



# ANSWERING THE CALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

*Roberta's* **HOUSE**   
A Family Grief Support Center

# 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

*“Tragedy routinely strikes the neglected neighborhoods of Baltimore city. When it strikes, Roberta's House tends to the survivors left behind.”*

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



## 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 provides 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.

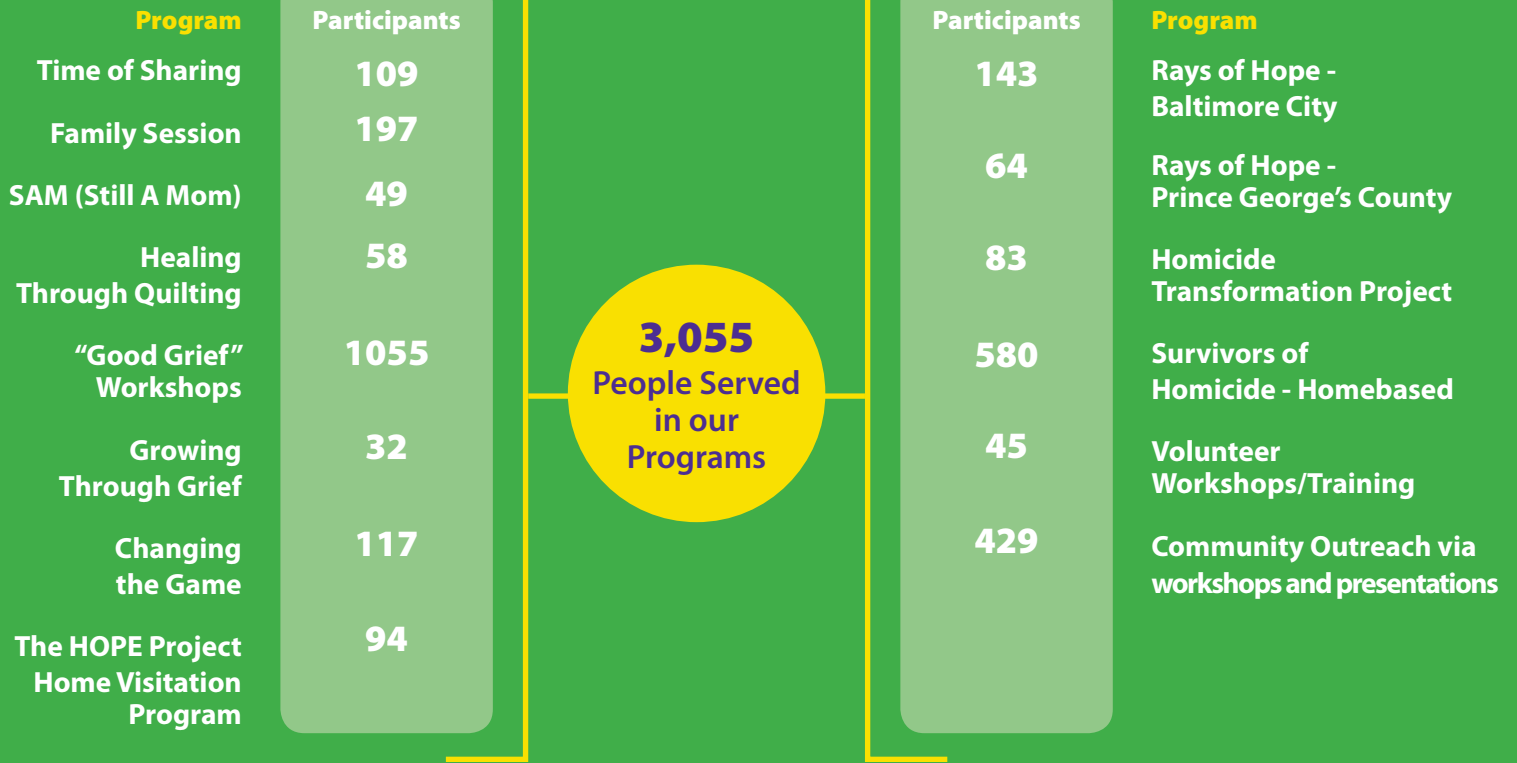
## A Journey to Restore Hope: *Personal Stories*

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"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."

