

## New Traveling Exhibit Draws “A Line In The Sand,” Battles Silence of Domestic Violence

Exhibit Conceived and Organized By House Of Ruth Maryland,  
On View Across Maryland from June 2008 to June 2009

BALTIMORE, MD – House Of Ruth Maryland’s new traveling exhibit, ‘A Line In The Sand’ is blazing the public spotlight on the raging issue of domestic violence, which claimed the lives of at least 45 women and children in Maryland last year alone. The photographic exhibit unveils at a private opening on June 5, 2008 at Gallery Imperato in Baltimore City and will travel for public viewing during a one year period throughout the state of Maryland.

Conceived and organized by House Of Ruth Maryland, ‘A Line In The Sand’ displays more than 20 interpretive portraits and short essays that chronicle Maryland’s fight against domestic violence and the people who have led the way.

People featured in the exhibit share in common a time when they said, “Enough!” and drew a definitive ‘line in the sand’ to combat domestic violence. They all took positive, often brave actions to make life safer for the women and children of Maryland.

“Domestic violence runs rampant in our society and strikes fear in thousands of women and children,” says Carole Alexander, executive director of House Of Ruth Maryland. “‘A Line In The Sand’ is our way of challenging the silence that surrounds domestic violence and profiling those people who have made a real difference in the lives of women and children across Maryland.”



This dramatic portrait of a mother whose children were tragically murdered by her estranged husband is part of a new exhibit by House Of Ruth Maryland.



Matthew Kern’s portrait of Carole Alexander portrays her daily quest to permanently silence domestic violence.

Some subjects in the exhibit were touched by domestic violence in personal and brutal ways. Others were moved by the experiences of strangers. Some are household names, others are ordinary people driven to do extraordinary things.

First Lady of Maryland and associate judge, Catherine (Katie) O’Malley; former *Baltimore Sun* reporters David Simon and William Zorzi; courageous domestic violence victim, Veronica Ginyard, who was featured on ABC’s *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*; three dedicated volunteers known as The Angels; and former Baltimore City Police Officer Kate Wood, whose daughter died in her arms after being gunned down by her ex-boyfriend, are among those featured in the exhibit.

Fine art photographers from around the United States were invited to shoot the portraits based on their demonstrated sensitivity to both their art and their subjects. Photographers comprise internationally known artists and promising up-and-comers, such as: Connie Imboden, Matthew Kern, Mary Carole Curran, Matthew Girard, and Leo Howard Lubow.

Designed by Alex Castro of Castro/Arts, "A Line In The Sand" travels to corporate lobbies, government buildings, schools and museums across Maryland from June 2008 through June 2009. The exhibit opens to the public on June 6, 2008 at Gallery Imperato and will be on view for three weeks before moving to the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Members of the media are invited to attend the private opening on June 5. For credentials and/or access to our image gallery, contact Amanda Karfakis at 410-732-6542 ext. 22.

Resources:

- \*\* A Line In The Sand: <http://www.alineinthesand.org>
- \*\* House Of Ruth Maryland: <http://www.hruth.org>

**About House Of Ruth Maryland**

House Of Ruth Maryland is the non-profit organization that provides the most comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence in the state of Maryland. House Of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end domestic violence against women and their children by confronting attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear. Since its founding in 1977, House Of Ruth Maryland has helped more than 100,000 victims through its shelter, 24-hour hotline, counseling, outreach, training and legal services.

**Contact:**

Amanda Karfakis  
Vitamin for House Of Ruth Maryland  
410-732-6542 ext. 22  
[amanda@vitamininc.net](mailto:amanda@vitamininc.net)

E X H I B I T      F A C T      S H E E T

- About the Exhibit: "A Line In The Sand" is a photographic exhibit chronicling Maryland's fight against domestic violence and the people who have led the way. Conceived and organized by House Of Ruth Maryland, the exhibit features interpretive portraits of more than 20 subjects who have made a significant impact in the fight against domestic violence. These portraits -- shot by fine art photographers from around the U.S. -- along with short essays, tell the story of domestic violence in Maryland. Subjects include First Lady of Maryland and judge Katie O'Malley, former Governor William Donald Schaefer, former *Baltimore Sun* reporters, David Simon and William Zorzi; and courageous domestic violence victim, Veronica Ginyard, who was featured on ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*.
- Exhibition Hours\*: "A Line In The Sand" travels to corporate lobbies, government buildings, schools and museums across Maryland from June '08 through June '09. Members of the media are invited to attend the private opening at Gallery Imperato on June 5, 2008. For details or to register for media credentials, please contact Amanda Karfakis (see below).
- The Subjects\*: Each of the subjects featured in "A Line In The Sand" has made a significant contribution to combating domestic violence. Some of the subjects have been touched by domestic violence in very personal and very brutal ways, others have been moved by the experiences of strangers -- but all reached a point where they said "enough" and took very positive, sometimes very courageous actions to make life safer for the women and children of Maryland. Some are household names, others are just ordinary people driven to do extraordinary things.
- The Photographers\*: Participating fine art photographers come from all parts of the U.S. and include internationally known artists, as well as promising up-and-comers. Many have had books published on their works or have pieces in permanent collections in museums around the world. Each photographer was personally invited to participate in "A Line In The Sand" based on their past work, their demonstrated sensitivity to both their art and their subjects, and their ability to capture an emotional glimpse into what motivated and enabled each of our subjects to make a real difference in the lives of battered women and children.
- Media Contact: All media inquiries regarding House of Ruth and "A Line In The Sand" can be directed to our PR team at Vitamin. By request, we are able to provide access to pertinent imagery, biographies on the exhibit's subjects and photographers, and interviews with appropriate spokespeople. Contact:

