

BACK FOR 2019

THE COMEBACK SPECIAL



# ACHIEVING HARMONY

## The Search for new direction...

**In 2003**, out of a closet sized work space located in The King's Daughters Child Care Center in Wheeling, the Ohio Valley met Harmony House. Within a very short time, Harmony House secured community support, grant funding, national accreditation, well sponsored fundraiser events and the current home at OVMC's South Tower. The no nonsense, no cost, all child focused approach on services led to a second location in St. Clairsville (Belmont County), Ohio in 2011. Until December of 2016, the founder and Executive Director of Harmony House, Leslie Vassilaros kept safe watch over the Upper Ohio Valley, living her life for every child.

As of December 1, 2016 through spring of 2019, Debra Hawkins became the next Executive Director. It was her desire to utilize new technology, a different set of community contacts, and different skills and professional experience to take Harmony House in a positive direction. During this time period, the Leslie Vassilaros Hope's Hero award was conceived, the Beer, Bourbon and BBQ fundraiser had a successful showing, two additional positions were created to engage our children and community, and a new camera, phone, and internet technology was implemented. Both directors have left solid imprints on Harmony House and the family of staff that show up each day to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.



New Executive Director Rita Coyne

Now, the new, next chapter is here. The board diligently searched high and low in finding feet for a special pair of shoes. As September began, so did the era of Rita Coyne. As a WVU undergrad in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, Rita has joined our strong clinical family with an equally matched business acumen and framework of structured thinking. For 18 years, Rita was employed by the City of Wheeling, including serving as the Assistant City Manager. Also in her dossier is a decade long relationship with CHANGE, Inc. and her most recent position with OVMC as Revenue Cycle Manager for the (OVMG) Physician's Medical Group. Rita is very excited to be back in a position that offers a truly needed community service. She is anxious to be working with all aspects of our community, an area that was very much missed. Harmony House is VERY excited to see what the future holds.

**What can you do to help  
prevent child abuse?**

REPORT ABUSE! >>>

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES WEST VIRGINIA  
**1-800-352-6513**

## HARMONY HOUSE IS:

### BOARD MEMBERS

<i>President</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
Mark Garrett	Julie Cunningham
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Aimee Tickerhoof	Margaret Tucker

Danielle Bartley	Aslynn Belancic
Karen Britt	Steven Corder
Lorraine Eckard	Chris Freeman
Jody Geese	Robert Kinnick
Teena Miller	Chatman Neely
Carl "Worthy" Paul, Jr	

### WV Auxiliary

Amber Baker	Susie Baker
Rachel Ciccone	Jessica Davis
Lisa Games	Beverly Musilli
Jennifer Pickett	Kathy Vani

### Ohio Auxiliary

Heather Appenzeller	Jacob Carpenter
Paula Edwards	Jill Jefferis Jack
Melissa Mansuetto	Patty Morgan
Chanda Paczewski	Alisha Steele
Leslie Vassilaros	

### Staff

Rita Coyne - Executive Director  
Jay Jack - Administrative Manager  
Jessica Hartley - Child & Fam. Advocate (OH)  
Remington Conaway - Child & Fam. Advocate (WV)  
Angelina Cornelia - Child & Fam. Advocate (WV)  
Scott Steele - Sr. Interview Specialist & Therapist  
Lisa Musilli - Interview Specialist & Therapist  
Kaytlyn Lanning - Child & Family Therapist  
Mariah Campbell - Child & Family Therapist  
Kate Stewart - Community Education Coordinator

AND BELMONT COUNTY, OH  
**740-633-5627**

"hope has a home"



