The “Houses” of Ruth

Comprehensive Services and Housing for Women

- Madison Empowerment Center: 50 Women
  - New Empowerment Center: 10 Women
  - New Pathways: 10 Women
  - Three Sisters: 14 Women
  - Unity: 25 Women

Comprehensive Services and Housing for Families

- A New Way: 12 Families
  - Bridges: 10 Families
  - Family Space: 11 Families
  - Freedom Place: 13 Families
  - Herspace: 13 Families
  - Hope Rising: 12 Families
  - Reunified Families: 13 Families

Community-based Services

- Domestic Violence Support Center: 300 Women
  - Kidspace Child and Family Development Center: 73 Children and their Families
In 2014 more than 1,100 women and children were housed, counseled, trained, and comforted by the House of Ruth family. As the saying goes, “it takes a village.” At House of Ruth, that village is family – all of us – the women, children, staff, therapists, community organizations, and you, our donors. We are forever grateful for the continued support you give those in greatest need, year after year. On behalf of everyone here, thank you.

This year has underscored the importance of hope, home and family. One highlight was a visit by an old family member. Michael and his mother lived at a House of Ruth program for three years nearly 20 years ago. Michael became a US Army veteran, a world class singer, and most importantly, a good husband and father. He credits House of Ruth with “making me the man I am today.” Nothing pleases us more than having family members tell us of their success in life.

As we approach our 40th year, we are proud of what we’ve accomplished together. We have grown from one small “House of Ruth” to ten, and four community based programs. We are reaching more of those in need and making a difference. You have played a major role in helping us become who we are today. We look forward to celebrating the impact of our hard work, and more importantly, the achievements of those we serve. We want to hear your thoughts about House of Ruth and how we should commemorate our anniversary in 2016. Together as a family, we will continue to assist women, children and families in greatest need.

We made new friends this year including many new individual donors as well as a diverse group of social and educational organizations promoting wonderful change in creative ways; like the non-profit organization of interior designers helping House of Ruth families create new home environments; and valuable continued support from community groups with a commitment to helping.

To all of you, please accept our sincere thanks for your support from the board, staff, women and children of your House of Ruth.

Sincerely,

Winifred Wilson  
Executive Director

Pamela Pinkett  
Chair, Board of Directors

Cover art credit: Taliyah, age 9, House of Ruth resident. Third place winner AFCEA Night for the Children art contest, March 2014
It all begins with a strong belief in resilience. With the addition of devoted, highly skilled and caring professionals, hope can be found here at House of Ruth. From our first interaction, we see that the women hope for what we all want for our children – a safe and healthy life. Then the hard work begins for all of us and gradually each one finds their pathway to a better life.

In nearly 40 years we have seen more than 10,000 women and children come into the program and then go on to better lives. We strive with some success in ending homelessness and domestic violence. The result of our work is great. But here in our nation’s capital the numbers are increasing. We are carefully watching the numbers:

- Homeless families are on the rise in DC – 1,007 families sought shelter this past hypothermia season compared to 723 the year before, a 40% increase.
- In 2013, there were more than 32,000 domestic violence calls to the Metropolitan Police Department. That figure increases yearly.
- One out of four women in the District will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.

The need is great; the hope is strong. This past year we impacted the lives of more than 1,100 women and children with our programs.

Hope is very much a part of who we are. We use sound strategies that guide us from an individual plan for each client to collaboration with other organizations that generates and supports the best path. As part of our recently adopted Strategic Plan, House of Ruth is actively engaged in the local, regional and national dialogue around the policy and practice issues of homelessness and domestic violence. We are a founding member of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and work diligently to end homelessness in our city. We also joined the NO MORE effort as a local partner to show our support for their PSA campaign.

Our services at House of Ruth allow for a customized roadmap for recovery. In some cases the answer is counseling through our Domestic Violence Support Center, for some it is more comprehensive, with housing, therapies, addiction counseling, and specialized support for the children in the family.

With hope, hard work, and your help we know we will continue to succeed.
I decided to leave my husband of 23 years when the abuse moved from me to our children. I came to House of Ruth and joined Freedom Place. With help, my children and I started to heal and are moving on to a safe and affordable home. I went back to earn my associates degree and am determined to forge a stable, meaningful life for myself, and to be a good role model for my children. One of my daughters even earned a scholarship to a prestigious school. I want to become a counselor so I can help people going through what I went through. The staff are motivators; they helped me believe that I can do better.

