

Lydia's House transitions
victims of domestic violence
from crisis to confidence

the *Advocate*

Reaching out to our supporters

Spring 2017

Mission

Lydia's House works in faith to end domestic violence by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children.

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Karen T. Kirk

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www.lydiashouse.org



Cynthia's *Story*

The journey all starts with my separation from my husband of two years. After tolerating these two years of abuse, I had to muster the courage to move on. I had to do this for my two beautiful kids, because I knew deep within that I deserved something better. When I finally found the courage to move on, a lot of resources started opening up to me.

As soon as I moved into Lydia's House I was told that I could live in my apartment for up to two years. I couldn't believe it. Two years would give me enough time to finish my education I had started earlier. When I moved into Lydia's House I didn't have a job. My Advocate helped me find a job. Within a week of looking I got hired as a clerk. The pay wasn't great, but the opportunity was tremendous. I could work, go to school, and complete my internship.

I was overwhelmed with the responsibility of being a single mother, having a job, preparing for my final exams and caring for myself. There was no way to balance all of this and stay sane. The groups, meals and

activities at Lydia's House were my escape. An escape from making dinner once a week, and having some me time without the responsibility of caring for my children because childcare was provided.

Everyone at Lydia's House believed in me. My Advocate organized a private tutor for me, and I took and passed my final exams. I can proudly say that I am employed in the medical field. It has been quite a journey I could never have done it without the help of the staff of Lydia's House.

Finally, on my Advocate's recommendation I got signed up with Beyond Housing and now I live in my own 3 bedroom house with my two children. All that I can say is that Lydia's House gave me a tremendous opportunity to offer my family home, a career path and much more; the happiness of finding myself and being myself. I will never forget Lydia's House!

P.S. Thanks for getting me set up with a program that helped me buy my new car!

Letter from the Executive Director



Hello from Lydia's House!

We are excited to share with you the inaugural publication of The Advocate. One of the

main reasons for this newsletter is to build and maintain our relationship with you, our supporters.

Even though our locations are confidential in nature, we feel it is necessary to communicate with you the very best we can. We are hopeful that The Advocate will allow us to share our good news, keep you informed, invite you to upcoming events, and most importantly, remind you of the everyday mission of Lydia's House.

In 2017, Lydia's House acquired a community building to house our administrative offices while providing a safe place for women to meet with an Advocate, learn more about Lydia's House programs and explore what resources are available in the community. This new building keeps our residential locations confidential, while providing a safe meeting space for potential residents and staff. Renovations of our larger residential building will further enhance our ability to house and serve 5 more families that are in need of safety. After renovations are complete, Lydia's House will announce that from its grassroots start in 1995 serving two women it will now have the capacity in 2017 to serve 50 women and up to 80 children at one time!

As we move through these next few months, it is your support that will allow us to serve the women and children of our community, who are victims of domestic violence.

As a supporter of Lydia's House, you are much more than a donor, a volunteer, or a council member, you are making a positive difference in the lives of those in need of safety and resources to put back together the pieces of their lives. Without you, our supporters, our work in the St. Louis community would not be possible.

Thank you in advance, for your continued generosity and dedication to Lydia's House.

As we reach for peace,

Karen T. Kirk

Lydia's House 2016 Impact



56 women and **85** children found safe housing at Lydia's House

31,713 Safe bed nights



4,506 Case-management sessions with women, **1,065** with children

47 Community meal events, **1,769** meals served



19 Employed through Lydia's Ladle
Over 9,000 hours of employment provided

93% reported increased knowledge of resources

96% reported increased sense of safety



A Kitchen of Our Own

In January 2017, Lydia's Ladle moved from Saint Louis University's shared kitchen into our own USDA Commercial Kitchen. Lydia's Ladle is now self operating and standing on its own. We hope this transition will allow us to produce more, which will in turn provide additional job opportunities for our women and increase funds raised by Lydia's Ladle.



Berges Family Foundation



Lydia's House would like to give a very special thank you to the Berges Family Foundation for their generous \$300,000 gift. The Berges Family Foundation supports the institutions and organizations that make Saint Louis a great place to live, visit, invest, with contributions for cultural engagement. They also support STEM preparedness, youth empowerment, and support for our heroes and first responders.

Thanks to support from the Berges Family Foundation, Lydia's House continues to provide more safe bed nights to the women and children of St. Louis, who are escaping domestic violence. By the end of 2017, Lydia's House will have the capacity to serve additional women and their children.

The Berges Family Foundation recognizes the critical need for safe and confidentially located, fully furnished apartments in order to provide that critical stepping stone between emergency shelter and safe independent living.

Thank you, Berges Family, for making growth at Lydia's House possible.

A Night for *Hope and Healing*

Lydia's House hosted its annual gala, A Night for Hope and Healing, on March 4, 2017 to celebrate the accomplishments of our women and children, and raise the much-needed funds that allow us to continue to serve victims of domestic violence in our community. Hosted in the beautiful Khorassan Ballroom at the Chase Park Plaza, more than 250 guests and volunteers enjoyed auctions, raffles, featured presentations and more in support of Lydia's House. The event was a tremendous success and raised over \$130,000 for the women and children of Lydia's House. A special thank you to our honorary chairs, Richard and Sylvia Eichhorn, for being in attendance and your continuous support.



