

I WILL HONOUR  
CHRISTMAS  
IN MY HEART

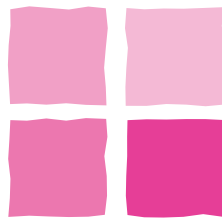


AND TRY  
TO KEEP IT  
ALL THE YEAR.

CHARLES DICKENS

# St. Martha's Hall Annual Report

July 2016 - June 2017



SAINT MARTHA'S HALL

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BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings One and All,

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach." So says Charles Dickens in *A Christmas Carol*.

Such a simple commitment to make to oneself yet one that I easily stumble over time and time again.

I do criticize and complain about people and things and have misgivings about what I have or haven't done. All of which are clear signs that I have not learned the lessons that the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future have sought to instill in my heart. However in spite of that, Christmas, which I believe to be the celebration of God's love for us, always reminds me that there is hope yet for me to learn those valuable lessons.

I need only listen more clearly, hear more intently and watch more closely the women and children we serve, my co-workers, our Board of Directors, our volunteers and you our supporters, to learn those important lessons.

Gratitude to each of you for your visible signs of honouring Christmas in your hearts all the year through your support of our shelter whether by word or deed and for helping me learn valuable lessons.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Peace in the New Year,

Michelle Schiller-Baker

Executive Director



## 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.



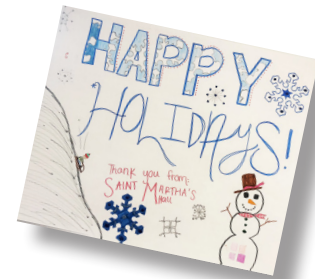
## MISSION

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.

## ENVISIONED FUTURE

Peace and safety for all women and their children.



## 2016-2017 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

### Shelter Program and Collaborations Council on Accreditation

After a full year of preparation, evaluation and peer review, the Council on Accreditation provided us with their seal of approval for the next four years. This international accreditation body holds us to very high programmatic, administrative, governance and financial standards and every four years we begin the re-accreditation process. We are very proud that we have received this re-accreditation for the next four years, 2018-2022. We are the only domestic violence shelter in Missouri with this accreditation and we are grateful. We have been accredited since 1996.

### Court Watch Project – Completes Second Year with Office on Violence Against Women Funding

We are in the second year of our three year grant from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women to fund our Court Watch Project. This grant allowed us to hire a Court Watch Project Coordinator. On January 1, 2017 we hired Carla Maley to be the coordinator. Our previous coordinator Nina Balsam left to take a full time job. Nina's vast experience in working to end violence against women provided the project with a solid foundation and she continues this work through her participation with the St. Louis County Domestic and Family Violence Council.

Carla has over thirteen years of experience working with survivors of abuse including her work as a victim advocate with the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's Office, Woman's Place and Legal Advocates for Abused Women. Carla also served on the Leadership Team of the Court Watch Project.

Brief history of this project: 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 2013 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 SLEVAWN, in which court proceedings in the St. Louis Circuit Courts are monitored. Its mission 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.

Please go to <https://slevawn.org> and click on the Court Watch Project tab to read the reports summarizing the Projects work.

## Shelter Renovations

For the first time in thirty-four years we closed the shelter for four weeks allowing for much needed renovations and upgrades. We had to stop taking in new residents starting in March and by the end of the first week in April the few residents with us were able to transfer to different shelters making sure they were safe.

Our renovations included the tearing down of old drop ceilings and installing new ones; fixing, refinishing and/or carpeting all the floors; re-glazing bath tubs and showers; upgrading some of the plumbing; replacing all the ceiling lighting with energy efficient fixtures; upgrading some of the electrical systems; refinishing all of the furniture; buying and installing new window treatments; replacing interior doors and locks; installation of additional air conditioning and heating units; installation of new kitchen countertops, sink, tile work and appliances; painting every inch of the shelter and some general decorating touches. We were also able to buy new living and dining room furniture.

Staff assisted every step of the way by helping prep areas, moving furniture, scraping and painting, sewing, and cleaning up after much of the work. Staff was also able to de-junk, organize and update offices, forms and manuals and attend a full one day retreat.

All of this was made possible through private contributions and grants.

*The place looks marvelous! Please see the pictures.*



## Missouri Supreme Court Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission

In April 2017 St. Martha's Hall was asked to sit on the Missouri Supreme Court Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission. The Commission was established by the Missouri Supreme Court with the goal of reducing human trafficking and domestic violence in our state.

In an attempt to accomplish this the Commission has the following objectives:

1. Develop programs to educate judges and court personnel on how to identify those suffering from the effects of human trafficking and domestic violence and how to ameliorate those effects;
2. Develop community resources to improve methods of recognizing and investigating human trafficking and domestic violence;
3. Improve public awareness of court programs available to combat human trafficking and domestic violence, including the order of protection process; and
4. Improve coordination within all divisions of the circuit court to provide redress to those injured by human trafficking and domestic violence consistent with the court's duty to act promptly, efficiently, fairly and impartially.



St. Martha's Hall is serving on the subcommittee devoted to reducing domestic violence. The Commission has had three meetings since April and is working to establish its subcommittee goals. One goal that has already been established is the writing of a judicial benchbook to be used statewide. The benchbook is a book providing an overview of legal procedure for a judge and is used by judges while hearing cases as guides to assist in the disposition of a case. This benchbook will be a guide for both civil and criminal domestic violence cases.

St. Martha's Hall is honored to serve on this Commission.