Amanda Karfakis  
410-732-6542 ext. 22 -- office  
410-627-4098 -- cell  
[amanda@vitamininc.net](mailto:amanda@vitamininc.net)

\* Additional details follow.

**"A LINE IN THE SAND"**  
**ON VIEW FROM JUNE 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009**

**2008**

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>
Gallery Imperato 921 E. Fort Ave Suite 120 Baltimore, Md. 21230 (443) 257-4166 <a href="http://www.galleryimperato.com">www.galleryimperato.com</a>	June 5 (private opening) June 6-27 (open to the public)	-- Tues.-Sat. -- 11am-7pm Sun.-Mon. -- By appointment
Enoch Pratt Free Library 400 Cathedral Street Baltimore, Md. 21201 <a href="http://www.prattlibrary.org">www.prattlibrary.org</a>	June 30 – August 1	TBD

**2009**

St. Joseph Medical Center (Facility is under construction; exact location TBD in Nov. 2008)	February 2 -27	TBD
Towson University Center for the Arts 8000 York Road Towson, Md. 21252 <a href="http://www.towson.edu/centerforthearts">www.towson.edu/centerforthearts</a>	June (specific dates TBD)	TBD

*(Additional venues to be announced)*

## T H E S U B J E C T S

---

**Carole Alexander**

*Executive Director, House Of Ruth Maryland*

**The Angels**

*Dedicated Volunteers*

Louise Armstrong  
Marion Decker  
Barbara Himmelrich

**The Honorable Robert M. Bell**

*Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals*

**Jackie Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN**

*Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing*

**Mary Pat Clarke (D-Baltimore District 14)**

*District Representative*

**J. Joseph Curran, Jr.**

*Former Maryland Attorney General*

**Jane Doe**

*Victim Advocate*

**Joe Ehrmann**

*Educator, motivator and co-founder of Building Men and Women for Others*

**Donna Ferrato**

*Photographer/Photojournalist*

**The Honorable Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman**

**Veronica Ginyard**

*Courageous Victim featured on ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*

**The Legislators**

Sharon M. Grosfeld  
*Former Maryland State Senator (D-District 18)*

Sue Hecht  
*Current Maryland State Delegate (D-District 3)*

Pauline Menes (D-District 21)  
*Former Maryland State Delegate*

**Jayne Miller**

*Chief Investigative Reporter, WBAL-TV*

**Arthur & Patricia Modell**

*Humanitarians and Co-Chairs of House Of Ruth Maryland's Spring Luncheon, the organization's largest annual fundraiser.*

**The Honorable Catherine (Katie) Curran O'Malley**

*First Lady of Maryland and Associate Judge of the District Court of Baltimore City*

**Barbara Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN**

*University of Virginia School of Nursing*

**Brenda Brown Rever**

*Advocate and Philanthropist*

**William Donald Schaefer**

*Former Mayor of Baltimore City and Governor of Maryland*

**Kurt Schmoke**

*Former State's Attorney and Baltimore City Mayor*

**Marie Shifflett**

*Victim advocate and mother of Venus Ann Shifflett*

**David Simon & William Zorzi**

*Simon: Author, Journalist and Writer-Producer  
Zorzi: Former Reporter for The Baltimore Sun*

**Linell N. Smith**

*Former reporter for The Baltimore Sun*

**Lisa Spicknall**

*Victim Advocate*

**Kathleen Kennedy Townsend**

*Noted Author and Former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland*

**Cathy Ward & Nancy Ratcliffe Ferrell**

**Judy Wolfer**

*Managing Attorney, House Of Ruth Maryland*

**Kate Wood**

*Former Baltimore City Police Officer and Domestic Violence Officer, whose daughter, a domestic violence victim, died in her arms.*

**Carole Alexander**

*Executive Director, House Of Ruth Maryland*

Carole Alexander has been the executive director of House Of Ruth Maryland since 1983. Since that time, she has led the organization to unprecedented growth and the development of evidence-based programming that is comprehensive in range and scale and effective in prevention and early intervention in the lives of those who fall victim to intimate partner violence. Her leadership has established House Of Ruth Maryland as a leading domestic violence organization whose advocacy, training, public education, and prevention initiatives are groundbreaking models for programs nationwide. Alexander's passion and determination to end violence against women and children was rooted in her early years and nurtured for two decades by watching and experiencing her father's abuse – of her mother, her brother, and of course, herself.