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

This year our sponsors have completely underwritten the cost of our gala. Because of you, 100% of the funds raised at A Night for Hope and Healing will directly benefit our women and children.

Edward Jones

Jonathan & Stephanie Dobson

Nancy Dobson



Save the Date

2018 A Night for Hope and Healing

Start gathering your friends, family, and colleagues!
Lydia's House hopes to make A Night for Hope and Healing
in 2018 our biggest Gala yet.

Saturday, March 10, 2018

Chase Park Plaza Royal Sonesta St. Louis



Featured Volunteers **Cheryl Lubinski and Al Otto**



Volunteers, Cheryl Lubinski and Al Otto share their passion and knowledge of mathematics with the After-School Children's Program at Lydia's House.

As a victim of both physical and verbal abuse as a child, as well as domestic abuse in her first marriage, Cheryl realizes that the children at Lydia's House need her help the most.

"I was really struggling to get a better grade in my math class," said fourth grader, Timmy. "Cheryl and Al started helping me with my homework and I was able to raise my math grade all the way to an A!"

Cheryl and Al have both obtained Ph.D's in Mathematics Education and have taught students in a variety of age levels ranging from first grade to the university level. Cheryl and Al met as colleagues at Illinois State University before moving to St. Louis. Now that they are both retired, Cheryl and Al enjoy traveling the world to work closely with teachers and students. During their travels, Al looks for mathematics puzzles and games to share with the children at Lydia's House.

"We try to model persistence in solving math problems," said Cheryl. "We love challenging the children and encouraging them to solve math problems they never thought were possible."

Thank you Cheryl Lubinski and Al Otto for volunteering at Lydia's House. Your efforts have truly made a positive impact in the lives of our children, who have been victims of domestic violence.



Upcoming Events

Event details and registration is available online at www.lydiashouse.org



Whitley Ray Russo Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, June 12, 2017

Missouri Bluffs Golf Course
18 Research Park Dr, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hosted by:
Ashley and Diana Loewe

\$250 per golfer

Don't forget to wear your crazy socks in memory of Whitley!



6th Annual Charity Mouse Races Benefiting Lydia's House

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Jewish Community Center
16801 Baxter Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63005

Hosted by:
Jason Jacobs, Robert Heideman,
Scott Shafman

Individual tickets: \$25
Tables of Ten: \$200
Sponsorship: \$300

Memorials and Tributes

Colleen Adkins
In the name of Sr. Margie Erkeman

Congregation B'Nai Amoona -
Att: Rabi Carnie Rose
Speedy recovery to Ms. Gertrude Hulbert

Gloria D. Bates
In memory of Joan Risberg

Daniel Corbett and Audrey Bearden
In honor of Deb Heck

Rosemary Boustany
In honor of Kappa Delta Alumnae Chapter of St. Louis

Joan Bray
In memory of Clara Mae Barton

Janet Brown
In honor of Deborah Hinson (In her honor for Christmas)

Judith and Calvin Dierberg
In honor of Laura Dierberg Ayers

Allison Dobson
In honor of Stephanie Dobson

Mark and Janice Franzen
In memory of Roxanne Jessen

Karen Gaertner
In memory of Mr. Leonard Reiter

Louisa Gregory
In honor of Janel Uelk

Victoria and Jon Hampton
In honor of Lois Lenz

Carolyn Held
In honor of Mrs. Held

Eleanor and Michael Hoefle
In honor of Immanuel UCC

W. Edward and Christine Knoll
In honor of Kitty Mollman

Sally Knox
In honor of Douglas Knox

Bonnie and Howard Laiderman
In memory of Edith Sperling

James R. Mendillo
In honor of Stephanie Dobson

Jean Mueller
In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Mueller

Cathy and Bob Pickard
In honor of Deb Heck

Kathleen L. Perks
In memory of mother and sister

Lynn Purvis
In honor of Pat Suter (celebration of birthday)

Michael and Erica Roth
In honor of Cliff Duever

Sharon Streib
In memory of Cliff and Della Streib

Robert and Patricia Suter
In honor of Lynn and Paul Purvis

Vincent and Laureen Torigian
In honor of Rev. Michelle Torigian

Saira Waheed
In memory of Mrs. Kulsoom Waheed Parvez

Robert and Linda Waugh
In honor of Helen Heilich & Sandy McKinney

Angelica Were
In honor of Nora Mosby

Myra Rosskopf Wolfe
In memory of Clara Barton

Lloyd Ziemendorf
In honor of Douglas Knox

Lydia's Ladle

Lydia's Ladle continues our mission at Lydia's House by providing job opportunities, employment, job education and training from some of the best in the business. You may purchase Lydia's Ladle chicken pot pies at your local grocery stores including:



Visit us at www.lydiashouse.org for a complete list of locations.