

Annual Report

2023

Healing Journeys: Celebrating Resilience and Achievements



FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As we present the Annual Report for Roberta's House, it is my privilege to outline the purpose and significance of this document. This report not only showcases our achievements and milestones over the past year but also serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of our team, volunteers, and supporters who have joined us on our mission to provide compassionate grief support services.

The theme for this year's report, "Healing Journeys," reflects the core of what we do at Roberta's House. Each journey through grief is unique, marked by personal struggles and triumphs. Our goal is to offer a safe haven where individuals and families can navigate their grief, find resilience, and ultimately restore healthy living. This theme underscores our dedication to walking alongside those in mourning, providing the support and resources they need to heal.

This past year has been one of significant growth and impact for Roberta's House. Among our key highlights, we expanded our grief support programs to include specialized programming for at-risk youth in group homes, and women who have experienced an infant or prenatal loss. We have also significantly expanded our behavioral Health Services, providing individual, couples, and family therapy. These additions ensure that we are meeting the diverse needs of our community and providing targeted support where it is most needed.

We also saw tremendous success with our community outreach efforts, forging new partnerships with local schools, hospitals, and community organizations. These collaborations have allowed us to extend our reach, bringing our services to more individuals and families across Maryland. Our volunteer training program has also thrived, with an increase in volunteer participation enhancing the quality and breadth of support we can offer.

In terms of milestones, the launch of our telehealth services and virtual support groups has been a game-changer, enabling us to provide continuity of care despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Additionally, our capital campaign has made significant strides, securing funds to expand and renovate our facilities to better serve our clients.

As we look forward to the coming year, we remain committed to fostering healing and resilience. With your continued support, we are confident that we can reach even greater heights, ensuring that every individual experiencing grief has access to the compassionate and effective support they deserve.

Thank you for being an integral part of Roberta's House. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

Warm regards,

Annette March-Grier

Annette March-Grier, RN
President and Co-Founder
Roberta's House

FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As the incoming Chair of Roberta's House Board of Directors, I am honored to share our annual report. This document highlights our progress and key accomplishments over the past year and recognizes the dedication of our team, volunteers, and supporters, who have been essential to our mission of providing empathetic grief support services.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Milton A. Dugger, Jr., who completed his term in July 2024 after several years of outstanding service on our Board of Directors. Milton's leadership and commitment have profoundly influenced Roberta's House, and we are deeply thankful for his contributions.

The theme for this year's report, "Healing Journeys," truly speaks to the heart of what we do at Roberta's House. I know from my own experience that grief is deeply personal and filled with unique challenges and how, with the right support systems,

we can build resilience. Roberta's House offers a compassionate and supportive environment where individuals and families can navigate their grief, find strength, and rebuild their lives. This theme underscores our unwavering dedication to being a comforting and guiding presence for those in need.

As a member of the CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield Leadership team for now over 30 years and a committed Difference Maker, I understand the critical importance of comprehensive health care. Roberta's House's efforts to integrate mental health services and provide holistic support align with my professional values and commitment to community wellness.

Warm regards,

Michelle Powell

Michelle Powell
Incoming Chair of the Board of Directors
Roberta's House

OUR MISSION AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Mission Statement:

Roberta's House provides trauma-informed care and addresses grief as a public health service. We believe all children, adults, and families suffering the loss or death of a loved one should have support and a safe place to heal and recover.

OUR PLEDGE



COMPASSION: Providing a caring and empathetic environment for all.



COLLABORATION: Working together with families, communities, and partners to support healing.



INTEGRITY: Upholding the highest ethical standards in all our actions.



EXCELLENCE: Striving for the highest quality in our programs and services.



RESPECT: Honoring the dignity and worth of every individual.

Vision Statement:

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



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

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Aneesha Scott, LCSW-C, LICSW, Behavioral Health Program Clinical Director

Betty Hickey-Wright, MA, Human Resources Director

Roxanne Fuentes, LCSW-C, MSW, RPS, SAP, ACS, Homicide Survivor Advocacy Program Director

Jamar Wilson, B.S., Operations Director



WHAT WE DO: ROBERTA'S HOUSE PROGRAMS

Roberta's House provides grief support services and educational programs throughout Maryland.

In 2023, our peer support groups and counseling services reached Baltimore and Prince Georges County residents.



Family Bereavement Support Group

Families Healing Together, a 10-week support group for families with children ages 5-17.