I was in a domestic violence situation that resulted in my children being taken away from me. I tried to make changes before, but the stress of my life long history of abuse was too hard. I began to rely on alcohol as my coping mechanism. I knew I needed help. I came to House of Ruth and joined the Domestic Violence Support Center. I completed a 30-day detoxification program, joined a program for newly recovering women, and began attending counseling. I'm still getting therapy to help me cope with the trauma in my past. Thanks to my therapist, I can deal with things so much better now, and can make better choices for my children and myself.
“Home is where the heart is” and House of Ruth works with individuals and families to ensure that is always true. For the women and children we serve, House of Ruth is often the first safe and stable home they’ve ever known.

■ On any given day, we are providing 420 women and children with a place to call home.

■ Beyond their individual apartments, each of our houses has a gathering space that includes a place to do homework or crafts, watch TV, or just have a conversation with a fellow resident.

■ We have ten homes in 5 wards throughout the District.

It was one of our activity rooms that drew the attention of a new donor, Room to Rebloom. This group of female interior designers created healing home environments with the residents as full partners in the makeover. Our first Room to Rebloom project is complete and more are under way thanks to their generosity.

The “Houses of Ruth” are homes for our residents while in the program. Our ultimate goal is for them to “graduate” to a home of their own. Doing that requires us to be vigilant in the evaluation of our programs.

■ In 2014, 81 percent of families and 86 percent of single women who left our programs went into safe, stable and permanent housing. These outcomes are at the core of our mission and indicate that our work is helping women create and sustain safety and stability in their lives.

Two specialized programs help families as they transition from a “House of Ruth” to long term independent living. Both the Family Space and Bridges programs work with women and children who are about to leave one of our services or who need help to stay in the community. The women and families live in their own homes but rely on us for additional support. These are our success stories. They have found their true home.
I don’t know where I would be without House of Ruth. After a lifetime of abuse, trauma, and chaos, I was homeless and alone. I truly believe I could not have made it another day without the staff. My counselor and case manager gave me a network of social supports, time to heal, and tools to overcome the lasting effects of my traumatic childhood. I found safety and security there. I broke my cycle of homelessness because of House of Ruth’s nurturing environment. Now, I’m in a computer training course and plan to return to full-time work in office administration. The staff really cares about what happens to me. I’ve never had anybody in my corner like them.

My children and I became homeless because we were running from domestic violence. We only had the clothes that would fit in garbage bags and were majorly under the poverty line; then we found House of Ruth. My children and I were given a home at Freedom Place. Now, my kids are doing well in school and making progress in therapy. We are all learning how to cope with the impact of traumatic abuse through our counselor and case manager. They helped me get my life back on track. The staff got me training for a career I had experience with. They enrolled me in a culinary arts training program. I am now employed in a kitchen with full benefits.
Family

Five of House of Ruth’s ten housing programs are devoted to providing homes for women with children who have escaped homelessness and abusive relationships. We are committed to keeping these families together and providing them with a safe and caring living space. The children are too often the silent victims in the family.

Witnessing domestic violence or being homeless can lead children to have cognitive, behavioral and emotional side effects. Depending upon their ages, they may be at risk for anxiety, depression, and learning and behavior challenges. We see and address the full range of experience that confronts our children. Many come to us having been abused. Our challenge is to help heal, strengthen, and rebuild each member of the family and in doing so, the larger family structure.

- Trauma recovery services are emphasized and are offered to all of our residents – including the children.
- Professional counselors and therapists are provided as needed.
- Weekly supportive group meetings and continued guidance are led by our life skills trainers.

Building a recovery plan based on specific goals is step one. The plan can include developing coping skills, new daily living skills including budgeting, planning and preparing healthy meals and managing a family schedule.

For our youngest children, we have Kidspace. Opened in 1990, Kidspace provides developmental care and services for children ages six weeks to five years. This provides specialized counseling and clinical care that is so necessary for our most vulnerable family members.

- In 2014, 87 children received speech, play, and occupational therapy services.
- Therapy was provided twice a week in one-on-one sessions to the 31 children with the most severe speech and language deficits.
- Overall, 2300 hours of therapy was provided at Kidspace.

