kapilla
Dennis and Susan Cuddihee
In Tribute to Barbara Kernell
Patty Kernell
In Tribute to Colleen Kessler
Joseph and Bonnie Devoti
In Tribute to Debby Levens
Maureen and Steve Hannon

Mother, the ribbons of your love are woven around my heart.

Honors

What you did touched my life.
Return Service Requested