



Future
Roberta's House

CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Giving Hope To Extraordinary Children

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Roberta's **HOUSE**



A Family Grief Support Center

CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

THANK YOU FOR GIVING HOPE TO EXTRAORDINARY CHILDREN



A Message from the President

Roberta's House battles a grief epidemic that holds some communities and families hostage. As Baltimore's crime rates continue to climb, the need for grief support rises. 2016 is Baltimore's second deadliest year on record.

Children are exposed to multiple deaths in their families and on-going violence in their neighborhoods. They experience feelings of hopelessness, and grief reactions to tragedies they don't understand. Roberta's House gives the emotional support and understanding they need to heal.

Roberta's House is creating paths to grief support in urban communities. We are rebuilding grief stricken neighborhoods where each child, teen, and adult have a support system. The children and parents we reach no longer hide their concerns and fears about their trauma. We provide an environment where they feel safe to share their stories.

Through our programs, many have come to learn their feelings of anger, sadness, and hurt, are normal, and how to manage them in healthy ways. We work with families to encourage making the home a place where children feel nurtured and protected. Through Roberta's House, healing is made possible in the urban communities.

Out of 318 homicides in Baltimore, more than a dozen of the lives taken were children. 91.5% of the black men killed left children fatherless. When the violence rips families and communities apart, Roberta's House is there to support the survivor. When it affects the schools, workplaces, and public spaces, Roberta's House is ready to teach how to cope. As the grief epidemic continues to spread, more support is needed.

At Roberta's House, we have over 500 volunteers committed to providing grief support to the communities under siege. We work to build allies in the neighborhoods that join us to reject the violence and crime to support healing. We work tirelessly to keep the children filled with hope, and our communities healthy.

It is because of your support that our work is possible. Your investment in Roberta's House and the communities we serve truly make a difference. Thank you for your continued support!

Annette March-Grier,



President
Roberta's House
CNN Hero

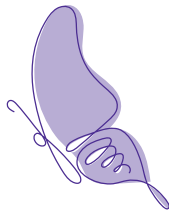
"Through our programs, many come to learn their feelings of anger, sadness, and hurt, are normal, and how to manage them in healthy ways."

Annette March-Grier,
CNN Hero 2014

ACHIEVING OUR MISSION | THROUGH SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

- **Families Healing Together:** a 10 week support group for children ages 5 to 17 and their families
- **Time of Sharing:** a 9 week comprehensive holistic peer support program for adults
- **Changing the Game:** a 6 month peer support group for at-risk teens to grow through grief and develop positive life goals
- **Survivors Advocacy:** a home visitation program and resources for families touched by a homicidal death, to readjust and achieve sustainability
- **Rays of Hope:** a 10 week peer support group for families with children ages 5 to 17 who have experienced a death of someone due to homicide
- **HOPE Project (Healing Ourselves Through Peer Empowerment):** a home visitation program that serves mothers experiencing loss of a baby before or after birth up to one year, providing resources and emotional support
- **Still a Mom (SAM):** a 10 week peer support group for moms who are grieving the loss of pregnancy or an infant up to 1 year

I care for you,
 you care for me,
 we care for each other.



WHAT WE DO

Roberta's House is the leading provider of grief support services to children, teens, families, and adults in urban communities. It offers free programs, trainings, and workshops at a safe place to those who need it most. As an advocate of grief healing in neighborhoods with limited means of support, Roberta's House promotes awareness and provides education on the issues of grief. Our support groups and healing circles for children, teens, and adults help them to understand grief, its process, and how to cope.

Roberta's House has professional licensed social workers and advocates who make home visits to mother's who have lost their infants and to families who have been traumatized by a homicidal death. Roberta's House encourages and models its support for families with children. Our greatest concern is to assure that individuals get the help they need and do not remain isolated in their grief.