Volunteer Training Program

Training volunteers to provide peer support and assistance.

Behavioral Health Program

Our mental health services for children, adults, and families ages five and above, specializing in providing a safe space for confidential individual, group, family, and couples therapy to those who are grieving.

Children's Grief Support Program

School-based Emotional Wellness Program

Good Grief Workshops: Help students of all ages define grief and explore their experience of loss.

Growing Through Loss:

A 10-week peer support group for children and teens.

Community Outreach and Education Workshops, seminars, and training sessions on grief and bereavement

Adult Grief Support Program

Homicide Survivor Advocacy Program

Rays of Hope: A 10-week family peer support group designed specifically for families with children aged 2 to 17 who have tragically lost a loved one to homicide.

Homicide Transformation Project:

A 10-week program facilitated by professionals offering peer support groups tailored to meet the specific needs of homicide survivors. Participants are guided through their grief journey, addressing various aspects of coping and healing.

Camp Erin® Baltimore

is a weekend bereavement camp for children and teens supported in part by Eluna.

Learning Institute

A pioneering initiative in trauma-informed, community-focused mental healthcare. Offers a range of trainings and workshops designed to enhance the skills, confidence, and capacity of mental health professionals and community members.

The H.O.P.E. Project

consists of three programs which are Life After Loss, Still A Mom and Holding On To H.O.P.E., which support families who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth, pregnancy or infant loss up to one year.

Teen Grief Support Program

Changing the Game, a 6-month support group for at-risk teens to develop positive life goals.

A Time of Sharing

is an adult peer support group for individuals ages 18 and over who have experienced the loss of someone close and seeking meaning in their lives. The Groups are offered in English as well as Spanish Un Tiempo de Compartir.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Roberta's House Grief Support Centers in Baltimore and Prince George's County offer a safe and supportive space for families to come together to grieve, heal, and grow after the loss of a loved one.


SUPPORT GROUPS:

We hosted **13 PEER SUPPORT GROUPS** during 2023 with facilitated sessions for

 **194 CHILDREN,**

 **158 TEENS,**

and

 **1,015 ADULTS,**

offering age-appropriate activities and discussions to process grief. Our groups include art, music, and play therapies, which are provided to help participants express their emotions creatively and therapeutically.

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS:

Roberta's House hosted



80 WORKSHOPS

to equip families with the tools and knowledge to navigate grief, understand the emotional process, and support one another.

The PEER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

empowers young people who have experienced grief to become community leaders and advocates. Teens were provided leadership training, engaged in community projects that address grief and loss in their schools and neighborhoods, fostering a supportive community environment.



CAMP ERIN® BALTIMORE:



64 CAMPERS attended 2024 Camp Erin® Baltimore, our free, weekend-long bereavement camp designed for children and teens ages 6-17 who have experienced the death of a loved one.



43 VOLUNTEERS came together to offer support and healing for grieving children.

TRAUMA-INFORMED COUNSELING:

Our team of licensed counselors served



676.63 CLIENTS

provide 861 hours of behavioral health services. Individuals and families receive individual and group counseling sessions focused on addressing the unique trauma associated with losing a loved one to violence.

HOMICIDE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT served



INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

who were affected by homicide. Our Survivor Advocates made 329 home visits and hours of advocacy and support to survivors.

SCHOOL-BASED YOUTH EMOTIONAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

recognizes that children and teens often struggle with grief in school settings; our school-based program was active in 8 Baltimore City and 2 Prince George's County Schools and reached **3,408 STUDENTS** and **486 FACULTY**.

131 students participated in our 10-week peer support group. Teachers and school staff receive training on how to recognize and support grieving students, creating a more compassionate and understanding school environment.

H.O.P.E. PROJECT:

Healing Ourselves through Peer Empowerment Program offers women who have lost an infant two 10-week peer support groups to help them heal. In 2023, the program served

31 WOMEN

and their families. Through shared experiences and compassionate support, participants find solace and strength in their journeys of grief.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

At Roberta's House, we are committed to the responsible stewardship of all contributed funds. We ensure that every donation is used efficiently and transparently to support our mission of providing compassionate grief support to individuals and families. Through careful financial management, we maximize the impact of each contribution, directing funds towards programs and services that make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Our commitment to accountability and transparency strengthens the trust of our donors and community, ensuring that their generosity continues to transform lives.