## SPRING FLING SUCCESS!



Harmony House Children's Advocacy Center held its annual fundraiser kickoff the "Hope For Spring Fling" from 6:00 to 11 p.m. on April 27 at Oglebay's Camp Russell. The evening's itinerary offered chance auctions, 50/50 raffles, a catered meal (BYOB adult beverages), DJ and dancing. More importantly, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual event hosted the Leslie Vassilaros Hope's Hero Award for the first time, being presented for the third year. Harmony House did their best to keep the announcement of the winner under wraps until the night of the event. With a mash up of tears, humor, friendship, sweetness and class, long-time friend Kathy Vani presented the well-deserved award to none other than Harmony House WV Auxiliary Member and Marshall County's own, Susie Baker. A very surprised, humble Mrs. Baker accepted the award, surrounded by friends, family and Marshall County School personnel. Susie has been a central part in the lives of many a Marshall County resident, devoting countless hours to their children, the *Marshall County Schools Parent Educator Resource Center*, and the Marshall County Back to School Fun Fair. As the Fair founder, she is also a volunteer at CASA, a part of countless committees and community supports, and has most certainly been (as engraved on the award) nothing short of "AMAZING." Next year's event is set for April 25th, 2020 at the new location of El Tor Grotto, 518 Fulton Street, Wheeling. This year's event raised \$13,496.46!



(L to R, Kate Stewart, Remington Conaway, Jay Jack, Mariah Campbell, Lisa Musilli and Angelina Cornelia.)

## Strange things are a foot in Belmont County!!!

As the Summer sun sets, over half of the year at Harmony House has flown by again as the fall season quickly approaches. The HH is always trying to keep up a frantic pace with the endless task of providing child focused care and a steady watch over the Upper Ohio Valley. Over this past year, Harmony House has done everything possible to remain on alert with an open stage for the youth of our community. Unfortunately, not for purposes of entertainment, but to allow those young individuals who have been hurt (in whatever unfortunate way) the opportunity to let it all out. To speak with our caring staff, find the voice they need to empower themselves or at least begin to start change and healing in their lives. With the beginning of the year, however, we did entertain our friends, donors and sponsors with our first



fundraiser and much the same, we'll wrap up the year with another. The 8th Annual Monster Mash Bash. For the past seven seasons, things going bump in the night, shrieks, cackles and groans point to the fall brawl to end them all! This year's spooktacular night of screams is all to help the continued service of our local families facing abuse. This is a 21+ adult event. Come as your favorite character or come as you are. Eat, drink (beer and soft drinks provided), and be scary! Music (DJ with dancing), photo booth fun, 50/50 raffle, and grab bags/ auctions! **October 19, 2019 7:00 – 10:00 PM at the JB Martin St. Clairsville Recreation Center, 102 Fair St, St Clairsville, OH.** A terror-ific time for you and your fiends! Title sponsors are XTO Energy and The Dominion Foundation.

## 2019, so far

This year, Harmony House, between the two centers, has completed 207 forensic interviews. 93 were done in Ohio and the remaining 114 were done in West Virginia.

55.5% of the cases disclosed some form of abuse or neglect. (55% OH & 56% WV) Harmony House has served 500 kids, 21 adults and 243 family members this year.

**764 Served in 2019 so far: 520 Children.  
1,101 Served in 2018 Total. 718 Children.**



(L to R, Scott Steele, Jessica Hartley and Kaytlyn Lanning)



## A message from Jay Jack, Administrative Manager



Almost three years ago now, it was suggested that our newsletter was no longer a necessity when we have the immediacy of Facebook and social media. After some internal discussion, it was agreed upon that not everyone uses or likes social media. Some people still like paper and the opportunity to slow down a minute and reflect on things the old fashioned/old school way. Some people, let's face it, just like getting mail! I know I do! Aside from the occasional bill that I don't have online, insurance papers that remind me THIS IS NOT A BILL, and credit card offers, most of what comes in my mailbox goes to my wife, or (much like the aforementioned) are far from enjoyable. It's not like my early years of life, waiting for the mailman all summer to deliver the Sears Wish Book or JCPenney Christmas Catalog or the other 9 months eagerly hoping that my cashed in Kool Aid and G.I. Joe Flag points would pay off with great bounty. I digress.

