

St. Martha's Hall Annual Report July 2018 - June 2019



SAINT MARTHA'S HALL

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*"A ray of hope flickers in the sky
A tiny star lights up way up high
All across the land, dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass when a child is born*

*And all of this happens because the world is waiting,
Waiting for one child
Black, white, yellow, no-one knows
But a child that will grow up and turn tears to laughter,
Hate to love, war to peace and everyone to everyone's neighbor
And misery and suffering will be words to be forgotten, forever."*

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is with humble and profound gratitude that I say good-bye to each of you.

December 31, 2019 will be my last day at my beloved St. Martha's Hall. I, for some unknown reason, was granted to serve St Martha's for thirty-seven years.

St. Martha's has been my True North. My internal moral compass guiding me through my life, helping me go to my deepest level and stay on course. It has filled me with the passion needed to do this work to my best and with joy. This has been a holy trek.

This True North, this internal moral compass was infused into me by the women and children we serve, my co-workers, members of our Board of Directors, my sisters and brothers in the movement to end domestic violence, countless colleagues and all of our supporters.

It took me awhile to learn to be more finely aware of all of my experiences and every person I have met doing this work. Each came to me for a reason. Sent from above because I needed to learn that how I responded to each experience and person is what makes a difference for good in the world. I needed to realize that even those I perceived as an opponent, not on our side, or an obstacle to our mission, gave me an opportunity to learn, to strive to be better, to love. I often failed in this and still do but I will continue trying.

But you all infused my moral compass, my True North, to do good. There is no way that I could have done this for 37 years without each person that God put into my path.

I thank you. I thank the Holy Trinity. I thank our Blessed Mother. I thank my Guardian Angel (she worked overtime). Again, I thank you. It has been a magnificent journey.

Peace and Perseverance,



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

Martha of Bethany had opened her home and offered hospitality to Jesus and learning from His teachings. 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.



SAINT MARTHA'S HALL
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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.

2018-2019 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Shelter Program and Collaborations

New Development Director and Executive Director

Lauren Alvino became our **Development Director** on January 22, 2019. She came to us from another agency that serves victims of domestic and sexual violence where she worked for four years in development and communications and an additional three years of experience in marketing and communications in the for-profit sector. Lauren has her bachelor's in sociology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is a wiz with our data base and all of the difficult reports and government contracts we have. She stepped in without missing a beat.

In the short time Lauren has been with us she has started a composting project. Instead of folks throwing their garbage out with the trash we now put it into a compost bin. Lauren takes it home and recycles it to use for the chickens she and her husband Matt raise in their backyard. We are grateful to her for helping us respect God's creation a little more through her composting efforts. Also Lauren and her husband share their bounty of fresh eggs with us. *Wow, the good luck rays of sunshine shined on us when Lauren joined our family.*

Jessica Woolbright will be the **Executive Director** of St. Martha's Hall on January 1, 2020. Jessica has been with us since 2000 and has been our Children's Program Coordinator since 2002. She received her master's in social work from St. Louis University and is a licensed clinical social worker.

Jessica has served as an Expert Witness in criminal domestic violence cases and as a consultant to Missouri Children's Division and to St. Louis City and St. Louis County Family Courts during investigations, court hearings, and case management. She has also been a member of the Board of Directors for the St. Louis Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and Raven (Rape and Violence End Now). On behalf of St. Martha's she provides classes on the effects of domestic violence on children at the Father's Support Center and has been a speaker and trainer at over 350 presentations on violence against women and children.

She is also an active member of the St. Louis Ending Violence Against Women Network and the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence serving as various committee chairs and on task forces.

These are just a few examples of her experiences. She is wise, smart, brave, compassionate, passionate, persistent and funny. She is outstanding. By the way so is her husband Brian and two children Luc and Flora, who all volunteer for the shelter. *Thank you Jessica for taking on this mantel. How fortunate are we? Beyond very!*

Court Watch Project

With the generous support of a grant from Catholic Charities of St. Louis and our Board of Directors we have been able to continue our work in the circuits courts of St. Louis City and County. These two sources of support allows the Court Watch Project Coordinator, Carla Maley, to continue this important work. The Court Watch Project is in collaboration with 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. The project is overseen by a Leadership Team comprised of Christina Holmes, Project Director at RUNG, an organization committed to empowering women; Susan Kidder, Executive Director of Safe Connections, a counseling organization; Michelle Schiller-Baker, Executive Director of St. Martha's Hall and; Jessica Woolbright, Children's Program Coordinator of St. Martha's Hall.

The Court Watch Project has made strides into the judicial system in both St. Louis City and County circuit courts in improving victim safety, offender accountability and creating a more informed and involved public about the judicial system's effectiveness in handling domestic violence cases. We have trained over 223 volunteer monitors, provided training to court clerks on the nature and dynamics of domestic violence and developed courtroom safety protocols.