**J. Joseph Curran, Jr.**

*Former Maryland Attorney General*

Joseph Curran, Jr., along with former Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, created the Family Violence Counsel. The Counsel was instrumental in making systemic changes and creating Maryland's first coordinated response to family violence. Curran was the first state official to announce opposition to the appointment of John S. Arnick to the District Court in Baltimore City. Throughout his career, Curran worked to modernize Maryland's divorce and alimony laws, reform adoption and guardianship, and protect victims of domestic violence.

**Donna Ferrato**

*Photographer/Photojournalist*

While on a magazine assignment in 1985, Donna Ferrato witnessed a man beat his wife. Ferrato was so deeply affected by this sight, she took up the cause fulltime – traveling around the country to photograph the effects and acts of domestic violence on the street and in hospital emergency rooms and shelters. Her work first appeared in 1987 and in 1991 became the book, *Living With the Enemy*. Ferrato began exhibiting her work to raise money for domestic violence shelters and eventually founded the non-profit, Domestic Abuse Awareness, Inc.

**William Donald Schaefer**

*Former Mayor of Baltimore City and Governor of Maryland*

William Donald Schaefer gave House Of Ruth Maryland its first shelter on Calvert Street along with funds for renovation, as well as a long-term lease on the second shelter building, and a long-term lease on the land for the third shelter building on Argonne Drive with leases of \$1 annually. In 1991, after reviewing the House Of Ruth Maryland's petition for clemency, Schaefer announced his decision to commute the sentences and grant parole of eight battered women who House Of Ruth Maryland believed, had acted in self-defense, but who, nevertheless, were convicted and incarcerated for killing or assaulting their partners.

**Kurt Schmoke**

*Former Baltimore State's Attorney and Baltimore City Mayor*

Kurt Schmoke created the State's Attorney's Office Domestic Violence unit in Baltimore City. Schmoke also encouraged then Mayor William Donald Schaefer to appoint a Task Force on Domestic Violence, which later became known as the Mayor's Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee. Schmoke was also instrumental in creating and implementing the Domestic Violence Criminal Docket.

**Lisa Spicknall**

*Victim Advocate*

After her estranged husband murdered Lisa Spicknall's children, it came to light that he had been able to buy a gun because the protective order against him, had never been entered into the justice system data base. Spicknall fought to ensure that what happened to her wouldn't happen to anyone else and since then, has spent her life advocating for and helping other victims.

**Judy Wolfer**

*Managing Attorney, House Of Ruth Maryland*

In 1991, Judy Wolfer successfully advocated for laws permitting the introduction of evidence of battering in criminal cases brought against victims of domestic violence who had assaulted or killed their abusers. That same year, Wolfer advocated for a major overhaul of Maryland's protective order statute, increasing the categories of persons included as victims, the length of time a protective order would stay in effect, and the amount of relief provided to victims. In 1993, Wolfer provided crucial testimony against the confirmation of Judicial Nominee John S. Arnick, reversing what was expected to be a routine judicial appointment. Most recently, Wolfer led a House Of Ruth Maryland effort to have Prince George's County Judge Richard Palumbo removed from the bench for lack of "judicial temperament" and his failure to conduct himself without bias and with sensitivity to victims and their families.

**Kate Wood**

*Former Baltimore City Police Officer and Domestic Violence Officer*

Kate Wood was a Baltimore City police officer who responded to a shooting call only to discover, the victim was her daughter. Shot in the head by her ex-boyfriend, Kate's daughter died in her arms. Kate not only took in and raised her grandchildren, but she also trained and became a fulltime domestic violence officer to ensure that victims who were trying to escape their abusers would get the full protection of the law.

T H E P H O T O G R A P H E R S

---

**Niki Berg**  
*New York, N.Y.*

**Michael Chu**  
*Chicago, Ill.*

**Carl Clark & Linda Day Clark**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

**Marshall Clarke**  
*Baltimore, Md./Washington, D.C.*

**Mary Carole Curran**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

**Elizabeth Fenwick**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

**Matthew Girard**  
*Washington, D.C.*

**Connie Imboden**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

**Matthew Kern**  
*New York, N.Y.*

**Peter Riesett & Carey Kirkella**  
*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

**Leo Howard Lubow**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

**John McGarity & Tiffany Walling  
McGarity**  
*New York, N.Y.*

### **Mary Carole Curran**

Mary Curran developed an interest in photography at a young age however it was after the birth of her children that this interest began to flower. Ten years later, her black and white children's portraiture has found its way to local Baltimore galleries. Curran works in natural lighting in outdoor settings – usually in backyards or spaces that are familiar and comfortable to a child. Her photography attempts to capture the unique personality of the subject, from the innocence of a newborn to the awkwardness of a young adolescent.