GRANTS

Direct Public Grants

Foundation and Trust Grants	367,744.16
Nonprofit Organization Grants	669,412.09
Total Direct Public Grants	\$1,037,156.25

Government Grants

Federal Grants	37,819.33
Local Government Grants	209,784.21
State Grants	1,384,621.09
Total Government Grants	\$1,632,224.63

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Corporate Contributions	107,958.17
Gifts In Kind - Services	151,957.05
Gifts in Kind - Goods	588.58
Board Member Contributions	14,054.25
Individual Contributions	68,711.53
Business Contributions	8,520.52
United Way, CFC Contributions	41,496.64
Total Direct Public Support	\$393,286.74

OTHER INCOME

Total Miscellaneous Revenue	\$13,419.57
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Program Income

Prog Serv Fee - Bereavement Training	5,720.05
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Program Income

Clinical Services	39,216.63
Balto City Public Schools BCPS	16,200.00
Fee for Services	5,550.00
Total Program Income	\$66,686.68

Special Events Income

Crab Feast	51,367.85
Elijah Cummings Leadership Award	148,779.10
Total Special Events Income	\$200,146.95
Total Camp Erin®	\$32,495.32

CONTRACTS/INVESTMENTS/ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Total Federal Contracts	\$70,482.01
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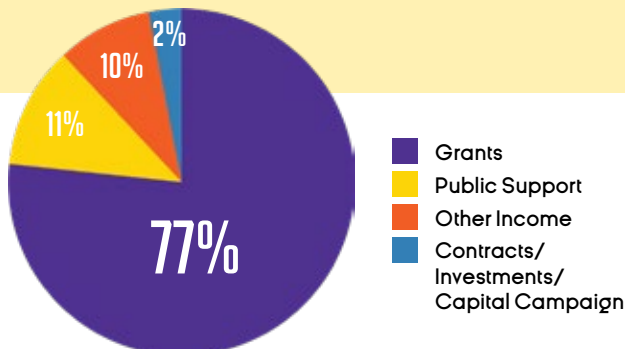
Investments

Dividend, Interest (Securities)	103.09
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	39.09
Donated Investments	10,000.00
Total Investments	\$10,142.18

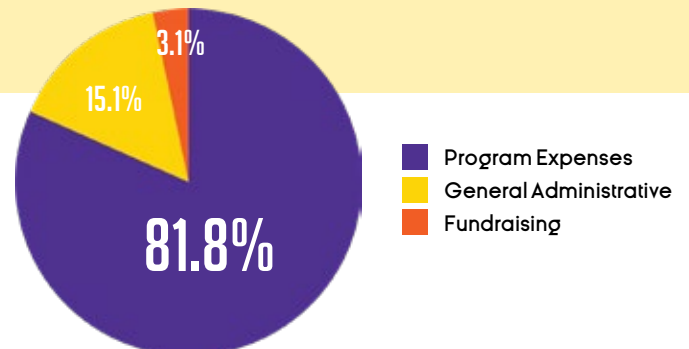
Capital Campaign

Corporate Capital Contribution	510.00
Individual Capital Contribution	14,807.50
Buy A Brick Campaign	2,673.21
Total Capital Campaign Revenue	\$17,990.71

