Answering the Call

A Message from the President

When my mother Julia Roberta March comforted the bereaved in our tiny row home, I saw authentic compassion. I was inspired by how it helped families in our neighborhood cope with their loss. As I watched, I knew then I wanted to help heal the grieving.

In 2017, Roberta’s House received 3,047 calls from the bereaved. The need for grief support today is substantially higher and more complicated than it was six decades ago when my mother helped those who walked through our front door. Yet, the compassion remains the same.

Tragedy routinely strikes the neglected neighborhoods of Baltimore city. When it strikes, Roberta’s House tends to the survivors left behind. With each survivor, Roberta’s House tackles the issue of unresolved grief to restore hope.

This year’s call was to restore hope in more schools in the city of Baltimore. Through your support, we expanded our program, Growing through Grief, to seven schools in Baltimore city.

We also responded to the need to support the homicide survivors of Prince George’s County, Maryland. As a result, Roberta’s House expanded its program, Rays of Hope, to help the children, families, and adults in the communities of Prince George’s County, Maryland learn to cope with their loss.

As we work to rid our city of its grief crisis, we seek your continued support. Through your financial support, we can address the rising needs of the grieving when death occurs. It’s time to answer the call to help our communities in Baltimore and beyond become whole again. Thank you for your support.

Annette March-Grier, President
Roberta’s House

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
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, training, and workshops in 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 provide help with understanding 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 individuals they will get the help they need and will not remain isolated in their grief.

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.

A Journey to Restore Hope: Personal Stories

“My nephew called me in a panic. He said my teenage son had been shot, they were taking him to the hospital. Hysterical, I asked was he alive, He said yes. I rushed to the hospital. By the time I arrived, he was gone. I demanded to see my son. When I laid my eyes on him I fell to my knees screaming why. I lost all hope. I thought I couldn’t live without my son. Roberta’s House kept checking on me. I finally went to the program. At times it still hurts, but Roberta’s House saved my life.”

WHAT WE DO

- **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; CEUs 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

FINANCIAL STATUS

Revenue

Foundation/Trust/Non-Profit Grants .............$679,345
Corporate & Business Contributions ..........$94,529
Fundraising/Special Events ....................$21,625
State & Local Government Grants ..........$824,601
Individual & Board Member Contributions ..$73,970
Other .............................................$12,278
Fundraising/Special Events ....................$24,678
Capital Campaign ................................$107,854
Value of Volunteer Hours ....................$209,246

Total $ 2,023,448

Expenses

Programs .................................................$1,378,730
General & Administrative .....................$224,642
Fundraising ............................................$9,887

Total $1,613,259

Change in Net Assets ..............................$135,539
Net Assets BOY .................................$249,303
Net Assets EOY .................................$284,842

3,055 People Served in our Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time of Sharing</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Session</td>
<td>197</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAM (Still A Mom)</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healing Through Quilting</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Good Grief” Workshops</td>
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<td>Growing Through Grief</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Changing the Game</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>The HOPE Project</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Visitation Program</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rays of Hope - Baltimore City</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rays of Hope - Prince George’s County</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homicide Transformation Project</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survivors of Homicide - Homebased</td>
<td>580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Workshops/Training</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Outreach via workshops and presentations</td>
<td>429</td>
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</table>

Revenue

- Value of Volunteer Hours: 10%
- Other Income: 1%
- Foundations/Trusts/Non-Profit Grants: 4.6%
- Capital Campaign Revenue: 4.6%
- State & Local Government Grants: 39.9%
- Individual & Board Member Contributions: 7.7%
- Corporate & Business Contributions: 0.5%
- Fundraising/Special Events: 2%

Expenses

- Programs: 82%
- General & Administrative: 17%
- Fundraising: 1%
### COPING WITH GRIEF: 2017 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

#### Families Healing Together

- **86%** Adult participants report Roberta’s House provided a safe environment for them and their families.
- **93%** Adult participants report their awareness and understanding of grief improved/increased since attending the Family Program at Roberta’s House.
- **86%** Adults report improvement in their behavior since attending grief support (e.g. arguing, fighting, drinking, smoking, eating, patience, fearful, etc.)
- **70%** Adults report there is an improvement in their symptoms of grief emotionally (e.g. sadness, depression, crying, loneliness, hopelessness, etc.)
- **100%** Adults report their stress related to grief has been reduced since attending group.
- **88%** Middle school youth report they learned it’s okay to have all kinds of feelings when someone dies.
- **76%** Middle school youth report they think Roberta’s House is helpful for grieving kids who have adjustment problems overall.
- **77%** Middle school youth report it was helpful to meet other children who have had someone pass away.
- **52%** Middle school youth report they now have an adult who listens to them.
- **100%** 5-7 year old children report it easier to talk about the death now than it was before they came to Roberta’s House.
- **100%** 5-7 year old children reported they feel they have an adult who listens to them now.