### **Matthew Girard**

After Matthew Girard graduated from The Corcoran School of Fine Art he worked as a stone carver at The Washington National Cathedral. As a versatile artist Girard transitioned into photography where he has captured images for *Newsweek*, the *Smithsonian* and the *Washingtonian Magazine*. He has also taught photography courses at the Smithsonian. His interest in both people and unusual events have led him to projects ranging from a photographic documentary on the stone carving of St. John's Cathedral in New York City to his latest project, the Circus Side Show of Coney Island.

### **Connie Imboden**

Connie Imboden is a native to this area, growing up in Ruxton, attending the Maryland Institute College of Art where she is currently a faculty member. Her extensive body of work has been exhibited worldwide and is in the permanent collections of many museums including the Museum of Modern Art in NY, the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris and appears in numerous periodicals. Her first book of images *Out of Darkness*, won the Silver Medal in Switzerland's "Most Beautiful Book in the World" in 1993. Imboden's photography is a fascinating exploration into the mysterious landscape of the body. These shapes and forms evoke a sense of wonder and intrigue luring the viewer into this gracefully surreal yet familiar world.

### **Matthew Kern**

Photography is a multilayered journey for Matthew Kern, a self-taught artist raised in a log cabin in Ketchum, Idaho. Using a nearly extinct Polaroid SX70 camera as his first tool, Kern peels away the film from its encasement and then alters the images through a variety of applications from etched lines to paint. "By grouping the images, the collages grow from their manipulation, always keeping the ubiquitous Polaroid grid as anchor." Kern finds inspiration in dreams, experience, emotions and memories, all of which find a place within the framework of his collages. To view these ethereal photographic grids is to be pulled into one's own dreamscape. Matthew's work has been exhibited extensively throughout New York and was most recently Gallery Imperato's first one-man show in Baltimore, Maryland.

### **Leo Howard Lubow**

After 20 years as a business litigator, Leo Howard Lubow gave up his practice in 1997 to pursue two passions: writing and photography. Since then, he has completed an existential thriller; written articles on interests ranging from jazz to boxing; and created a cross-disciplinary body of images that includes fine art, portrait, photojournalistic and street-scene portfolios. His photographs have earned first place in several recent exhibits and competitions, and appeared in various local and national publications. Lubow shoots film and digital (Canon and Leica), and performs all post-capture work to completion of the final print. If he isn't in his studio shooting a portrait, designing a CD cover, or working with Photoshop, you'll find him prowling the streets of the city, any city, hunting for just the right moment.

###



## S P O K E S P E R S O N      B I O G R A P H I E S

---

### **Carole Alexander**

*Executive Director*

Carole Alexander has been the executive director of House Of Ruth Maryland since 1983. During her tenure, Carole has provided leadership for significant growth of programs and advocacy initiatives to prevent domestic violence and to intervene on behalf of battered women and their children. She has directed House Of Ruth in several expansion efforts including the development of the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic that is unique in providing legal representation to battered women throughout the state of Maryland.

Other initiatives that Carole has spearheaded include The Clemency Project and legislative reform, and coordinating the construction of a new shelter and transitional housing program for 84 women and children including oversight for the 20th Year Campaign for Shelter and Services, which raised more than \$10.3 million for capital and endowment.

Prior to joining House Of Ruth, Carole served more than 13 years as an administrator for the Department of Children and Family Services in Chicago, Illinois. For two years, Carole was director of adoption services for Chicago Foundlings Home. Carole has also consulted for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; The Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies; University of Maryland School of Social Work; The League of Theaters in Chicago; Community Research Center, Champaign, Illinois; and Cosmos Corporation, Washington, D.C.

Carole earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a master's degree in social welfare policy from the University of Chicago.

### **Brenda Brown Rever**

*Board Member and Chairwoman of "A Line In The Sand"*

Brenda Brown Rever has served on the board of directors for House Of Ruth Maryland since 1994. During that time, she served as co-vice president of the board and she co-chaired a \$10 million capital campaign to build an 84 bed shelter for the organization – exceeding the set goal of \$9 million. Brenda currently chairs "A Line in the Sand," House Of Ruth's traveling photo/essay exhibit that commemorates the fight to end domestic violence in Maryland and the people who have led the way.

Brenda has dedicated herself to the pursuit of helping organizations unable to obtain funding from conventional sources to achieve their objectives via the private sector. Respectfully known as 'a force of nature' when she sets out to do something, Brenda will move mountains to provide opportunities for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The six extended stay apartments in the shelter are named after her for her generous personal support, both financially and through her advocacy. She has been and still is a loyal friend and advocate of House Of Ruth and the thousands of women and children the organization serves.

In addition to her work with House Of Ruth, in 1995 Brenda founded CHANA which stands for Counseling, Helpline and Aid Network for Abused Women. CHANA is a program of the Women's Department of THE ASSOCIATED, in cooperation with Jewish Family Services and House Of Ruth. CHANA was founded to help deal with the problem of domestic violence in the Jewish Community and its services include a helpline and shelter.

