



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**Empowering a Community of Caring
Adults & Children to Promote Healing**

Empowering a Community of Caring Adults & Children to Promote Healing

A Message from the President



Roberta's House is creating a community of supporters. Many of our supporters start as clients but return to become volunteers after navigating through the healing process. Our community supporters have used their voices to advocate in their neighborhoods, on-the-job, and schools. Through our programs, children, families, and entire communities feel empowered to collectively express their grief experiences and learn healthy ways to heal.

In 2019, we had a tremendous impact in Baltimore city schools. Our staff and trained volunteers provided on-site support to our growing roster of five more schools, totaling 16 schools. Our school-based partnerships have enabled teachers to identify grieving students and minimize class disruptions. When the violence erupts in neighboring communities, school principals and teachers have become more aware of its impact on students.

We are diligently promoting the recovery of the communities we serve. Building healthy communities that promote healing from grief is at our core. Our programs help cultivate an environment where families and communities feel safe to express their feelings and heal together.

We are growing exponentially. The construction of our all-new state of the art facility has begun. We anticipate its completion in 2020. This first of its kind bereavement center will meet the high demands for our services to the many grieving children and families in the urban neighborhoods of Baltimore and beyond.

We could not have come this far without you! We value your support.

Annette March-Grier

President, Roberta's House

“Building healthy communities that promote healing from grief is at our core.”

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. We offer free programs, training, and workshops in a safe place for 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 grief issues. Our support groups and healing circles help children, teens, and adults understand the grieving process and coping skills.

Roberta's House has professional licensed social workers and advocates who make home visits to support individuals and families traumatized by the homicidal death of a loved one. Our greatest concern is to assure individuals they will receive 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.

Impact Statements from: *Camp Erin*

"It helped me because I got to talk to people that I made a relationship with about the passing. And it helped me to accept the fact that my dad was gone and it help me express my feelings when I'm sad and they gave me ideas on what I should do when I get upset and feel like crying." (Age 13)

"It helped me learn that just cause you cry or show sadness doesn't mean that you are less tough. And that talking about your feelings can help." (Age 12)

- **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

Program

Program	Participants
Time of Sharing	154
Families Healing Together	124
Healing Ourselves through Peer Empowerment (H.O.P.E.) Visitation program	35
H.O.P.E Support Groups/SAMS	43
Changing the Game	39
School Based Wellness Program	2,644
Camp Erin, Baltimore Bereavement Camp	63

Participants

154
124
35
43
39
2,644
63

Participants

213
216
96
7
41
36
2,199

Program

Survivor Advocacy Program
Rays of Hope
Homicide Transformation Program
Pilot Program
Volunteer Training
Bereavement Ministry Training
Community Based Training/Outreach

5,910
New People Served in Our Programs

FINANCIAL STATUS*

Revenue

Foundations/Trusts/Non-Profit Grants	\$578,831
Corporate & Business Contributions	\$445,325
Fundraising/Special Events	\$96,605
Individual & Board Member Contributions	\$63,627
State & Local Government Grants	\$967,204
Capital Campaign Revenue	\$2,474,159
Value of Volunteer Hours	\$158,826
Other Income	\$17,227

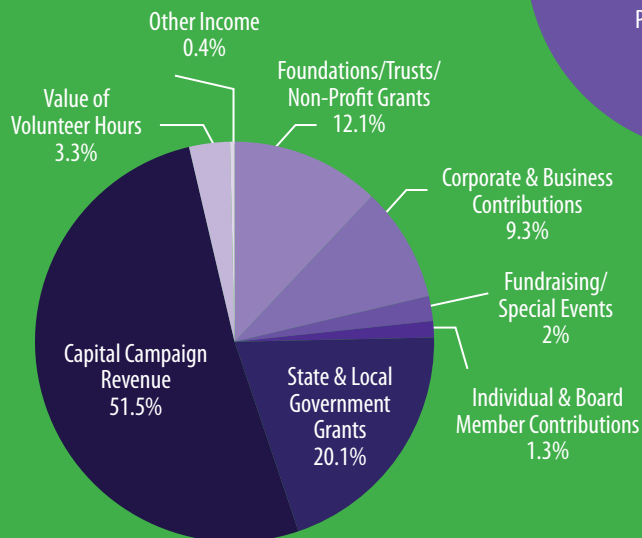
Total \$ 4,801,804

Expenses

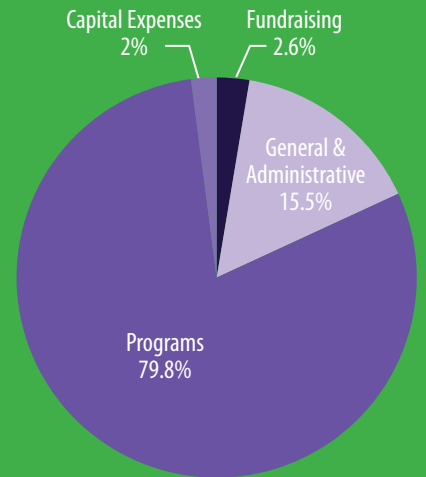
Programs	\$1,609,484
General & Administrative	\$312,315
Fundraising	\$53,044
Capital Expenses	\$41,434