TOTAL REVENUE

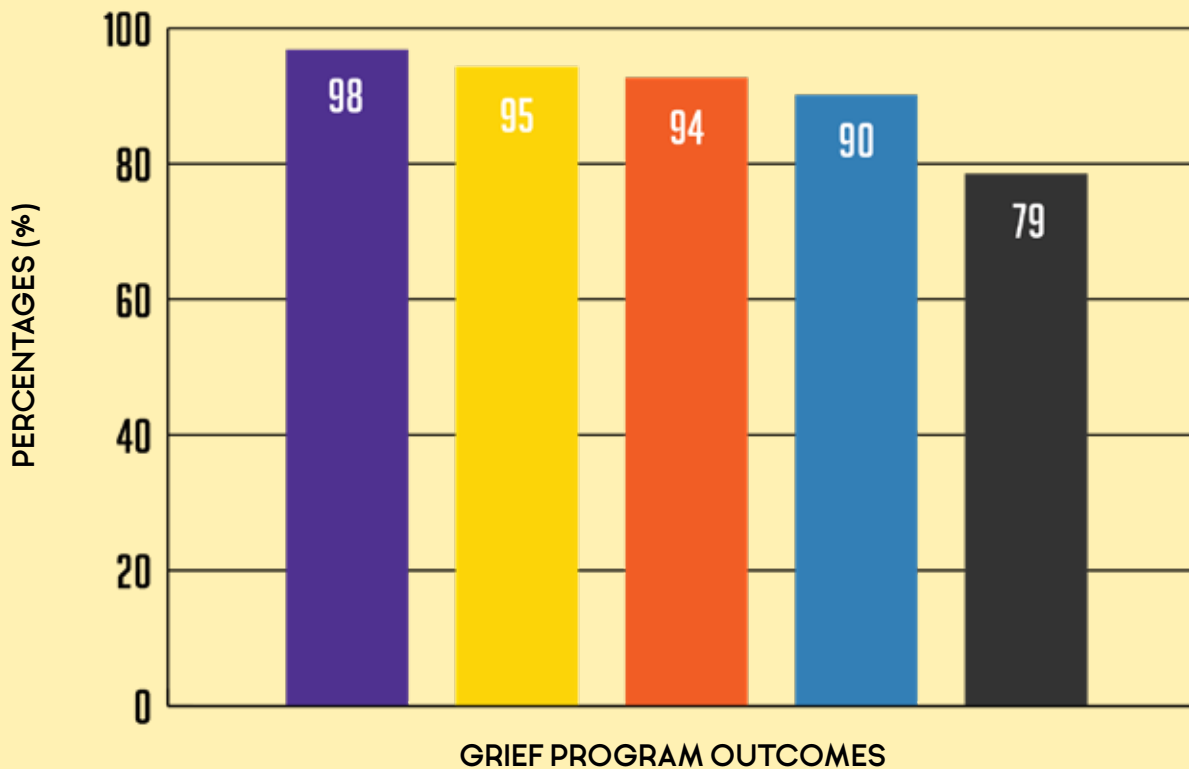


TOTAL EXPENSES



At Roberta's House, our grief support services have made a profound impact on the emotional well-being of individuals and families in our community. Through compassionate guidance and a supportive environment, clients have gained a deeper understanding of the grief process and found comfort in expressing their emotions. Our programs help reduce stress, improve emotional resilience, and foster a sense of connection, allowing participants to navigate their grief journey with greater clarity and hope. By offering a space where clients feel valued and supported, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the healing process.

PROGRAM OUTCOME



98%

Clients reported greater understanding and knowledge about the grief process

94%

Clients found it easier to express feeling of loss after participating in the Family Program

79%

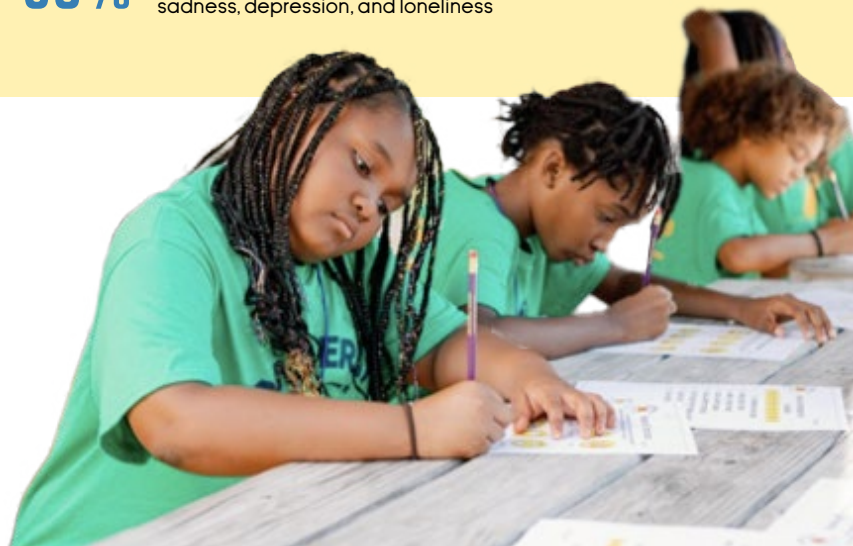
Clients agreed that they were valued during the sessions

95%

Clients indicated their stress levels had reduced since attending the group

90%

Clients reported an improvement in their emotional symptoms of grief, such as sadness, depression, and loneliness



LOOKING AHEAD: FUTURE GOALS AND STRATEGIES



Expand Grief Programs

At Roberta's House, we are excited to expand our grief support services to meet the growing needs of our community. We are developing specialized support groups and counseling services for families and individuals affected by overdose deaths, providing the resources and education they need to navigate the unique grief associated with substance use loss. For those impacted by suicide, we are launching targeted grief programs that include peer support groups and individual counseling, along with training for community leaders and mental health professionals to aid in suicide post-vention efforts.

