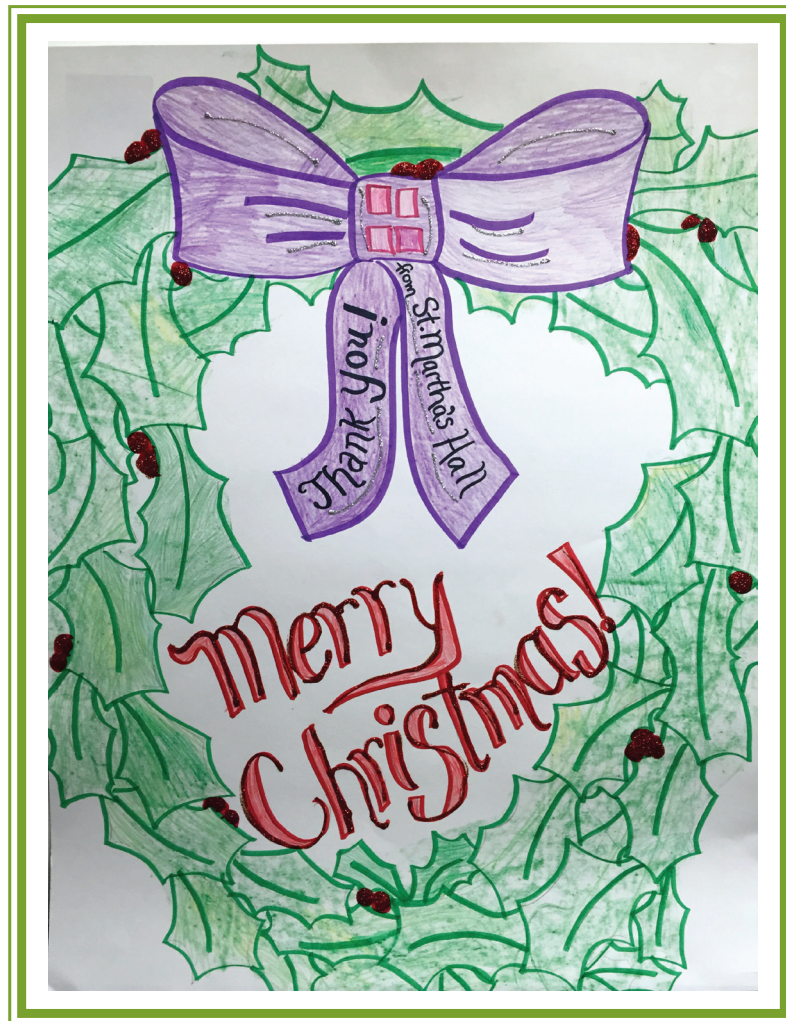




SAINT MARTHA'S HALL
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Annual Report

July 2014 - June 2015

Drawings from The 8th Grade Class at St. Gabriel's School

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters,

It will be thirty-three years in March that I have been with St. Martha's Hall. It all began by being in the wrong place at the right time. I had been working with refugees for about two years and within that span the agency had had three executive directors. It was the last executive director that fired me. We both had different philosophies on just about everything so one of us had to go and logically.....

I was then asked by Catholic Charities to research services for abused women in the area and the report showed a dire need for safe shelter. Now, I am in the right place and at the right time. I was given the privilege of opening St. Martha's Hall.

Catholic Charities agreed fund the shelter for three years. By 1987, through the hard work of staff, board of directors and Catholic Charities we were able to find alternative funding. It was a most remarkable experience. I had planned on being here for five years and then move on to something less all-encompassing than a 24/7 emergency shelter. Never found that other "thing". Didn't need to.

St. Martha's gets into your blood. It becomes part of your DNA. It is a passion, a ministry, a journey. Every resident, staff member, volunteer, board member, colleague and donor makes this so.

It is with humble gratitude that I thank you for being a part of that life-giving bloodline that keeps our doors open to peace.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,



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. Our logo was designed by Brian Woolbright.

ENVISIONED FUTURE

Peace and safety for all women and their children.

2014-2015 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Shelter Program and Collaborations

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. Jessica Woolbright, our Children's Program Coordinator facilitates monthly classes working directly with the fathers providing education about the effects of domestic violence on children. We feel privileged and honored to continue this partnership.

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri –LSEM

We are now in our third year of a collaboration with 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 women and children 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.

Angel Band Project

The Angel Band Project is an advocacy organization that uses music therapy to promote healing and hope for victims of sexual and domestic violence. It was started by Rachel Ebeling and Jean Fox after the sexual assault and murder of their dear friend, Teresa Butz, in 2009. The Project raises money to provide music therapist to organizations that serve survivors of sexual and domestic violence. St. Martha's Hall has supported their events over the last several years and beginning in 2015, the Angel Band Project started providing music therapy groups to our women and children. In collaboration with the Music Therapy Department at Maryville University a music therapist comes to our shelter every 6 weeks to facilitate a music therapy group.

