

While most people know that the House Of Ruth Maryland is the leading provider of comprehensive shelter and services to battered women and children, few are aware that it was originally founded by a small group of dedicated volunteers. These ordinary people were horrified at the lack of support available to victims and were determined to improve the lives of women and children at risk. To that end, they secured a vacant row house from the city government; begged family and friends for beds to fill the house and sometimes even risked their own personal safety on behalf of the women and children they served. From those humble beginnings, a strong volunteer legacy was born. Since its inception in 1977, the House Of Ruth Maryland has expanded and grown to become a national force in the fight against domestic violence. It is a fight that we couldn't wage without the continued support of our dedicated volunteers.

Prevention • Intervention • Advocacy



One Way You Can Help
Fight Domestic Violence Is
By Donating Your Time.



HOUSE OF RUTH
MARYLAND

Administrative Office: 410-889-0840
24-Hour Hotline: 410-889-RUTH (7884)



HOUSE OF RUTH
MARYLAND

Volunteer Positions



Hotline Counselors

The House Of Ruth Maryland's Hotline operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The role of a Hotline Counselor

is to ensure that when victims – or their family or friends - call, day or night, there's always a voice at the other end of the line. A compassionate and supportive voice that's trained to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, conduct initial screenings for shelter admission and is able to refer clients, agencies and other members of the community to available services. An extensive training program is required and volunteers typically work 6-8 hours each month (2 Hotline shifts). We recommend and strongly encourage Hotline Counselors have previous experience working with clients facing difficult life issues.

Pro Bono Attorneys

The House Of Ruth Maryland's Legal Clinic conducts domestic violence and family law training for attorneys who are willing to volunteer their services in civil protective order hearings, and in custody and divorce cases. Pro bono attorneys are needed throughout all jurisdictions in Maryland, and participants are requested to represent one client per year.

Legal Interns & Advocates

If you're interested in seeing firsthand how our criminal justice system works, you could become a Volunteer Advocate or Intern at the House Of Ruth Maryland's Legal Clinic. You'll be trained to monitor court proceedings, help with client intake at our courthouse offices and get a very real sense for what victims go through.

Shelter Assistants

Volunteers are always needed to help out in the shelter. They help provide coverage for the front office, the departmental offices and assist

in everything from stuffing envelopes to sorting and organizing donations, and helping in the kitchen. They assist staff by answering the security doors, answering the telephones and performing light clerical duties.

Speakers Bureau

Speakers' Bureau members provide educational presentations on domestic violence to various community groups. Periodically, in-service workshops are held to provide volunteers with specialized training and new information about programs. Speakers' Bureau members become the voice for women and children who can not speak for themselves.

Intake Workers

Intake Workers conduct initial assessment interviews with abusers attending the Gateway Project, our abuser intervention program. After collecting information about the applicant's family of origin, current family structure, history of violence and substance abuse, and other case details, the Intake Worker would complete an assessment to determine if the program is appropriate for this applicant and how we can best serve him.

Victim Contact Workers

Ordinarily, a victim will initiate contact with House Of Ruth Maryland. However, when abusers are ordered into the Gateway Project, it's one of the few times we're able to take the initiative by reaching out to their victims. We do this both to ensure their safety and to provide them with information on services. Many of the individuals we contact have never identified themselves as victims, nor have they ever used any victim services. Our outreach is designed to be sensitive and responsive to both these issues.

Child Care Assistants

All residents at the House Of Ruth's Shelter are offered the services of a licensed child-care facility. Open five days a week Monday- Thursday 7:30 am – 9 pm and Friday from 7:30 am – 6 pm,

the facility is staffed by licensed child care professionals and trained volunteers. As a child care assistant, you'll help provide care for infants, toddlers, pre-school and school age children; supervise structured activities; supervise field trips and special events and assist with light paperwork.

Special Project Volunteers

For people or groups who aren't able to commit on a regular basis, the House Of Ruth often has special, "one-time" projects where volunteer help would be greatly appreciated. If you'd like to be contacted when those projects come up, please call 410-554-8448 or email jmauro@hruthmd.org. The House Of Ruth Maryland also sets aside certain days each month for interested social and civic groups to take on specific, one-time projects at the Shelter.

B-More Bags Volunteers

Volunteers design, make and hand-finish a line of unique and stylish fabric bags: totes, hand bags, market bags, dressy bags, wine bottle bags, and more. Working out of a shop at the House Of Ruth's administrative building, volunteers sew using machines and by hand. Shop sessions are one or two evenings each week and once or twice a month on Saturday. Volunteers should know how to sew by hand or machine (limited experience needed). Proceeds from the sale of B-More Bags support and sustain the House Of Ruth's Emergency Transportation Fund for battered women and their children.

How To Volunteer

To receive an application, call the development office at 410-554-8448 or download an application at www.hruth.org.



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