Brenda felt it was important that Jewish women who were in abusive situations needed a safe house that was kosher and that they felt was culturally comfortable and familiar. Through Brenda's efforts and advocacy, a partnership was created between House Of Ruth and Jewish Family Services, under the auspices of the Women's Department of THE ASSOCIATED; a safe house was donated and hundreds of volunteers were trained to support shelter residents, staff the helpline and speak at Jewish organizations.

**Kerri Wojciechowski**

*Associate Director of Community Relations*

Kerri Wojciechowski is associate director of community relations for House Of Ruth Maryland. In her role, Kerri is responsible for implementing House Of Ruth's two signature events, the Spring Luncheon and Crabaret. She also oversees volunteer recruitment and training, individual and corporate giving, and foundation relations with organizations such as United Way to secure funding for community outreach and education.

Now in her third year with House Of Ruth, Kerri is helping to spearhead the planning, development, and launch of "A Line In The Sand," the organization's traveling photo/essay exhibit that commemorates the fight to end domestic violence in Maryland and the people who have led the way.

Prior to joining House Of Ruth Maryland, Kerri was employed with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Department of the Army. Kerri earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Towson University. She earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Baltimore.

###



## F A C T   S H E E T

---

Organization: House Of Ruth Maryland

Status & Funding: Non-profit 501 (c) (3). Funding for House Of Ruth Maryland is made possible through private (53%) and government (38%) funds, and other sources (9%) including investment income, training and client fees resulting mainly from the Gateway Project.

Founded: 1977

Mission: House Of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end violence against women and their children by confronting the attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear.

Domestic Violence: *def.* Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior characterized by the power and control of one person over another, usually an intimate partner, through physical, psychological, emotional, verbal, sexual and/or economic abuse.

Leadership: Carole Alexander, *Executive Director*  
 Holly Edington, *President, Board of Directors; Director, Corporate HR, Black & Decker*  
 Dorothy Lennig, *Director, Legal Clinic*  
 Eilyn Loy, *Director, Counseling, Education and Outreach*  
 Mary McGeady, *Director, Finance and Administration*  
 Terri Wurmser, *Director, Programs*

Location: 2201 Argonne Drive  
 Baltimore, MD 21218  
[www.hruth.org](http://www.hruth.org)

Employees: 100 full-time and part-time

Services: House Of Ruth Maryland has a comprehensive range of services to help protect victims and provide the support services necessary to rebuild their lives. Broadly, those services include a 24-hour Hotline, shelter, children and youth services, community advocacy, legal clinic, counseling and education and training.

People Served: Since House Of Ruth Maryland first opened its doors, it has served more than 100,000 victims. In 2007 alone, House Of Ruth served more than 13,000 victims, along with their family and friends.

Contacts: All media inquiries for interviews, articles or related requests can be directed to our PR team at Vitamin. Contact: Amanda Karfakis at 410-732-6542 ext. 22 or [amanda@vitamininc.net](mailto:amanda@vitamininc.net).

General Help and Information

24-hour Hotline	410-889-7884 (RUTH)
Hispanic Voicemail Line	410-554-8480
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233



## B A C K G R O U N D E R

---

Every day, somewhere in Maryland, a woman is forced to flee her home to protect the lives of herself and her children. She has to walk away from everything that's familiar, be prepared for the legal ramifications, be strong for her kids and somehow start a new life while looking over her shoulder the whole time. That takes real courage and determination and it also takes a huge toll on a person's energy and reserve. At House of Ruth Maryland, we believe no woman or child should be forced to take that walk alone.

Since 1977, House Of Ruth Maryland has been the one, clear voice for victims of domestic violence in this community. We ensure that victim's needs are heard in Annapolis, that justice is handed out in the courts and that the support services necessary to rebuild lives are available to all women and children in need. Domestic violence destroys families and, in the process, tears apart the very fabric of our communities. By supporting House Of Ruth Maryland, the public can step up and speak out for the thousands of local women and children who can't.

### **Each Year, More Than 500 Women And Children Find Safety At House Of Ruth.**

House Of Ruth provides a safe refuge where women can escape the violence and find the support they need to begin rebuilding their lives. Our emergency shelter and six transitional apartments house up to 84 women and children each day. While in shelter, women receive the following services regardless of their ability to pay:

- Emergency housing and meals
- A wellness program, including health care and counseling
- Child care
- Advocacy to meet legal, housing, and employment needs
- Parenting support and job training
- Safety planning.

### **Our Crisis Hotline Operates 24 Hours A Day.**

House Of Ruth Domestic Violence Hotline provides counseling and referrals 24 hours a day, 7 days-a-week to battered women, children, abusers and concerned family members and friends. All calls are confidential and callers are not required to provide their name. Dial 410-889-RUTH (7884), TTY: 410-889-0047.