The Angel Band Project holds concerts and community awareness events throughout the United States to increase awareness of sexual and domestic violence and the healing powers of music. We are honored to be chosen as a partner on this important project.

Court Watch Project – Receives Federal Funding!

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. The mission of the Court Watch Project is to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of domestic violence perpetrated against women and children and to create a more informed and involved public.



Trained volunteers attend court on specific days to observe Civil Protection Order cases and record case outcomes on a form. We partner with St. Louis University's School of Sociology on this project and one of their doctoral research students compiles all of the forms the court monitors submit. A report is then sent to the judge whose courtroom proceedings were monitored. The judge is then invited to meet and discuss the findings.

We have seen some positive results from this project which include better courtroom safety and timely dockets.

In late summer 2015 we were notified by the Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Office that we received a Justice for Families grant for the Court Watch Project.

This three-year grant that will cover the cost of hiring a part-time Court Watch Project Coordinator, supplies and training. Nina Balsam, a very well respected attorney, not only in the domestic violence service providers community but in the legal community as well, will be the Project Coordinator.

This is the first federally funded court watch project in Missouri. We are proud to be a part of this project and are committed to advocating for our women and children in the judicial system. We are also gratified by the positive responses received by our judges. We are grateful for our judicial system.

Community Support

Board of Directors

- **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 Peg McCartney and Barb McGauley for hosting these showers and making the shelter more comfortable for our residents.

- **Time Out Against Domestic Violence**

In November 2014, at a fundraising committee meeting our board president, Bob Springer came up with a unique idea to help raise awareness about domestic and dating violence. His idea - Time Out Against Domestic Violence. This project would focused on high school athletic teams. And so it began... Last year twenty- four high schools participated in the Time Out Against Domestic Violence Project. Currently the project is focused on high school basketball teams and has four components: participating teams are asked to watch an educational video on violence against women at one team practice; each coach and player is asked to sign a pledge of non-violence; the team is asked to make a public service announcement about domestic violence at one basketball game; and all team members wear purple (color for domestic violence awareness) athletic socks at that game. All educational materials and socks are provided by St. Martha's Hall. The intent of the project is to provide prevention and intervention education to the student athletes and coaches are encouraged as mentors in promoting healthy intimate partner relationships. Additionally other students, faculty, and parents are made aware of the seriousness of domestic violence.

It was a very well received project and the Board was committed to having it continue. The Board also recognized that staff had enough work to do and so in June 2015 the Board of Directors voted to allocate funds from our reserves to hire someone to implement the project for 2016. Peg McCartney, a longtime supporter, former board member and advocate was hired to implement the project. We are excited about this innovative and educational project with a mission of ending violence against women and girls.

LEAF Board

The LEAF Board, held a Celebrity Bartender event at Harry's Restaurant & Bar and raised a little over \$2,000! LEAF also had a community education event at the innovative T-Rex building. T-Rex provides space for startup entrepreneurs. This Lunch and Learn event provided free pizza, cookies and drinks at a lunch time presentation about St. Martha's. Approximately 20 tech entrepreneurs attended the lunch event.

Volunteers

Volunteers contributed 1,171 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, packed snack boxes, organized fundraising events and many other jobs.

In-Kind Donations

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 at least two years.

A special note of sincere gratitude to:

<i>Altrusa</i>	<i>Kirkwood Presbyterian</i>
<i>American Association of University Women</i>	<i>Life Church</i>
<i>Assistance League of St. Louis- Project Rose</i>	<i>Lutheran South High School- Future Business Leaders of America</i>
<i>Bonhomme Presbyterian Church</i>	<i>Major Brands</i>
<i>Bath and Body Works, West County Mall</i>	<i>Marine Corp League South St. Louis Detachment Ladies Auxiliary</i>
<i>Bath and Body Works, MidRivers</i>	<i>Miriam School Room 5B</i>
<i>Bath and Body Works, Creve Coeur</i>	<i>NA'AMAT USA-St. Louis Council- Project Backpack</i>
<i>Bouffant Daddy</i>	<i>Protective</i>
<i>Boy Scout Pack 778 Stanton Elementary</i>	<i>Sheila's Shawls & Paul's Scarves</i>
<i>B'nai B'rith</i>	<i>SOMA Intimates</i>
<i>Bridge Club</i>	<i>St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish</i>
<i>CDG Engineers</i>	<i>St. Louis Metro Medical Society Alliance</i>
<i>Custom Crystal and Glass</i>	<i>St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish</i>
<i>"4 Spa Girls"</i>	<i>St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish</i>
<i>Girl Scout Troop 1867- Muffins for Martha</i>	<i>Traditional Congregation</i>
<i>Gray Design Group</i>	<i>Victoria's Secret-West County</i>
<i>Holy Infant Church</i>	<i>Wise F & I</i>
<i>Holy Infant Church Men's Faith in Action</i>	<i>Wydown Middle School</i>
<i>Holy Infant Business Network</i>	
<i>JD Streett and Company</i>	
<i>Jewish Women International</i>	