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

Update- Missouri Supreme Court Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission

For the last year and a half St. Martha's Hall has been a member of 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.

The Commission under the leadership of St. Louis County judge, the Honorable Michael Burton, continues its work. The requested needs assessment has been completed and was submitted to the Missouri Supreme Court with a request that the Commission be allowed to begin working on the recommendations presented in the needs assessment. This was granted.

- The Commission has now formed subcommittees to begin the work. The priorities in a nutshell are:
- To provide standardized education to judges and court personnel on domestic violence and human trafficking.
 - To implement reliable data/analysis collection and
 - To establish a statewide Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Coordinator position.

The Commission will continue its work for the foreseeable future with the intention of accomplishing these priorities.

Community Support

Board of Directors

- **Shower for the Shelter**

This past spring our board had a "shower" for the shelter. The "shower" provided the shelter with hundreds of dollars' worth of supplies and gift cards. We are most grateful to **Sarah Hellman**, one of our board members, for hosting this shower by opening her home and providing all the guests with beverages, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Sarah's generous hospitality helped make the shelter more comfortable for our residents. The guests were very generous and gave us \$785 in gift cards and cash and a car load of many needed items.

Volunteers and Fundraisers

■ **Thirty volunteers** contributed 860 hours of service not including the countless hours that are contributed by our dedicated board of directors. Our volunteers provided childcare, tutoring, picked up and sorted donations, cleaned and organized parts of the shelter, facilitated arts and crafts groups, provided music therapy and health classes, helped with resumes, packed snack boxes, organized fundraising events and many other jobs.

• **Solid Lines Productions**

This theatre 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 5 different productions either facilitating open dialogues with the audience after each performance or attending the performance and receiving in-kind donations. 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 such as full size toiletries to St. Martha's Hall. This year's production was part of what was called the *Grand Center Theatre Crawl*. The name "Solid Lines reinforces the belief that with consent, there aren't any blurred lines and that two solid lines reminds us why we are here – equality."

• **Garden Party And David**

A florist and home décor shop located in Clayton, held its 4th annual book and gift item fundraiser to benefit St. Martha's Hall in December 2018. Autographed copies of local artist Mary Engelbreit's book *A Night of Great Joy* and *The Bedtime Book* were sold and a portion of the book sales and shopping revenue from the night went to St. Martha's Hall. We raised over \$500 that night!

- GiveSTL Day raised \$445.
- Mother's Day Tribute Cards raised \$2,350.



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:

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United Healthcare
Lara Vitiellos
Helena Webb
Whitfield High School
Cat Wilke
Carol Wilson
Wydown Middle School



Artwork by:
St. Gabriel the Archangel
8th grade girls

FINANCIALS

JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019

REVENUES	% OF REVENUE	
Private Contributions	\$463,300	28.41%
Investment Income	\$20,712	1.27%
Government Grants/Contracts	\$878,940	53.90%
United Way	\$150,412	9.22%
Other Grants	\$111,076	6.81%
Special Events	\$1,008	0.06%
Other	\$5,288	0.32%

Total	\$1,630,737	100%
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EXPENSES	% OF EXPENSES	
Fundraising	\$45,533	3.32%
Administration	\$148,530	10.54%
Programs	\$1,215,159	86.23%

Total	\$1,409,222	100%
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NET UNRESTRICTED SURPLUS \$221,515

Total Year End Net Assets = \$1,909,275.10

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% of the amount of a donation. St. Martha's Hall offers this tax credit to any cash donation of \$250 or more over and above the value of goods and services received. 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, 2018 – June 30, 2019 fiscal year. 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 Lauren Alvino at 314-533-1313 or laurena@saintmarthas.org.

SERVICES PROVIDED

In 2018-2019, St. Martha's Hall staff provided the following services:

- + Support and information to 2,530 callers through the 24-hour crisis and support hotline.
- + Emergency shelter for 124 women and 131 children who were forced to flee their homes to escape abuse.
- + Peace, safety and hope for 6,639 days and nights.
- + Support and healing through 52 support groups and 24 parenting support groups for women and 134 support groups for children.
- + Resources to build for the future through 2,433 referrals to other services for our residents.
- + Continued support and resources through follow-up services to 51 women.
- + Assistance for 102 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 90 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? 90% of the women responding said they know more ways to plan for their safety and 83% said they knew more about community resources. 90% of the women stated that they feel more hopeful about the future as a result of their stay. 35% 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.



WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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May their memories be a blessing.