House of Ruth is focused on helping the mothers and fathers build new skills and form healthy bonds with their children. We help the families every step of the way by celebrating birthdays, graduations, and many more achievements while in the program. Each of them is learning how to be strong and how to be a family, many for the first time.
My home at House of Ruth’s Hope Rising program is the first stable home me and my three children have ever known. I could not have done this without the stability and daily support I receive here. My children attended school without long absences or abrupt changes for the first time and gave my oldest child a significant boost. House of Ruth’s healthy routines have helped me remain safe and stable for five years; that is longer than I ever imagined. I’m still getting therapy to help me cope with the trauma in my past. Thanks to my therapist, I can deal with things so much better now.

Kidspace is a blessing. The staff is gentle and caring with the children. I was new to House of Ruth and was struggling with consequences of lifetime abuse and homelessness. My son, Jordan, who had severe cognitive and social developmental delays, was nearly two years old when we arrived. He is now in the care of well-trained and nurturing teachers. He had severe anxiety from abuse and did not talk to anyone, including myself. Now, Jordan is three and is a bright and engaged boy. He rambles in full sentences and has made significant progress toward his developmental goals. I am also growing at House of Ruth. I have adopted techniques to cope with my trauma and am working towards self-sufficiency.
The War and Treaty (Tanya Blount and Michael Trotter, Jr.) entertained House of Ruth residents and staff at a concert in February and were thanked by Executive Director, Winifred Wilson for providing such a moving tribute. Michael and his mother lived at House of Ruth more than 20 years ago and he wanted to give back to the organization that helped his family at a most difficult time. We look forward to hearing from all of our family members as we prepare for our 40th anniversary in 2016.

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June 30, 2014 and 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td>Total cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>2,150,030</td>
<td>1,652,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contracts</td>
<td>822,251</td>
<td>1,007,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, net</td>
<td>195,580</td>
<td>261,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total receivables</td>
<td>1,017,831</td>
<td>1,268,752</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>3,167,861</td>
<td>2,934,017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security deposit</td>
<td>7,266</td>
<td>7,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>5,611,354</td>
<td>5,819,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 8,786,481</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 8,760,306</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 274,211</td>
<td>$ 285,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued annual leave</td>
<td>189,325</td>
<td>204,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential deposits</td>
<td>67,654</td>
<td>93,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>531,190</td>
<td>582,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>531,190</td>
<td>582,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>8,255,291</td>
<td>8,177,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>8,255,291</td>
<td>8,177,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 8,786,481</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 8,760,306</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statements of Activities

June 30, 2014 and 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE AND SUPPORT:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$3,726,443</td>
<td>$3,590,109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal grants</td>
<td>1,376,372</td>
<td>1,426,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>3,335,423</td>
<td>3,108,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>84,760</td>
<td>84,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,522,998</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,209,732</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>EXPENSES:</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and services for women</td>
<td>2,416,958</td>
<td>2,353,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and services for families</td>
<td>3,182,150</td>
<td>3,116,243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community based services</td>
<td>1,983,207</td>
<td>1,897,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total program services</td>
<td>7,582,315</td>
<td>7,366,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>433,434</td>
<td>291,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>429,375</td>
<td>450,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total supporting services</td>
<td>862,809</td>
<td>741,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,445,124</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,108,632</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **CHANGES IN NET ASSETS** | 77,874 | 101,100 |
| **NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR** | **8,177,417** | **8,076,317** |
| **NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR** | **$8,255,291** | **$8,177,417** |

The Statements of Financial Position and Activities pages have been taken from the financial statements, which were audited by Phillips & Associates, LLC, Certified Public Accountants. Copies of the complete audit may be obtained from House of Ruth’s Administrative Offices, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005 or from our website, www.houseofruth.org.
Board of Directors
As of May 22, 2015

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Gina Schaefer, Vice Chair

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Darryl Christmon
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  Diane Lewis
Karen Mayers
Ruth Pollak
Ann Scher
Laura Stone
Joseph Taylor
Michelle Walker

Founded in 1976, House of Ruth helps women, children and families in greatest need and with very limited resources build safe, stable lives and achieve their highest potential.

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