FINDINGS OF GRIEVING CHILDREN

Most children have difficulty adjusting to the loss/death:

- **77.37% children/teens have some emotional problems (clingy, cries a lot, angry, nervous ticks, feeling guilty)**
- **56% had difficulty concentrating (doing school work, paying attention, following directions)**
- **46.91% had aggression problems (anger easily, aggression towards other kids, fighting, mood swings)**
- **52.67% have adjustment problems overall**

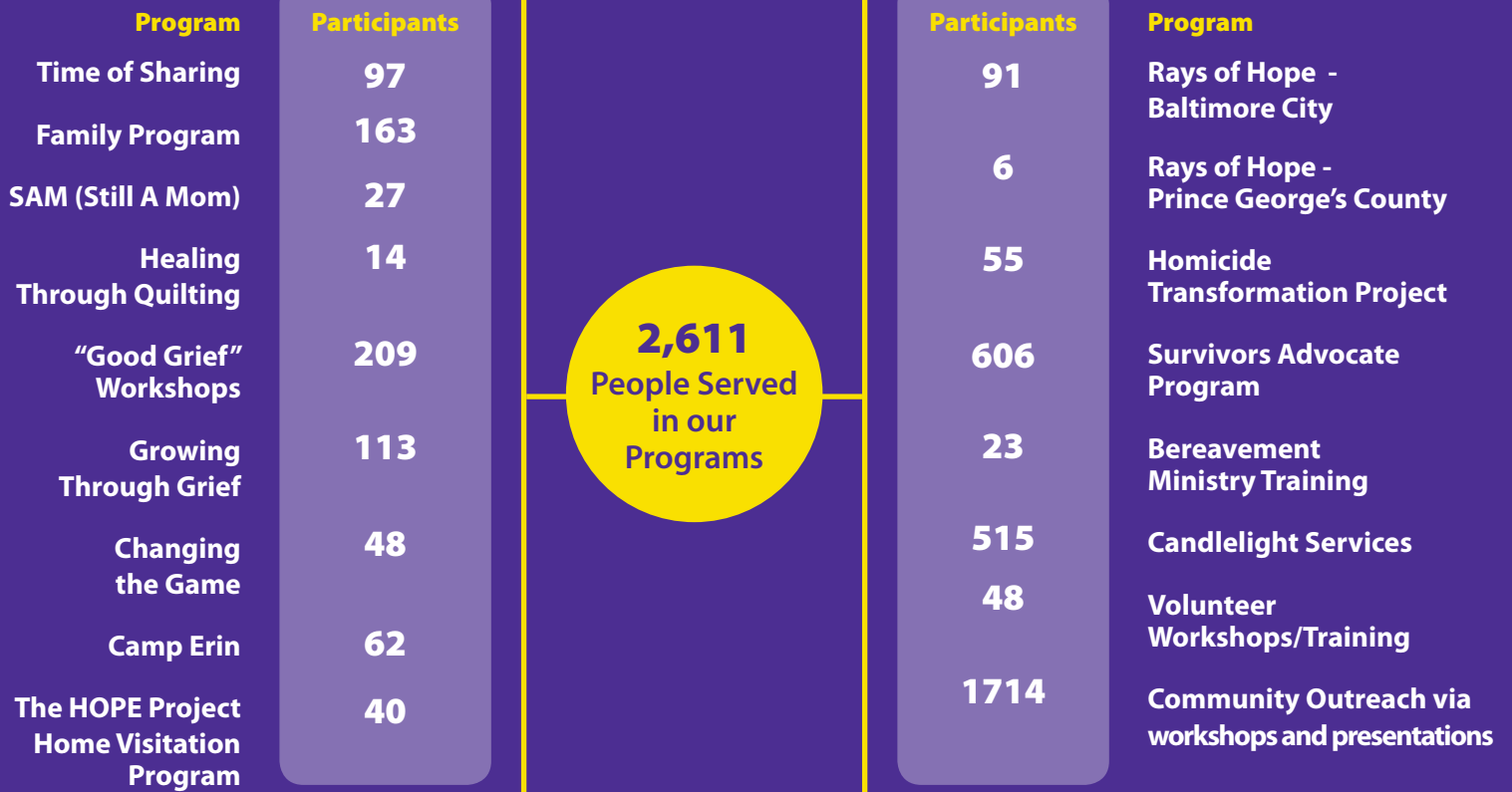
A Journey to Restore Hope: Personal Stories

Tyler's Story, 7 years old
 Program: Rays of Hope

"Sometimes I feel sad that someone killed my brother. When I feel sad I try to think about the fun times together. I think about how he used to make me laugh. I miss my brother. He was my only brother. He used to help me. When I feel sad, Roberta's House taught me it's okay to cry. I like Roberta's House there are kids there like me. We have fun there. Roberta's House taught me how to make a memory box. Sometimes I look inside my memory box. It has all the special memories about my brother."