Falk Fund-Amazing Gift

In November 2003, out of the blue, like manna from heaven, seemingly from nowhere we received a most generous gift from the Walter, Marie & Barbara Falk Family Foundation for the purpose of providing educational scholarships to current and former residents of St. Martha's Hall or other abused women seeking to continue their education. With this very generous donation we set up the "The Falk Fund."

This special fund paid for expenses that our women could not cover and over the years The Falk Family Foundation made several additional contributions to the fund. Nineteen women and their children have been helped in a very substantial way through the Falk Fund. These women pursued nursing, culinary, early childhood, and engineering degrees and other certifications. We are humbled by their achievements and deeply grateful to the Falk family for making it all possible.

The fund has paid for tuition to the Goldfarb School of Nursing, St. Louis Community Colleges, vocational schools, books, tuition fees, licensure fees, testing fees, transportation to classes, laptop and other related expenses. Dr. Barbara Falk, has always been very willing to make decisions regarding our use of the fund so that even childcare expenses could be paid allowing the mother to attend classes.

As of 2014 all the funds donated by the Falk Family Foundation have been spent. Well, we don't believe that "all good things must come to an end." Part of the "good things" may end but all the good impact the Fund had on 19 women's lives and that of their children's will live on and on and on. We don't believe the good will ever end.

Resident "P" became a nurse and is now working at St. Mary's Hospital tending to the sick. Resident "T" was able to attend a trade school, found employment and is now supporting herself and her children. Resident "A" got her bachelor's degree in early childhood and is taking care of herself and children. These women's education was possible due to help with tuition, books and bus passes. Education is one of the most important keys to living an independent, peaceful and productive life and without the Falk Fund this key would have been missing.

Thank you Walter, Marie and Barbara Falk for sharing the family's foundation with us. You were the invisible "boot straps" that helped pull of these women and children's lives. It doesn't get any better than that. The best to you always.



FINANCIALS

JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

REVENUES	% OF REVENUE	
Private Contributions	\$423,062	39.50%
Investment Income	\$3,768	0.35%
Government Grants/Contracts	\$431,069	40.24%
United Way	\$135,842	12.68%
Other Grants	\$66,651	6.22%
Special Events	\$7,067	0.66%
Other	\$3,732	0.35%

Total	\$1,071,191	100%
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EXPENSES	% OF EXPENSES	
Fundraising	\$47,759	4.51%
Administration	\$131,981	12.46%
Programs	\$879,700	83.03%
Total	\$1,059,440	100%
Net Unrestricted Surplus	\$11,751	
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.

This report honors donors who have made contributions during the July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 fiscal year and organizations who have supported us with in-kind donations for at least the last two years. These women, men and organizations represent a deep commitment to ending violence against women and children.

We have tried to make this list accurate but we do make mistakes. If your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed please notify Katy Keller at 314-533-1313 or katyk@saintmarthas.org.

SERVICES PROVIDED

In 2014-2015, St. Martha's Hall staff provided the following services:

- ❖ Support and information to 2,776 callers through the 24-hour crisis and support hotline.
- ❖ Emergency shelter for 92 women and 125 children who were forced to flee their homes to escape abuse.
- ❖ Peace, safety and hope for 8,087 days and nights.
- ❖ Support and healing through 50 support groups and 44 parenting groups for women and 88 support groups for children.
- ❖ Resources to build for the future through 1,491 referrals to other services for our residents.
- ❖ Continued support and resources through follow-up services to 115 women.
- ❖ Assistance for 65 women establishing a goal plan for their lives freed from abuse.
- ❖ Support, information and accompaniment for 13 women going through the judicial system.
- ❖ Community education to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic violence to 92 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. 95% of the women responding said they know more ways to plan for their safety and 91% said they knew more about community resources.



WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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May their memories be a blessing.

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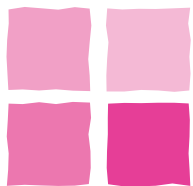
Mother's Day Tributes



"A Mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary."

In Tribute to Lenwood Anthon
Judith Anthon
In Tribute to Sheila Anthon
Judith Anthon
In Tribute to Lisa Arends
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In Tribute to Caron Benoist
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Kathy and David Rehmer
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In Tribute to My Mother, RIP
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