### **We Offer Counseling To Victims Regardless Of Whether They're Residents At The Shelter.**

Most victims of domestic violence have been systematically brainwashed to believe that the abuse is somehow their fault. Many struggle with feelings of shame and almost all feel if only they were smarter, better, prettier – the abuse would stop. By combining both individual and group counseling, along with education about options and services, House Of Ruth's clinicians help victims through the emotional maze in order to gain both the knowledge and the strength to rebuild their lives. For more information, the public may call 410-889-RUTH. All fees are based on ability to pay.

### **Therapy And Education Can Help Break The Cycle Of Violence.**

#### **That's Why We Make Them Available To Children And Teens.**

In a household wracked with violence, it's rare to find a child who has been left unscathed. Seventy-five percent of the time, they've been physically, sexually, or verbally abused themselves –which also puts them at risk of becoming the next generation of abusers and victims. In an effort to break that cycle, we offer counseling and safety planning to all children in shelter. We also conduct a teen domestic violence program that teaches middle and high school students how to develop healthy dating relationships, and educates parents and school personnel on the issues related to teen dating violence related to teen dating violence.

**Our Legal Clinic Works To Ensure That Women Who Have Been Victimized By Their Partners Aren't Also Victimized By The System.**

Legal representation is the greatest unmet need confronting victims in Maryland. House of Ruth's staff attorneys provide legal representation to help women obtain protective orders, divorce decrees, custody of their children, child support, and spousal support. Legal advocates advise women on the intricacies of filing criminal charges, as well as accompanying them through the court proceedings. More than 3,000 women are served annually from House of Ruth's courthouse offices in four counties and Baltimore City. To help meet the growing demand, over 100 pro bono attorneys throughout Maryland have been trained and given technical support to prepare them for providing legal representation to battered women across the state.

**Attitudes Can Be Just As Deadly As Fists.**

Community education is the key to changing the social attitudes and behaviors which perpetuate male violence against women. To that end, House Of Ruth Maryland provides professional training to health and human service providers, criminal justice personnel and corporate managers on the dynamics and effects of domestic violence and teaches them ways they can help. House Of Ruth also works to educate the broader community through presentations by our Speakers' Bureau and our in-house library of educational resources.

**Advocacy Has Proven To Be A Powerful Weapon Against Violence.**

For more than 30 years, House Of Ruth Maryland has advocated for the rights of women and children. In spite of the victories along the way, there's still much that needs to be done. New laws need to be enacted to provide greater protection for victims and their children. Existing laws need to be better enforced. Police and other criminal justice personnel need training and specialized units. Courts need to treat domestic violence as a serious crime; it should be made a primary factor in determining child custody and visitation rights. The medical community needs to be educated to help identify and assist victims. And resources and community support should be made available for women trying to protect themselves and their children. Achieving these changes has been at the forefront of our fight against domestic violence. We won't stop until the violence does.

**Each Year, More Than 600 Men Are Court Ordered To Attend The Abuser's Intervention Program At House Of Ruth.**

Batterers believe they have the right to control their partners and children through whatever means is necessary. If they cannot maintain control any other way, they will then resort to violence. Batterers are able to sustain their belief system by denying and minimizing their behavior, escalating use of abusive tactics, and blaming their wives and girlfriends. Our Abuser's Intervention Program is a 22-week program structured to systematically challenge those belief systems. Each year, over 600 men are court ordered to attend this program at House Of Ruth Maryland.



## TIMELINE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LANDMARKS OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS

---

- 1977** Oregon becomes the first state in the country to enact legislation mandating arrest in domestic violence cases.
- A small group of volunteers opens Maryland's first shelter for battered women and children. It's located on Calvert Street in Baltimore City and called the House Of Ruth.
- 1978** National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a grassroots organization, is formed and becomes the national voice of the battered women's movement.
- "Battered Spouse" and "Battered Woman" are new categories added to the International Classification of Diseases: Clinical Modification Scheme.
- House Of Ruth is selected as the model shelter program for Maryland and receives its first state funding, allowing it to begin offering support services in conjunction with shelter.
- 1979** The Office on Domestic Violence is established in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It closes two years later.
- The Maryland General Assembly establishes a law mandating police to accompany a woman back to her home to retrieve her personal belongings following an incident of abuse.
- The first Congressional hearings are held on the issue of domestic violence.
- The House Of Ruth introduces a voluntary 22-week counseling program designed to modify the behavior of abusive men, the first program of its kind in the state of Maryland.
- 1980** The inaugural meeting of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is held in Washington, D.C. Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski delivers the keynote address.
- In addition to safe refuge, clients at House Of Ruth are offered employment and housing counseling.
- Maryland passes its first Protective Order legislation. However, the temporary, 15-day order to evict a batterer from the home is only available to people who are married or related by blood.
- 1981** The first annual Domestic Violence Awareness Week is celebrated.
- House Of Ruth begins providing counseling services to children living in their shelter.

