

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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House Of Ruth Maryland Receives Award to Help Victims of Domestic Violence

BALTIMORE, MD – House Of Ruth Maryland is the recipient of a \$496,000 grant from the Department of Justice and office of Violence Against Women for their **Safe Homes Strong Communities Initiative**, which provides transitional housing and supportive services for victims of domestic violence.

Safe Homes Strong Communities is a non-traditional community-based transitional housing project designed to minimize the disruption to the lives and work of participants made homeless as the result of domestic/intimate partner violence (D/IPV). The House Of Ruth Maryland developed this program in partnership with St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Marian House, and Adelante Familia to place employed victims of D/IPV into transitional, subsidized housing placements across Baltimore City for a six month period. **Safe Homes Strong Communities** will place a total of 50 employed D/IPV victims per year (100 participants over the course of 2 years) into low to moderate rent market housing in Baltimore City and the surrounding area. For up to 6 months, **Safe Homes Strong Communities** will pay full or partial rent payments in a step-down fashion, offer participants safety planning and case management services, and facilitate access to legal, counseling and health services. Upon completion of the program, **Safe Homes Strong Communities** graduates will have access to 3 to 6 months of follow-up case management, including linkage with resources and services. By the end of 6 months, 90% of participants will have maintained or improved their income through employment and 100% will have sufficient financial resources to assume full rent payments.

As Chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Mikulski fights each year to increase funding for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Violence Against Women Office, which supports programs authorized through the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*, historic legislation that Senator Mikulski helped pass into law in 1994.

"I am proud to fight to put these programs in the federal law books, and I will continue to fight to put the funding they need in the federal checkbook," **Senator Mikulski** said. "I have absolutely no tolerance for domestic violence. That's why I strongly support legislation and grant programs that help protect women and their families from continued violence and abuse, and gives them the tools they need to rebuild their lives."

"We are grateful to Senator Barbara Mikulski for her support and leadership in helping us build a solid community-based support network for victims and their families," said **Carole Alexander**, Executive Director of the House Of Ruth Maryland. "We are confident that we can help victims strengthen their capacity to secure and sustain permanent housing and long-term employment."

This award will create two new victim service jobs and enable House Of Ruth Maryland's partner agencies to retain five other positions.

Resources:

** 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.

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A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT CHRONICLING MARYLAND'S FIGHT AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LED THE WAY.