Yes, the times they are a changing, but just because it's newer, shinier, or has all the hype in the world, it does not equate to BETTER. So, here we are. Same bat time, same bat channel. (For those of you who DON'T get that reference, NOW Google would be completely appropriate.) We ARE going to take the time to tell you what we are doing, because ONE, we are proud of it and TWO, many of you who did read our newsletter in the first place were involved in donating your time, money, etc. to help make Harmony House great. Harmony House is part of the community and it takes the community to keep Harmony House moving forward. It is a symbiotic relationship. Unfortunately, our goal is to put ourselves out of business. But to be quite honest, I believe that every single one of our staff, board members, volunteers, auxiliary members, donors and supporters would agree, if we could reach that point where abuse no longer existed in this world, we'd PROUDLY close up shop, and I am certain we would be proud in knowing that we served the Upper Ohio Valley with 110% maximum effort. But until that time, we will be here. We will be sharing things with you. And we hope you'll be here with us to get the job done. Thanks!



Truly,  
Jay Jack, Administrative Manager



### OTHER NEW ITEMS: STAFF, BOARD, ETC.



(L to R, top to bottom)  
Angelina Cornelia  
Mariah Campbell  
Kaytlyn Lanning  
Remington Conaway  
Kate Stewart



#### NEW STAFF/ NEW POSITIONS:

Since our last newsletter, we have added two new positions and seen a shuffling of personnel. Though most of these faces have been with us now for some time, they may be new to many of you looking at this publication. The two new positions include a second child and family advocate in our Wheeling office (courtesy of WV VOCA grant funds) and a Community Education coordinator (courtesy of our United Way allocation funding.) We are very thankful for such a great group of people.



#### New President, Executive Board

As of the beginning of 2018, Harmony House was truly blessed to have a long time board member take a new role and become our new Board President. That man is none other than Mark Garrett. Garrett attended Marshall University, where he majored in criminal justice and is also a graduate of the West Virginia State Police Academy. He has 25 combined years of law enforcement experience with the Ohio County Sheriff's Department and the Wheeling Police Department. He is a 10-time president of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 38 and a lifelong resident of Ohio County. Also joining Mark at the beginning of this year was an all new executive board. This includes Julie Cunningham, Vice President, Aimee Tickerhoof, Treasurer and Margaret Tucker, Secretary. All members have served on the board prior to their new positions. We thank the entire board for their dedicated support.



(Scott pictured with mother, Millie Bisbocci and wife, Alisha Steele)

#### Scott Steele sets 10 year mark

When you meet Scott, you immediately learn several things. One of those things is that he is a fountain of knowledge. Knowing detailed information about history, his field and concentrations, other cultures, other places, music, movies, pop culture - you name it, he probably has an idea about what you are talking about. You will also quickly realize that he has an infectious laugh, an amazing sense of humor and can be quite a "goofball," given the stage and opportunity. Now, one of the lesser seen attributes is his compassion. Scott will make you laugh and entertain you, make you feel comfortable and you will immediately like him, but the unseen interactions that he has with the kiddos we work with, THERE is the more amazing, wonderful person. For ten years now Harmony House has had the pleasure of employing Scott and allowing him to bring smiles to the saddest faces and help bring justice into lives that have been torn apart by abuse and neglect. Thank you Scott. We ♥ you.







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NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
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<http://harmonyhousecacwv.org>



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## Invest in the Lives of children by supporting Harmony House, Children's Advocacy Center

I commit to supporting abused children in my community with a donation of:

- |                          |                  |                 |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| * Friend of children     | \$10 - \$49      | Individual      |
| * Advocate of Children   | \$50 - \$299     | Name: _____     |
| * Protector of Children  | \$300 - \$499    |                 |
| * Guardian of Children   | \$500 - \$999    | Business: _____ |
| * Patron of Children     | \$1000 - \$2,999 | Address: _____  |
| * Benefactor of Children | \$3000 - \$4,999 | _____           |
| * Champion of Children   | \$5,000 or more  | _____           |

I would like to take advantage of NIP credits (contributions of \$500 or more) if they are still available. ☐

This donation is to honor: \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check to Harmony House, 2000 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003