- **Healing Through Quilting:** a 10 week support group for moms to reconnect and continue support in healing
- **Homicide Transformation Project:** a 10 week peer support group with a licensed clinician after the death of someone due to homicide
- **Growing Through Loss:** a 10 week in-school peer support group for students who have experienced the death of someone special
- **Good Grief:** an educational workshop for students in grades K-12 to learn how to adapt and cope with loss
- **Camp Erin®:** an annual three-day overnight adventure camp for bereaved youth ages 6 to 17
- **Volunteer Trainings:** 24 hours, educational and experiential workshops to teach adults how to care for the bereaved and facilitate support groups; CEU's offered for social workers and mental health practitioners
- **Community Outreach:** professional workshops and trainings for community leaders, churches and mental health providers

ACHIEVING SUCCESS | THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS



VOLUNTEERS | OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

A very special thank you to our volunteers....

The love, wisdom, and time you share rekindles hope day after day. Thank you for another phenomenal year!

The Value of Volunteer Time:

9,571 Total Volunteer Hours
\$244,644 Total Value



COPING WITH GRIEF | 2016 OUTCOMES

What the parents are saying...

Profile of Children & Teens who come for support

- 87%** Attend Baltimore City Public Schools
- 77%** Of children/teens have some emotional problems (clingy, cries a lot, angry, nervous ticks, feeling guilty)
- 3.4%** Have dropped out of school or are expelled
- 56%** Have difficulty concentrating (doing school work, paying attention, following directions)
- 47%** Had aggression problems (anger easily, aggression towards other kids, fighting, mood swings)
- 53%** Have adjustment problems overall
- 36%** Have a family member or a friend that is ill

After Grief Support

- 95%** Attend 6 or more of the 10 sessions
- 72%** Of child's performance in school improved
- 73%** Children/teens physical symptoms improved (stomachaches, headaches, complaints, fears)
- 92%** Said that RH exceeded or met their expectations
- 95%** Recommend RH to others

What children/teens self report...

- 88%** Easier to talk about death after support group
- 100%** Learn that it's okay to have all kinds of feelings
- 100%** It's helpful to talk to other children/teens who have lost someone
- 87%** Feel a lot better emotionally and physically
- 87%** Feel they have adult support they need after attending
- 100%** Say sessions have helped them to understand their grief/losses
- 87.5%** Report less stress
- 50%** Say their school attendance and work has improved
- 87%** Say their behavior and attitude has improved
- 98%** Learned two or more coping skills

What was most helpful in the group...

"Meeting dynamic powerful human beings who are going through the same issues, supporting, sharing and listening."

"Understanding it's okay to go through and come out a better person."

FINANCIAL STATUS

Revenue

State & Local Government Grants.....	\$545,588
Foundation/Trust/Non-Profit Grants	\$480,151
Individual & Board Member Contributions	\$93,320
Other	\$55,402
Fundraising/Special Events	\$24,678
Corporate & Business Contributions	\$5,657

