A Healing Home for Families

Women who come to House of Ruth often have long histories of trauma, beginning with neglect, violence and abuse in childhood. Then, as adults, they experience domestic abuse. Mothers struggle, knowing that their suffering also takes a toll on their children. It can feel like the cycle never ends.

Reaching out for help is the first step. And, for the families at House of Ruth, it brings enormous hope.

These families come to us from many paths. Some have been dependent on the hospitality of friends and relatives for weeks. Others have been living in cars. Some seek counseling at our Domestic Violence Support Center and decide that to protect their children they have to leave home to escape a violent abuser — even though it means becoming homeless.

Families arrive somewhat shell-shocked, weary and also wary. The mothers have not had anyone genuinely care about them or care for them in a very long time. The children, too, are exhausted and frightened.

But the children are remarkably resilient, and they begin to trust us and their new environment, often before their mothers do. Over time, the mothers begin to heal as well, thanks to the compassion and consistent care they receive at House of Ruth.

Whatever the path that brought them here, your support ensures that we can offer them safety and recovery.

House of Ruth kept my children safe. The staff is always there for me, if I need to talk or figure something out. They give you a chance to help yourself.

— Tiffany G.
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As of July 1, 2016

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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.

What a Year It Has Been!

Thanks to you, House of Ruth has helped thousands of homeless and abused women achieve safety, stability and greater self-sufficiency. Here, their children discover a safe, warm and nurturing home, one that lays the foundation for healthy development. The women and their children accomplish so much because of their hard work making difficult life changes. But, none of this is possible without your investments in House of Ruth.

Little did our founders suspect – when they housed eight women that first night in 1976 – that House of Ruth would grow to include 14 programs and sites. Today, 40 years later, we are proud to be the city’s largest provider of housing and services for women and children who are homeless and abused.

This past year, we were able to help more than 1,000 women and children receive the supportive services they need to reclaim their independence, rebuild their lives and regain hope. Our success and growth has been made possible thanks to your generous and consistent financial support. We can’t thank you enough!

It takes the dedication of skilled staff to make House of Ruth a special place of warmth, refuge, hope and healing for women and children who are homeless and abused. But most of all, it takes you! So once again, we want to acknowledge your pivotal role in the growth and well-being of thousands of women and children over the years. Thank you for your continued support as we begin to commemorate this milestone 40th anniversary.

Warmly,
Pamela Pinkett, CPA, CGMA
Chair, Board of Directors
In the Beginning

When House of Ruth was established in 1976, there were no local shelters that served women – only men. But local homeless women desperately needed a safe place to go. Our first home sheltered 8 women in the basement of a rowhouse in NW Washington DC. One year later, House of Ruth added services for women who had become homeless due to domestic abuse.

By 1986, the demographic of women who needed help had changed drastically. Women were decades younger – 25 years old on average – and struggled with substance abuse and mental illness, in addition to domestic violence and homelessness. They often arrived pregnant, or had small children in tow. House of Ruth adapted to this new reality by creating Mothers House, a new domestic violence crisis center and an abuse hotline.

In the 1990’s, care began to focus more heavily on the children – since they needed special care to address the developmental delays that were a result of their trauma. Kidspace Child and Family Development Center was born, which currently serves about 100 children every year.

Today, 40 years after our founding, House of Ruth’s 14 programs and sites assist over 1,000 women and families recover from abuse and homelessness, thanks to the support of the Washington area community.

Finding New Ways to Serve

Throughout our history, it has been House of Ruth’s focus to consider and prioritize the needs of the homeless and abused women and families who come to us for assistance.

We learned that women sometimes need additional support while they are on the path to regaining their full independence. That’s why in 2012 we established the Bridges Program, which helps families who are ready to leave House of Ruth’s Homes, but who still need in-home case management and connections to local resources in order to succeed.

This year, House of Ruth opened New Horizons, to more quickly assist women who need a safe and stable place to live while they work on improving their lives. This new program – the city’s first specifically for women – lets us assist women living in apartments scattered throughout the city. Case managers visit women in their homes, working together with them to develop a plan for self-sufficiency, and guiding them on that path.

