

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2010

House Of Ruth Maryland Opens Legal Office in Silver Spring District Court

BALTIMORE, MD – House Of Ruth Maryland opened its eighth legal office in the Silver Spring District Court located at 8552 2nd Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 2091. Funding was provided from Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds.

The Marjorie Cook Domestic Violence Legal Clinic at the House Of Ruth Maryland serves over 3,700 clients annually throughout the state. One attorney and legal advocate will work out of the Silver Spring location and provide clients with intake, referrals, safety planning, advice, and representation in protective order cases. House Of Ruth Maryland currently has a legal staff of 23, including 17 full-time attorneys.

House Of Ruth also operates four Protective Order Advocacy and Representation Project (POARP) offices: two in Prince George's County, one in Baltimore City, one in Montgomery County and an office in the new Family Justice Center in Montgomery County. POARP staff provide on-site, legal services to victims of domestic violence in protective and peace order cases, as well as at protective order appeals, modifications and contempt proceedings. Clients can walk into any of the POARP offices during court business hours and receive immediate assistance with filling out protective order petitions, determining their legal service needs, referrals to other community agencies, lethality assessment and safety planning.

Each year, thousands of victims of domestic violence in Maryland struggle to break free from abuse and rebuild safe and productive lives for themselves and their children. Obtaining a protective order is an integral part of this process for many victims. Through a protective order, victims are able to have their abusers kept away from home, work and school; have abusers removed from the family home; obtain temporary custody of minor children; receive temporary financial support; and, have abusers' guns removed. The Clinic also provides representation in family law cases to those victims who must obtain permanent divorce and custody orders in order to achieve safety.

Victims of domestic violence can seek legal assistance from the Silver Spring location by calling the office directly at 301-563-8578 or the House Of Ruth Maryland 24-Hour Hotline at 410-889-RUTH (7884).

Resources:

** House Of Ruth Maryland: <http://www.hruth.org>
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.