Total \$ 1,204,796

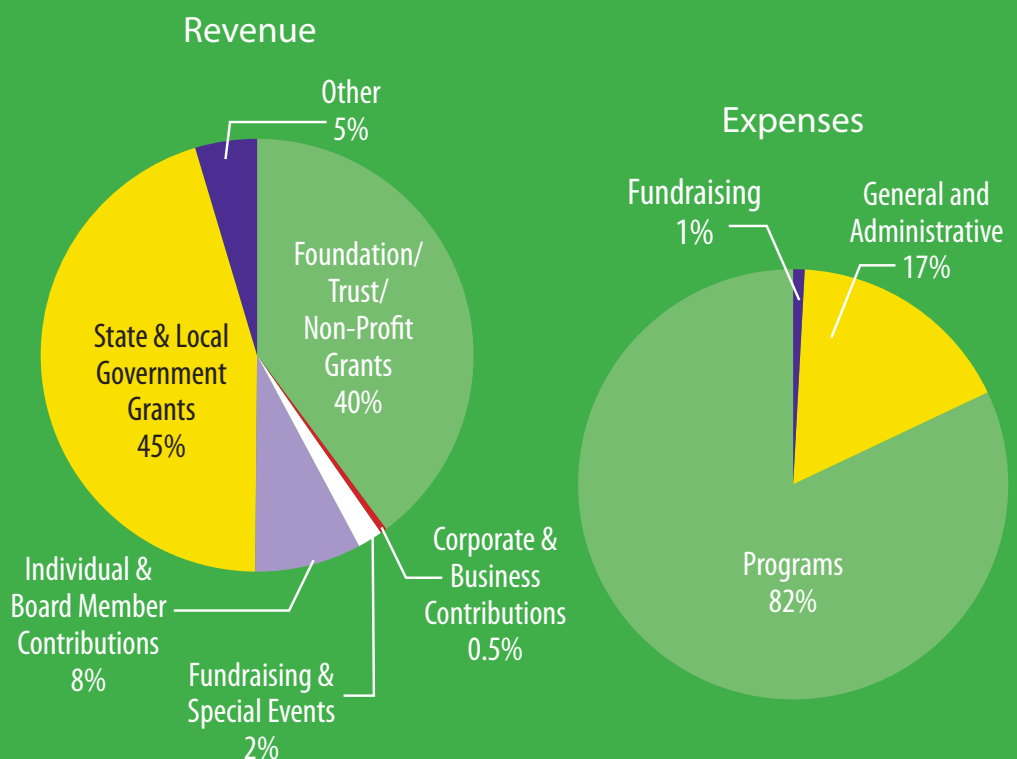
Expenses

Programs	\$982,521
General and Administrative.....	\$204,952
Fundraising.....	\$9,598

Total \$1,197,071

Change in Net Assets

Net Assets BOY	\$249,303
Net Assets EOY	\$284,842





7 **AMAZING THINGS**
DONORS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE

Look how much good a gift to Roberta's House can do!

REDUCED IMPACT

GREW HOPE

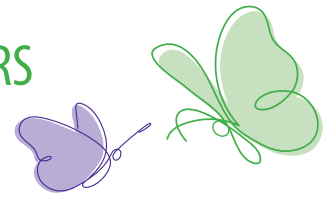
SUPPORTED FAMILIES

WENT TO SCHOOLS

TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

GRADUATED FAMILIES

MORE THAN 1,200 DONORS



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Top Visionary Funders

Roberta's House is deeply grateful for the support and partnership of foundations, government agencies, and individual donors. Because of your vision and generosity in 2016, resources were made available to expand our services. We greatly appreciate all of our donors. *Additional donors can be found on our website.*

**Grants/Foundation/
Corporations
\$1000-\$200,000**

Aegon Transamerica Foundation
Baltimore City
Baltimore City Health
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\$1000 & Up**

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GET INVOLVED | SUPPORT OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$10,000,000

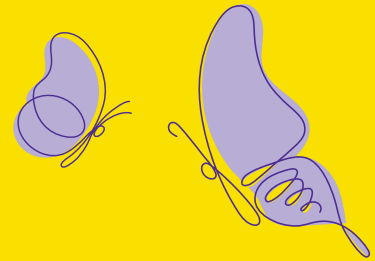
Dear Donors,

We need your support! In order to continue to meet the needs of the many children and families we serve, it is vital for our capital campaign to be a success. Please help us raise \$10 million dollars for the building of our new location. For instruction on how to donate to our capital campaign, please visit our website www.robertashouse.org. Thank you in advance for your support.

Annette March-Grier

Other Ways to Help

- Offer healing and hope as a trained support group leader or facilitator.
- Deepen your organization's expertise by hosting a professional development workshop.
- **Make a donation to increase impact at www.robertashouse.org**



A Journey to Restore Hope: Personal Stories

Vickie's Story

Program: Still a Mom

"I always wanted to be a mother. I finally was able to carry past 3 weeks. They gave me a baby shower when I was 8-1/2 months pregnant. I had been secretly shopping all along. I knew I was having a girl. We were going to call her Serenity. My baby, Serenity did not make it. I saw the chord around her neck after I delivered her. The doctors cried too. I walked out of the hospital alone. I grieved heavily. Without Roberta's House I would have never made it."

VISION

Families who experience loss are able to transform their despair to hope, become healthy, and ultimately create safer communities.

MISSION

We believe all children and families suffering the loss or death of someone special should have support, and a safe place to heal and recover. Roberta's House addresses grief as a public health preventative service.



Roberta's **HOUSE**



A Family Grief Support Center

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