- 1982** Overwhelmed by the need, the House Of Ruth expands its shelter, services and sets up the first, statewide, 24-hour hotline for victims of domestic violence.
- The Baltimore City Council passes a marriage license surcharge to help fund domestic violence programs.
- 1983** House Of Ruth opens a legal clinic to provide legal services to victims of domestic violence and expands its voluntary batterers' program to include court-ordered abusers.
- The Domestic Violence Unit of the Baltimore State's Attorney's Office is founded.
- The House Of Ruth begins providing consultation to the United States Navy on how to work with batterers.
- 1984** Passage of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act means, for the first time, federal funding is available for programs serving domestic violence victims.
- House Of Ruth, in cooperation with Women's Law Center, receives a grant from Maryland Legal Services to create the Domestic Violence Law Clinic.
- 1985** The U.S. Surgeon General issues a report identifying domestic violence as a major health problem in the U.S.
- Thurman v. Torrington is the first federal case in which a battered woman sues a city for police failure to protect her from her husband's violence. She wins.
- House Of Ruth launches prevention education in Baltimore City high schools.
- 1986** The Maryland General Assembly passes legislation that enables officers to make an arrest without a warrant if they have probable cause to believe a person battered his/her spouse and, unless arrested immediately, would flee or cause more injury. They also pass a bill that defines and provides penalties for criminal harassment.
- House Of Ruth broadens its training on the dynamics of domestic violence to include police, parents and adolescents.
- 1987** The murder of 5 year old, Lisa Steinberg, and the battered face of her mother, Hedda Nussbaum turns domestic violence into a national debate.
- The first national, toll-free domestic violence hotline is established by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- The House Of Ruth lobbies Maryland lawmakers to extend the Protection Order to evict the batterer from the home from 15 to 30 days.
- House Of Ruth consolidates its services and opens the doors to its new, 24-bed Montebello facility.

- 1988** The U.S. Surgeon General declares wife abuse to be the leading health hazard to women.
- In Maryland, domestic violence protection can now be extended to women who live with their abuser and have one child in common.
- 1989** The marital rape law is enacted in Maryland. This law eliminates marriage as a defense to rape and other sexual offenses if certain conditions are present.
- New policies and procedures represent a significant step forward in Baltimore City's response to domestic violence by including a new "Pro-Arrest" order for police, stressing that the offender be held accountable, and more protection be offered for victims.
- 1990** The first comprehensive federal legislation responding to violence against women is introduced.
- The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) recognizes domestic violence as grounds for asylum in the United States.
- The already existing Warrantless Arrest bill is expanded to include individuals living together in a domestic relationship.
- 1991** The House Of Ruth and the Public Justice Center submit a confidential report to Governor William Donald Schaefer recommending the release of 12 women convicted of crimes against abusive partners.
- On February 19, Governor Schaefer announces his decision to commute the sentences of eight of the 12 women, all of whom had been victims of domestic violence, and pledges further review of the four remaining cases.
- The Maryland General Assembly approves legislation to permit evidence supporting "Battered Spouse Syndrome" to be admissible in court. Maryland becomes the second state in the nation to allow such testimony during criminal trials.
- The American Medical Association makes family violence training mandatory for hospitals seeking accreditation.
- 1992** The U.S. Surgeon General ranks abuse by husbands to be the leading cause of injuries to women aged 15 to 44.
- The Maryland Senate passes legislation increasing Orders of Protection to 200 days and provides financial and custody rights to victims of domestic violence. It also expands the definition of "victim" to include people who live together.
- The American Medical Association releases guidelines suggesting that doctors screen women for signs of domestic violence.
- House Of Ruth opens its first Victim's Advocacy Office in the Baltimore City District Court.

**1993** The United Nations recognizes domestic violence as an international human rights issue and issues a Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

House Of Ruth expands its legal clinic to Prince George's County.

The first national conference for the judiciary on domestic violence is held in San Francisco. Every state in the country sends representatives.

Judy Wolfer, House Of Ruth attorney, provides crucial testimony against the appointment of judicial nominee, John S. Arnick, changing what was expected to be a routine confirmation to the bench.

**1994** The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is signed into law.

President Clinton declares October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman are murdered in Los Angeles, Calif., bringing the issue of domestic violence to the national spotlight.

In Baltimore, Kenneth Peacock gets an 18-month sentence for shooting his wife in the head after finding her with another man. The judge's leniency and inappropriate comments prompt outrage across the state and the nation. In response, the Maryland Women's Bar Association hires a special counsel to help female lawyers challenge judges' behavior.

242 Maryland judges attend the first two-day conference on domestic violence.

House Of Ruth produces a video for area movie theatres on the murder of Venus Ann Shifflett. Her husband, convicted and sentenced to prison, sues the House Of Ruth and the theatre company for defamation of character.

**1995** Baltimore City Police open domestic violence units in every district.

Mark Allen Clark makes national headlines when he uses a bomb to kill himself, his wife and three children in an Essex, Md. shopping center.

The Family Violence Council is formed by Attorney General J. Joseph Curran and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend to reduce family violence in Maryland and prevent the cycle of violence from continuing to the next generation.