- **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



## 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

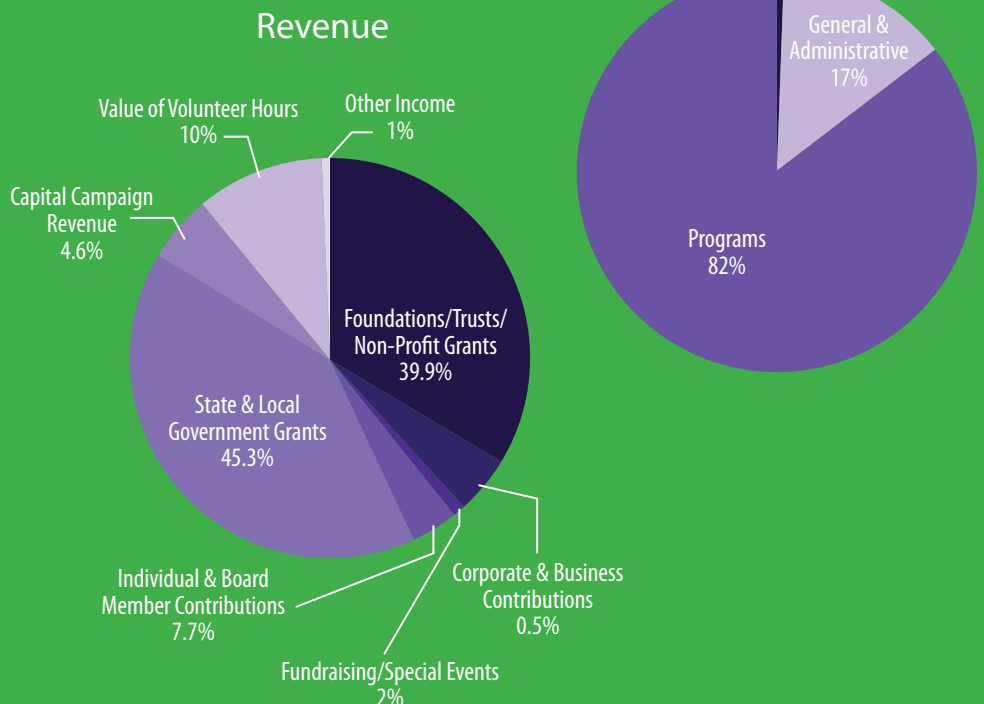
Total \$1,613,259

**Change in Net Assets \$135,539**

Net Assets BOY \$249,303

Net Assets EOY \$284,842

### Expenses



# 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

## 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.

## 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

## 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

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

# 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

Annette March-Grier, RN,  
President

Alma Roberts,  
Chairperson

Victor C. March,  
Treasurer

Erich W. March,  
Secretary

Steve S. Sharfstein

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Nathaniel Jones, Esq.

Benjamin Morgan

Olivia Farrow, Esq.

Susan Immelt, PhD, RN, BSN



Executive Director,  
Veronica Land-Davis, LCSW-C

## 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

Christ United  
Methodist Church

Divine Hand of God  
Holy Church

East Baltimore  
Deliverance Church

Fresh Water Ministry,  
Baltimore City

Koinoia Baptist Church

Morning Star Baptist Church

National Baptist Deacons  
Convention of America, Inc.

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/Foundation/ 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 Macht 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

WBAL Kids Campaign

Wiessner Foundation

York Children's Foundation

Zanvyl and Isabelle  
Kreiger Fund

### Individual Donors \$1000 & Up

Annette March-Grier, RN

Brendye Esmond

Judith Carmichael

Cecil Flamer

Cynthia March Malloy

Darren Farmer

Donavin Burley

Donna Doyle

Dr. Patricia Pender

Paulette Burgess, Ed.D.

Erich March

Kenneth Grant, Sr.

Kim McCalla

Mary Jo Putney Inc.

Milton Dugger

Olivia D. Farrow

Patricia Jessamy

Steven S. Sharfstein, MD

Victor C. March, Sr.

### Organizational Donors

ADS System Safety Consulting, LLC.

ASD Inc.

Ashburton Soul Shack

Baltimore Smart Set

Brown Capital Management, LLC.

Dream 4 It Inc.

Elite Exhalers

Emanuel Moore & Associates,  
Inc.

J4P Associates

Key Network Solutions, LLC.

Maryland State Funeral Directors  
Association, Inc.

McVet

The Moyer Foundation

National Baptist Deacons  
Convention of America, Inc.

New York Life

OFIT Employees Fund

Outward Bound

Pandora

Radisson @ Cross Keys

Sullivans Steakhouse

The Burbage Funeral Home

Time Printers

Vera Bradley

## A Journey to Restore Hope: *Personal Stories*

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"I realized one morning, I hadn't felt the baby move. Lunch time was over and still nothing. By now I thought I should have felt something. The days before there was lots of movement. I started to worry. I had a strong feeling something was wrong. I was in my 5th month. The next day when I went for my prenatal visit, I learned my baby was gone. I'll never forget that day. When I finally left the hospital, I sat in my car for hours in silence. It felt like my heart had been torn from my chest. I was angry. I felt alone. I couldn't think straight. So many emotions went through me, I reluctantly agreed to attend the Hope project. When I went, I met many mothers like me. We formed a special bond."



## 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](http://www.robertashouse.org). Thank you in advance for your support.

*Annette March-Grier*

*Roberta's* **HOUSE**



**A Family Grief Support Center**

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