We are particularly enthusiastic about the new programs designed for young adults, ages 18-25, who are transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. These tailored initiatives will address their specific grief needs while fostering peer support networks. For young men in this age group, we're creating outreach initiatives and support groups that encourage open discussions about grief and emotional well-being, along with mentorship opportunities and activities that resonate with them.

In addition, we're enhancing our educational initiatives by developing advanced training modules and workshops for educators, mental health professionals, and community leaders. These programs will equip them with the knowledge and tools to better understand and support those experiencing grief, ensuring that we continue to make a lasting, positive impact in the lives of individuals and families in our community. The future of grief support at Roberta's House is bright, and we are eager to bring these transformative services to those who need them most.



"When I volunteer at Robert's House, I'm reminded of this quote by Erma Bombeck.

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."

- Bill Hill, Volunteer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Roberta's House's volunteers are a wonderful gift to the community. Our volunteers are at the heart of all that we do to help and support survivors through their grief journey. Our team consists of a dedicated group of volunteers who come from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life.

All of our volunteers share a unique ability to be present and listen with their hearts to a child or adult who have lost someone they love. Our volunteers give their time, talent, energy, and support to help create a safe place where grieving children, teens, adults, and families can come together to heal.

Do you want to learn more about volunteering? Contact Kelli Brooks via email at kbrooks@robertashouse.org or by phone: 410) 235-6633, ext: 106



STORY OF RESILIENCE

L.G., a previous participant in the Changing the Game program, has embarked on her freshman year at Temple University with a full scholarship.

L.G. was referred to the Changing the Game program by her high school social worker following the passing of both her parents. Her mother succumbed to complications of Lupus, while her father fell victim to murder.

During her involvement in Changing the Game, L.G. served as a Peer Ambassador and shared her narrative of grief with prominent entities such as the board of directors of Roberta's House and Ashley Biden, President Biden's daughter, as well as at Roberta's House signature Candlelight event.

L.G. consistently maintained a 3.8 GPA throughout high school and began writing her memoir in the Changing the Game program.

L.G.'s success can be attributed to the support of Roberta's House Changing the Game. She wholeheartedly embraced all aspects of the program, including developing a vision board, setting long- and short-term goals for herself, and completing college/university and financial aid applications.

Annette, we are grateful for your visionary contribution to Roberta's House and commitment to honoring your parents' enduring legacy.

L.G. stands as a compelling embodiment of the constructive influence that grief education services wield in fostering the emotional convalescence of young individuals.



2023-2024 DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

\$25,000 +

GOCCP

Maryland Physicians Care

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Family League of Baltimore

Department of Human Resources

Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

Mayor & City Council of Baltimore

The Associated Inspiring Jewish Community

Optum Maryland

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CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield

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Prince George's County Government

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University of Maryland School of Nursing -
W Baltimore RICH Collaboration

\$10,001 - \$25,000

Johns Hopkins University Armstrong Institute

Steven Sharfstein

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BGE, an Exelon Company

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Young Women

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Baltimore City Public Schools

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Meridian Management Group, Inc.

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Kristen Wommack

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Gayle Jordan-Randolph

Yvonne Braham

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Yolanda Thomas

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Lavista Foundation

Regina Fidazzo

Dorenzer Thomas

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Adena Jurkowitz

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\$501 - \$1,000

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Greater Cincinnati Foundation

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The Wiessner Foundation for Children, Inc.

Robert Bell

Timothy McFadden

Lynn Thomas

Kimberly Conaway

Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary

Christina Little



Mary McFadden
Patricia Robinson
Fr. Paul Zaborowski, St. Ambrose Catholic Church
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\$150 - \$500

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Ladies Aux of the NFDMA
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Susan and Louis Uccellini
Union Bethel AME Church
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Our Savior Lutheran Church
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Renard Brooks
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Roberta's House

Baltimore Campus

928 E North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202

(410) 235-6633

Prince George's County Campus

10210 Greenbelt Road, Lanham, MD 20706

(301) 880-5100

WWW.ROBERTASHOUSE.ORG

24/7 Homicide Survivor Advocate Support Line (844) 227-3478

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