As House of Ruth continues to adapt to the needs of women and families, we remain committed to providing the specialized one-on-one care that we know helps transform lives. That is what House of Ruth has always provided, and will continue to provide, because of your generous support.
Your Support Reaches Beyond Our Walls

House of Ruth’s Domestic Violence Support Center is a leading resource in the city’s fight against domestic violence. Roughly 400 survivors receive counseling at the Center at any given time. For many women and families, the Support Center is their point of entry to other services that House of Ruth can provide.

At the Center, professional counselors meet once a week with survivors. Together, they explore the client’s needs and strengths to help her identify safe paths out of an abusive relationship. For some women who are no longer in an abusive relationship, the situation is less urgent. But recovery and healing takes time. Relationships with counselors help to educate women to protect themselves and their families.

Staff also help connect Support Center clients to other community resources and services that can help them establish and sustain safety.

Kidspace Child and Family Development Center provides essential therapeutic child development to 73 children from House of Ruth’s homes, and from other area programs serving homeless families.

The highly individualized care gives young children their best chance at achieving developmental milestones so they can enter kindergarten ready to thrive. Sadly, young children whose mothers are victims of domestic abuse and violence typically exhibit serious developmental delays – which, when left untreated, can impact their mental and physical growth.

Thanks to the individualized care provided by teachers, aides and therapists, nearly all of the children at Kidspace make great strides toward accumulating the skills and capacities they need to meet healthy developmental milestones.

Your donations to House of Ruth are essential to the operation of both Kidspace and our Domestic Violence Support Center. Thank you for your investment.
Our Family of Donors

House of Ruth gratefully recognizes donors who are members of the Leadership Circle (annual gifts of $5,000 or more) and the President’s Circle (annual gifts of $1,000 to $4,999). Members of our Partners Program and other monthly donors are denoted with an asterisk. Names in **bold italics** indicate a member of the Board of Directors. Although we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing, we may have overlooked someone. If so, please contact Development Officer Stefanie Covey at 202-745-2327 or scovey@houseofruth.org.

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Webster Harrison  
Ruth Salander  
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Ruth Westerdale

Special Thanks

AFCEA Bethesda  
Tenfold Forty  
Room to Rebloom  
Shimmy Mob DC  
Diane Lewis and Julius Hobson  
Deborah Epstein  
Michelle Walker

www.houseofruth.org
In The Spotlight: A Community of Caring

When you invest in House of Ruth, you are investing in a team of skilled caseworkers and trained experts who help women and children explore and define their needs and help them rebuild their lives.

One of the things that makes life better for the women and families we help are some of the contributions of our community partners that enhance the services we provide.

A critical part of recovery from trauma like domestic abuse is feeling safe at home. But home is more than just safety – it is the warm, nurturing environments we create for ourselves. We were thrilled last year when a group of volunteer interior designers from Room to Rebloom completely refurbished the interior common spaces of Hope Rising – one of House of Ruth’s seven family homes.

Volunteers helped the women and children define what they wanted from their common areas and then set about transforming the space, making it more functional and much more beautiful.

Thank you Room to Rebloom, and all our community partners, for joining us to help change the lives of women and children at House of Ruth!

Contribution Form

Yes! I/We want to help the courageous women and children who are changing their lives at House of Ruth. Please accept my contribution of:

- $50
- $100
- $300
- $500
- Other $_____

Name

Address

Address

City     State  Zip

Email

The Future of House of Ruth Is in Your Hands

Your contributions ensure that we can be there for hundreds of women and families who need us each day.

You can continue to secure the future of House of Ruth by making your commitment to women and children who are homeless and abused a part of your legacy by including House of Ruth in your will.

You should consult an attorney in preparing your will.

Sample language that may be helpful follows:

I give and bequeath to House of Ruth, a Washington, DC, non-profit corporation whose federal tax identification number is 52-1054102 and whose address is 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005, the sum of $__________ (or _______% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate) to be used for the general operations of House of Ruth.

For more information, please contact Stefanie Covey at scovey@houseofruth.org or by phone at 202-745-2327.