In memory of Rayanna Bramblett
Mark Byerley
In memory of Rayanna Bramblett
John and Martha Hanley
In Honor of Rayanna Bramblett
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In memory of Buddy Dickerson
Joseph and Elaine Daus
In memory of Jacqueline Feldwerth
Don Feldwerth
In memory of Jerry Hofer
Joseph and Elaine Daus

In memory Jamie Kyriakos
Michael Kyriakos
In memory of Judy Lamy
Abigail Lambert
In memory of Martha Lewis
Anne Kelleher Smith and Sheppard Smith
In memory of Carol Madalon
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In memory of Dick Okenfuss
Joseph and Elaine Daus
In memory of Lois Petruso
Lenore Petruso



Mother's Day Tributes



In Tribute to Jill Alvino
Lauren and Matt Alvino
In Tribute to Lisa Arends
Joanne Ferguson
In Tribute to Sophie Beal
Bridget Brennan
In Tribute to Caron Benoist
Maureen Hannon
In Tribute to Kimberly Bergmann
Christina Sadasivam
In Tribute to Marilyn Bergmann
Christina Sadasivam
In Tribute to Beth Boll
Joanne Ferguson
In Tribute to Kelly Boss
Kathy Rehmer
Ann Boyce
Mary Ann Diehr
In Tribute to Lauren Bruning
Kathy Rehmer
In Tribute to Mary Bruno
Maureen Hannon
In Tribute to Kathy Bueno
Bridget Brennan
In Tribute to Barb Buschmann
Bridget Brennan

In Tribute to Vinisha Clark
Kathy Rehmer
In Tribute to Margaret Coates
Maureen Hannon
Aubrey Crane
Kathy Rehmer
In Tribute to Lauren Devoti
Matt Devoti
In Tribute to Bonnie Devoti
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Kathy Rehmer



Mother's Day Tributes Continued



In Tribute to Patty Fish
Debbie Selvadurai

In Tribute to Amy Freeman
Kathy Rehmer

In Tribute to Julie Gustafson
Maureen Hannon

In Tribute to Donna Haller
Kathy Rehmer

In Tribute to Michelle Hollman
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In Tribute to Beth Jurgensen
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In Tribute to Carol Klipsch
Kathy Rehmer

In Tribute to Mary Anne Knott
Bridget Brennan

In Tribute to Carla Maley
Brian, Jessica, Luc, and Flora Woolbright

In Tribute to Jill Munsell
Bridget Brennan

In Tribute to Mary Milner
Bridget Brennan

In Tribute to Emily Odum
Lauren and Matt Alvino

In Tribute to Joan O'Neal
Kathy Rehmer

In Tribute to Ann Perry
Joanne Ferguson

In Tribute to Janet Rainford
Kathy Rehmer

In Tribute to Janet Rauckman
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Debbie Selvadurai

In Tribute to Terri Rehmer
Kathy Rehmer

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In Tribute to Mary Roach
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In Tribute to Shelley Smugala
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In Tribute to Alicia Stone
Christina Sadasivam

In Tribute to Kate Stroble
Kathy Rehmer

In Tribute to Angie Suellentrop
Joanne Ferguson

In Tribute to Amber Sumrall
Maureen Hannon

In Tribute to Sarah Swatosh
Priscilla and John Swatosh

In Tribute to Maria Varns
Christina Sadasivam

In Tribute to Marilyn Vollet
Maureen Hannon

In Tribute to Lexi Wahl
Kathy Rehmer

In Tribute to Alice Weis
Bridget Brennan

In Tribute to Laura Whittle
Priscilla and John Swatosh

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Maureen Hannon

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Maureen Hannon
Chris Woolbright
Brian, Jessica, Luc, and Flora Woolbright

In Tribute to Debbie Zintel
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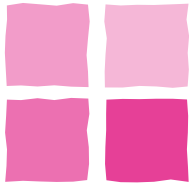
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Representing over 185 years of combined dedication to ending violence against women. List includes staff who left during the year.

Lauren Alvino, Development Director (1/22/19)
Melissa Bracho, Advocate
Terri Brown, Advocate
Diana Camren, Advocate
Tina Courtois, Advocate
Roni Cowley, Advocate
Charlotte Cribbs, Advocate
Cassie Esswein, Advocate
Katherine Keller, Development Director
Bridget Klebolt, Advocate
Jessica McClean, Advocate
Melanie Metherd, Advocate
Brittany Ponzer, Advocate
Vera Walker Oates, Advocate
Kerry O'Brien, Advocate
Carly Smale, Advocate
Daralyn Stayton, Advocate
Megan Smith, Children's Advocate
Michelle Rhode, Program Director
Michelle Schiller-Baker, Executive Director
Jessica Woolbright, Children's Program Coordinator
Sarah Zapfen, Advocate
Sue Zumbro, Advocate

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