### **Father Support Center, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Angel Band Project**

We continued collaborating with these outstanding organizations.

We provided on-going domestic violence orientation to Father Support Center staff and facilitated monthly classes working directly with the fathers providing education about the effects of domestic violence on children. We also facilitated bi-weekly classes for women in the Parenting in Partnership program at the Center.

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri provides our women and children priority legal services at intake and then provides holistic expanded and enhanced services to our residents.

Angel Band Project promotes healing and hope to survivors of sexual and domestic violence through music and provides a music therapist to come to the shelter and work with the residents once every six weeks.

## **Community Support**

### **Board of Directors**

- **Showers for the Shelter**

Last fiscal year our board had one "shower" for the shelter in December. This "shower" provided the shelter with hundreds of dollars' worth of supplies and gift cards. We are most grateful to **Libby Rohlfing** for hosting this shower by opening her home and providing all the guests with beverages, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Libby's generous hospitality helped make the shelter more comfortable for our residents.

- **Solid Lines Productions**

This theater fosters community dialogue through theatre about socially relevant issues, including domestic and sexual violence. St. Martha's Hall began working with Solid Line Productions in 2014 and since that time we have participated in 3 productions, including facilitating open dialogues with the audience after each performance. Each production includes a partnership with local non-profits to raise awareness about community resources. All regular shows are free-of-charge because Executive Director Chris Labanca understands that social change affects all levels of income. Audience members are encouraged to donate in-kind gifts to local non-profit partners and our shelter has benefited from these donations. We are so very blessed to work with an agency that believes "there aren't any blurred lines when confronting domestic and sexual violence. Beyond that, two solid lines reminds us why we are here – equality".

### **Volunteers**

- Thirty-seven volunteers contributed 617 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, provided music therapy, health classes, helped with resumes, packed snack boxes, organized fundraising events and many other jobs.



Drawing from the 8th Grade Class at St. Gabriel The Archangel School.

- **Garden Party and David**, a florist and home décor shop located in Clayton, held a book fundraiser to benefit St. Martha's Hall in December 2016. Mary Engelbreit was signing copies of her book, *A Night of Great Joy* which tells the story of the Nativity through a children's Christmas pageant, and a portion of the book sales and shopping revenue from the night went to St. Martha's Hall. We raised \$1,200 that night!
- **Martha's Boutique** was held in November 2016 at Cyrano's Event Room. This event was coordinated by volunteer Chrissy Shelton, and raised over \$6,500 by selling new or gently used women's clothing and accessories that had been donated for this purpose. Nearly 100 women attended this event and enjoyed raffles, wine, and appetizers while shopping.
- **Finals Fun** was held in March 2017 just before the start of the NCAA Final Four games. This event raised nearly \$10,000 and we hope to repeat the success next year! Over 100 people attended and participated in silent auction, raffles, games, food, and drink while helping the shelter raise funds for renovations. Thanks to Mary Ann and Joel Schwartz for hosting and all the board, staff, auction item donors, and attendees for making it fun!
- **GiveSTL Day** raised \$745.18.
- **Mother's Day Tribute Cards** raised \$2,875.

### In-Kind Donations

Many generous individuals and groups provided new and special in-kind gifts to our shelter.

A special note of sincere gratitude to:

Altrusa  
American Association of University Women  
Assistance League of St. Louis-Project Rose  
Bank of America  
Bonhomme Presbyterian Church  
Bath and Body Works, MidRivers  
Emily Boss  
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## FINANCIALS

JULY 2016 - JUNE 2017

REVENUES	% OF REVENUE	
Private Contributions	\$385,998	27.61%
Investment Income	\$60,407	4.32%
Government Grants/Contracts	\$726,371	51.96%
United Way	\$161,313	11.54%
Other Grants	\$45,716	3.27%
Special Events	\$15,241	1.09%
Other	\$2,870	0.21%

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,397,916</b>	<b>100%</b>
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EXPENSES	% OF EXPENSES	
Fundraising	\$46,219	3.44%
Administration	\$135,756	10.11%
Programs	\$1,161,292	86.45%

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,343,267</b>	<b>100%</b>
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Net Unrestricted Surplus \$54,649

Total Year End Net Assets = \$1,422,572.49

*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, 2016 – June 30, 2017 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](mailto:katyk@saintmarthas.org).

## SERVICES PROVIDED

**In 2016-2017, St. Martha's Hall staff provided the following services:**

- Support and information to 2,246 callers through the 24-hour crisis and support hotline.
- Emergency shelter for 102 women and 136 children who were forced to flee their homes to escape abuse.
- Peace, safety and hope for 6,291 days and nights.
- Support and healing through 46 support groups and 27 parenting groups for women and 108 support groups for children.
- Resources to build for the future through 1,684 referrals to other services for our residents.
- Continued support and resources through follow-up services to 29 women.
- Assistance for 71 women establishing a goal plan for their lives freed from abuse.
- Support, information and accompaniment for 8 women going through the judicial system.
- Community education to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic violence to 122 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? 100% of the women responding said they know more ways to plan for their safety and 94% said they knew more about community resources. 100% of the women stated that they feel more hopeful about the future as a result of their stay. 75% of the women achieved stability in their living situation. 100% of mothers completing a survey regarding their children stated that they can identify, manage, and appropriately express their emotions and behaviors as a result of their stay.



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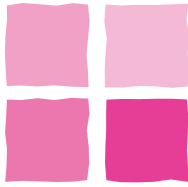
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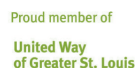
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