Total \$2,016,277

Revenue



Expenses



*Unaudited

COPING WITH GRIEF: 2019 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Over 500 performance outcomes were measured in 2019

Measurable Outcomes for Adults

- 95%** Increase in awareness and knowledge of the grief since attending support groups
- 100%** Able to express pain of grief in a supportive environment
- 90%** Improvement in symptoms of grief emotionally, and physically (ie., sadness, depression, crying, anxiety)
- 85%** Learned 2 or more new coping skills
- 80%** Found a new sense of hope and meaning in the loss
- 90%** Able to identify, connect and engage with others in mutual help
- 86%** Able to function and return to a new normal
- 80%** Reduced stress as a result of group support
- 24%** Requested for additional support and Connected to other resources

Measurable Outcomes for Youth 5-17 yrs of Age

- 82%** Increased knowledge of grief working through a loss (Recognized that grief has a multitude of feelings, good and painful.)
- 80%** Learned at least 3 or more new coping skills
- 85%** Was able to express painful feelings safely
- 76%** Demonstrated an improvement in behavior after attending group
- 87%** Attendance in school improved and promoted to next grade
- 88%** Able to recognize emotional triggers
- 72%** Feel they have an adult to support them
- 98%** Believe Roberta's House was helpful for grieving children
- 96%** Was able to connect and meet others like them

Other Outcomes

- 85%** Mothers experiencing prenatal and infant death completed reproductive plans
- 75%** Survivors of homicide reported that their quality of life improved due to the services Roberta's House provided

Partnerships

Baltimore City Public School
Prince George's County School
Baltimore City Health Department/BCIITY
Baltimore Police Department
Baltimore City Department of Social Services
Black Mental Health Alliance

Outward Bound
Family Bereavement Center
Our Daily Bread
Baltimore CONNECT
Prince George's County Department of Health
Prince George's County Police Department



Over 250 home visits were completed through our two home visiting programs.

*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:
6,082.5 Total Volunteer Hours
\$146,831.55 Total Value

7 AMAZING THINGS DONORS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE

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

Grief Support Programs in 16 Baltimore City & 6 PG County Schools

Enabled Roberta's House to Conduct Programs in the Community

Sent 63 Youth to Camp Erin

Provided Grief Education and Support to 4000 Youth & Adults

Serviced Over 1350 People in Support Groups

Volunteers Gave 6,082.5 Hours Totaling \$146,831 in Value

Program Expansion in Prince George's County in Full Operation



PEOPLE MAKING IT HAPPEN: OUR TEAM, SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

Our Roberta's House Board of Directors

Annette March-Grier, RN,
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Executive Director,
Veronica Land-Davis, LCSW-C

A Community of Church Supporters/Donors

East Baltimore Deliverance Church

First Baptist Church of Elkridge

First Mt. Carmel Christian
Community

Fresh Water Ministries

Fulton Baptist Church, Inc.

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church Inc.

Mt. Pleasant Rock Baptist Church

New Bethlehem Free Will Church

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New Zion Baptist Church
of Baltimore City

Our Lady of Fatima

Pastor Ray Cotton, Mt. Sinai
Baptist Church

Ray of Hope Baptist Church

Sacred Heart of Mary

Set the Captives Free Outreach
Ctr., Inc

Solid Rock Apostolic Faith Church

St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church

St. James Episcopal Church

St. Joseph FWB Church

St. Rita Church

Union Temple 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 2019, 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

Associated Black Charities

Baltimore Community Foundation

Barton Malow Co. Foundation

BGE, an Exelon Company

Brown's Memorial Baptist Church, Inc.

CareFirst

Eli Seth Matthews Leukemia Foundation

Eluna

Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Hoffberger Foundation

IGH Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Lois & Phillip Macht Family Fund

Kaiser Permanente

Kids Campaign Inc.

Marcorp Ltd/March Funeral Homes

Marquerite Casey Foundation

Mary Jo Putney, Inc.

T. Rowe Price Foundation, Inc.

The Charles Crane Family Foundation

The Hackerman Foundation, Inc.

The Harry & Jeannette Weinberg

The Wiessner Foundation for Children, Inc.

The Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund

Wells Fargo Foundation

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Ms. Shirley Burke

Ms. Shadaya Cox

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Mr. & Mrs. M. Sigmund & Barbara Shapiro

Dr. Steve Sharfstein

Ms. Edwina Trader

Organizational Donors

ADS System Safety Consulting LLC

Aegis Mechanical Corporation

Aegon Transamerica Foundation

Associated Jewish Community

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

Diana Kids Campaign, Inc.

Eluna

J4P Associates

Mayor & City Council of Baltimore

Roberta's House Board of Directors

Sarah's House Mental Health Services

StoryCorps, Inc.

Sun Trust Bank

Sunshine's Angels Inc.

The Associated Inspiring Jewish

The Modern Grannies

The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

Warfield -ROHR Casket Co., NC

YourCause, LLC Trustee for New York Life

Impact
Statements from:
Camp Erin

"Camp Erin helped me realize that there are actually people who care about how you feel and about your situation. It also helped me open up about what happened without worrying about it being spread around." (Age 13)

"Camp Erin helped me to learn new tools about dealing with my grief." (Age 9)



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

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

Roberta's **HOUSE** 

A Family Grief Support Center

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