A bill aimed at stopping insurance companies' routine denial of health coverage for battered women is introduced and in the Senate. Many insurance companies refuse to cover victims because they have chosen high-risk lifestyles that make them too costly to insure.

CHANA (Counseling, Helpline and Aid Network for Abused Women) is formed by Jewish Family Services and the House Of Ruth to help deal with the problem of domestic violence in the Jewish Community.

- 1996** The National Domestic Violence Hotline, funded by the federal Violence Against Women Act, begins operation, responding to 8,841 calls during its first month.
- Hopkins Nursing School opens a health clinic at the House Of Ruth shelter, providing direct health care to residents, as well as helping victims and their families enroll in free or low-cost health insurance programs.
- 1997** House Of Ruth launches its Teen Initiative, a community based program geared towards teaching teenagers about healthy relationships.
- Maryland extends the duration of the Protection Order from six months to 12 months.
- Maryland passes legislation eliminating spousal adultery as an allowable provocation in spousal homicides in order to reduce a charge of homicide to manslaughter.
- Domestic violence accounts for 10% of Baltimore's homicides.
- 1998** House Of Ruth moves into its new expanded shelter facility with 84 emergency beds and six transitional housing units exclusively for victims of domestic violence and their children.
- The one year separation period before filing for divorce is abolished in cases where the grounds for divorce are excessively vicious conduct or cruelty of treatment.
- In a partner project with Communications Electronics, Inc, the House Of Ruth begins providing battered women with cell phones that are specially programmed to call 9 11.
- 1999** House Of Ruth expands its legal clinic and opens an office in Montgomery County.
- 2000** Congress reauthorizes the landmark VAWA legislation and passes the Violence Against Women Act of 2000.
- The House Of Ruth's Marjorie Cook Foundation Legal Clinic expands to 17 full-time attorneys in seven offices throughout the state. The increase in capability and presence enabled the House to provide legal advice and representation to more than 2,100 battered women in Maryland.
- Maryland gains national and international attention as police search for Joseph Palczynski, who murdered three people while attempting to kidnap his ex-girlfriend, Tracy Whitehead. The nine day saga finally ends in a shootout, leaving Palczynski dead and a community reeling in the after effects.
- 2001** Legislation passes that clarifies officials' obligation to enforce out-of-state protection orders.
- The American Medical Association declares that, in Maryland, "a pregnant woman is more likely to be a victim of homicide than to die of any other cause."
- The House Of Ruth receives grant funding from the Baxter International Foundation to open a counseling center for battered women and children in Prince George's County.

2002 To reflect its state-wide legal, counseling, advocacy and education programs, House Of Ruth officially changes its name to House Of Ruth Maryland.

At the insistence of 88% of Maryland voters, District Court Commissioners are given the power to issue interim protective orders and peace orders at night or on weekends when the courts are closed.

The House Of Ruth Maryland launches its Hotline Advocacy Program in order to expand the services of its 24-hour hotline.

2004 Maryland courts are granted the power to transfer personal property from one party to another in divorce cases involving domestic violence. Prior to this, transfer of personal property could only take place if both parties agreed.

2005 A study by the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals that intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence in women's lives throughout the world.

House Of Ruth Maryland's childcare program is licensed by the state.

Two weeks after her Protection Order is revoked by Prince George's County District Court Judge Richard Palumbo, Yvette Cade is set on fire by her estranged husband.

House Of Ruth Maryland files a petition with the Maryland Judicial Disabilities Commission asking for a review of allegations against Judge Palumbo.

A work group comprised of members of the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts, The Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence create a screening tool and protocol designed to ensure that domestic violence cases are not inappropriately referred to mediation.

2006 The World Health Organization (WHO) calls domestic violence "a major global public health problem" affecting at least one in six women worldwide.

The Maryland Judicial Disabilities Commission files formal misconduct charges against Judge Palumbo and schedules a summer hearing date.

Less than a week before the hearing to determine whether Judge Palumbo's behavior warrants removal from the bench, he announces his retirement.

2007 Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert Bell announces that protective orders will be standardized as part of a national effort to better protect victims of abuse and their families.

Legislation fails in the Maryland General Assembly that would have permitted the confiscation of all weapons before a final protective order is issued. On Thanksgiving Day, a Howard County woman and her children are shot to death by her former husband in a murder-suicide in spite of having asked the courts on two occasions to confiscate his rifle.

Under Maryland law, hospitals are still not required to report domestic violence cases unless they involve children or gunshot wounds.

The FBI releases a report stating that the majority of domestic violence incidences in Maryland are closed without an arrest.

For the fifth year running, the House Of Ruth Maryland sees demand for services in each of its programs increase from 7% to 20%.

---

Media Contact

All media inquiries for interviews, articles or related requests can be directed to our PR team at Vitamin. Contact: Amanda Karfakis at 410-732-6542 ext. 22 or [amanda@vitamininc.net](mailto:amanda@vitamininc.net).

General Help and Information

24-hour Hotline	410-889-7884 (RUTH)
Hispanic Voicemail Line	410-554-8480
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233

###