

Laurel House

Laurel House provides safe living arrangements for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Their Domestic Abuse Response Team goes to hospital emergency rooms and works with local police departments to help victims of assault. The Children's Program helps children deal with the trauma of exposure to violence, offers opportunities to learn skills to cope with their environment, and to resolve conflict without violence. In addition to the direct work with children, the Children's Program Advocate also works with the parents in our Shelter, Transitional Housing and Counseling programs to assist them in addressing their children's emotional needs after the family's life has been disrupted by domestic violence. Some examples include: helping parents with understanding children's reactions to the abuse, non-violent disciplinary techniques, understanding child development, referring parents and children to schools and social service agencies as appropriate. Laurel House also helps women and children achieve self-sufficiency. Their Community Education Program provides domestic abuse prevention education in the community as well as to thousands of students from middle school through college age in Montgomery County.