#### Changing the Game

- **80%** Report that their overall outlook about life has become better.
- **90%** Youth report that their ability to use positive coping skills have increased.
- **0%** Recidivism rate among youth in CTG.
- **90%** Youth report that they would recommend the Changing the Game Program to their friends.

#### HOPE Project

- **100%** Decrease in scores for the Edinburgh Depression Scale from enrollment to discharge.
- **100%** Decrease in scores for the Perinatal Grief Scale from enrollment to discharge.
- **75%** Decrease in scores for the Perceived Stress Scale from enrollment to discharge.
- **75%** Increase in scores for the Hope Traits (Future) Scale from enrollment to discharge.
- **75%** Increase in number of mothers using an effective contraceptive method from enrollment to discharge.

#### School Based

- **15** Educators were trained in the Calm Classroom model to support with addressing the grief, loss and trauma experienced by students.
- **61** Students who completed grief support groups in three Baltimore City schools.

#### Survivors of Homicide Victims

A partnership established with the Mount Ranier, Edmondson and Brentwood Police Department in Prince George’s County.

A partnership established with several schools in Prince George’s County that include: Capital Heights Elementary School and Thurgood Marshall Middle.

### After completing the 10-week support groups, the following are outcomes:

- **22%** High school students report a decrease in alcohol usage.
- **11%** Report a decrease in tobacco use.
- **66%** Self-report an improvement in grades.
- **61** Students who completed grief support groups in three Baltimore City schools.
OUR GREATEST RESOURCE: VOLUNTEERS

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:
8,541 Total Volunteer Hours
$209,246 Total Value

7 AMAZING THINGS DONORS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE

Look what a gift to Roberta’s House can do!

Grief Support Programs in 12 Baltimore City Schools

Enabled Roberta’s House to Conduct Programs in the Community

Sent 62 Youth to Camp Erin

Provided Grief Education and Trained 1532 People

Serviced Over 1515 People in Support Groups

Volunteers Gave 8,541 Hours Totaling $209,246 in Value

Expanded Offices and Programs in Prince George’s County
PEOPLE MAKING IT HAPPEN: OUR TEAM, SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

Our Roberta’s House Board of Directors

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A Community of Church Supporters/Donors

Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church
Berean Baptist Church of Baltimore City, Inc.
Bethel Temple Church of Christ
Canaan Missionary Baptist Church
Christ United Methodist Church
Divine Hand of God Holy Church
East Baltimore Deliverance Church
Fresh Water Ministry, Baltimore City
Koinoa Baptist Church
Morning Star Baptist Church
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New Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church
New Psalmist Baptist Church
New Zion Baptist Church of Baltimore City, Inc.
Omega Baptist Church and Ministries, Inc.
Restoration Worship Center
Restoring Family Life Center of Hope, Inc.
Southern Baptist Church-Christian Education Dept.
St. Ann Catholic Church
St. Ambrose Catholic Church
St. Paul Baptist Church
St. Philips Lutheran Church
St. Timothy’s Christian Baptist Church
The Knights of Peter Claver/Ladies Auxiliary St. Ann Court # 331
United Baptist Church
Zion Baptist Church

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 2017, resources were made available to expand our services. We greatly appreciate all of our donors. Additional donors can be found on our website.

Grants/Foundations/ Corporations $1000-$200,000
Aegon Transamerica Foundation
Baltimore City
Baltimore City Health Department
Barton Malow Co. Foundation
Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore
CareFirst BlueChoice
CareFirst Blue Cross
Carlessia Hussein Minority Opportunity
Charles Crane Foundation
Chesapeake Charitable Foundation
Eli Seth Matthews Leukemia Foundation
Elijah’s Hope Foundation
Family League of Baltimore City, Inc.
Goldseker Foundation
Governors Office of Crime Control & Prevention
IGH Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Department of Health, Policy and Management
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc.
Kaiser Permanente Foundation
Lois and Philip Mach Family Philanthropic Fund
March of Dimes
Marguerite Casey Foundation
Mayor of Baltimore City, CDBG Morris A Mechanic Foundation Inc.
New York Life Foundation
Rite Aid Foundation
Sunshine Angels Foundation
SunTrust Foundation
Survivors Homicide Grant
The Abell Foundation, Inc.
The Baltimore Community Foundation-Children’s Fresh Air
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.
The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, Inc.
The March Family Foundation
WBAL Kids Campaign
Wieners Foundation
York Children’s Foundation
Zanvyl and Isabelle Kreiger Fund
Individual Donors $1000 & Up
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The Burbage Funeral Home
Time Printers
Vera Bradley

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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 Get Involved

- 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

Robertta’s House

A Family Grief Support Center

United Way and Combined Charities # 7987 • 2510 St Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218
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