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### CHANGE SERVICE ADDRESS

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT *Novlette Haughton*



We are pleased to introduce you to Novlette Haughton, one of the new members elected to the Marian House Board. We are excited that she has agreed to fill one of our board spots allotted for former residents.

As a teenager, Novlette was incarcerated for 14 years, but was given immediate release after new evidence was provided in her case. However, upon release she was not allowed to leave the state and was not allowed to live with family, thereby facing homelessness. She heard about Marian House from a former resident, called the intake coordinator, and was invited for the two-interview process. Novlette was accepted into the program on October 10, 2014.

Novlette embraced the Marian House program and the structure we offered. “Marian House provided me with a safe shelter when no other programs would”, said Novlette. “I will always remember that Marian House provided an environment that fostered my growth, provided support when I was far from family and gave me genuine love that is hard to come by. They offered services that provided me with the tools necessary to become acclimated to a society that had greatly changed since my incarceration in 2000. I am forever grateful to Marian House.”

Novlette successfully completed the Marian House program in approximately one year. Since leaving Marian House she has received an A.A. Degree in General Studies, a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice, and has recently enrolled in a Master’s Degree program. She has tutored some of her peers in English, History and Speech at Baltimore City Community College, and has also tutored juveniles (ages 12-15) at the 29th Street Community Center.

Novlette is proud to be on the Marian House Board and we are thrilled to have her join us. In a holiday appeal that she sent to family and friends, Novlette declared “the services that Marian House provides help to repair and improve the quality of life for many women, which in turn makes the world a better place. I am living proof that Marian House produces successes.”



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday Tours** - June 11, 2020 4:00-5:30PM | July 9, 2020 - 949 Gorsuch Ave. 8:00-9:30AM

*Hear from our Executive Director, one of our residents and tour the place our women call home! Tours occur every second Thursday of the month. Please RSVP to advancement@marianhouse.org*

**BLINGO! RESCHEDULED** - June 17, 2020 - ServPro of Hunt Valley

*Play bingo and win bling! Enjoy refreshments and 11 total games of bingo.*

**Annual Ravens Season Tickets Raffle** - Starts April 1, 2020 - marianhouse.org/ravens

*Buy your tickets for a chance to win three Ravens Season Tickets of \$1,500 Cash Prize!*

**38th Annual Day of Giving** - April 17, 2020

*Join us in celebrating our 38th Anniversary! Honor 38 years of service with a \$38 donation!*



# MARIAN HOUSE HEART OF THE HOUSE

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from Marian House and Happy Spring,

By the time this newsletter went to print, we were addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting to a “new normal” at Marian House. Due to the nature of our program, we cannot cease services or close our doors. That said, we are taking this current health crisis very seriously and have taken necessary steps to ensure the well-being and safety of our staff, residents, and volunteers. If you did not receive the e-mail about how Marian House is handling the COVID-19 pandemic, you can find it on the homepage of our website: [marianhouse.org](http://marianhouse.org).

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we were proudly participating in advocacy for legislative issues that have an impact on the women we serve. Due to COVID-19, the General Assembly concluded early on March 18th. Listed below are some, but not all, of the bills we were engaged in during the 2020 session. We are glad to share that these bills successfully passed before the early end of the legislative session.

**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Expansion & Training** – This bill helps ensure that CIT programs across Maryland have the resources to fully implement programs to train police officers to recognize when individuals have mental illness, de-escalate crisis situations and diverting them from incarceration.

**Pre-Release Unit for Women** – Did you know that Maryland operates seven pre-release units for men, but none for women? This bill requires the state to operate a community-based pre-release unit for women within the Division of Corrections (DOC) with services that are equitable to those currently provided to men.

**The Housing Opportunities Made Equal Act (HOME Act)** – Just as it is illegal to discriminate against a renter’s race, sex, religion, etc., this bill prohibits discrimination based on a renter’s source of income.

We are proud once again to have advocated for the women we serve and for all those whose lives will be impacted for the good by this legislation.

In Hope and Peace,  
*Katie*

## ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT *Demetria*

Demetria is an alumna of Marian House who entered our program in 2018. She was featured in our January 2019 Resident Spotlight, and we’re excited to update you on her progress since finishing our program!

Before coming to Marian House, Demetria was a data analyst with a government contractor. Her world toppled when her son was murdered. Depression and grief led her to using alcohol to numb the pain, and when that wasn’t enough, Demetria tried to take her own life, after which she was admitted to the hospital. After her stay, Demetria was connected to a grief counselor, completed rehabilitative treatment for her addiction, and shortly thereafter, found Marian House. While at Marian House, she received support in processing her grief, continued to focus on her recovery, found a community of support, and reconnected with her family.

Today, Demetria is 29 months sober and resides in Prince George’s County with her son, Donte. Since October 2019, Demetria has been working as a Security Analyst at the Transportation Security Administration.



She is also currently on track to graduate with a degree in Cyber Security from Strayer University in the spring of 2022. Reflecting on her life since leaving Marian House, Demetria shares,

*“I’m doing really great and am really proud of how far I’ve come with the help of Marian House. It feels good to turn my own keys and decorate my own place, and know that I’ve worked hard for everything. I accepted the process and I was dedicated to the program, and it’s very rewarding.”*

Demetria does reminisce and miss the Marian House community, including the culture of celebration and support, and her care team and residents that became like family to her. She grew exponentially during her time with us, and shares that she especially misses art therapy, yoga and her one-on-one sessions with her therapist.

*“Marian House really invested in me and I learned how to healthily process my emotions and develop coping techniques. It was really important to my grieving process as well as to build a strong foundation for my recovery.”*

Recently, Demetria started her own business in graphic design, named FTD Creative Minds, after the initials of her sons. In the future, she’d love to continue to grow this business and even has a vision for a clothing line in honor of her son, called Va’Shawn’s Vision. Now that she’s sober and stable in her life, she’s able to focus on being present with her family.

*“I’m closer to my children and grandchildren and it keeps me balanced. Getting to live with my son, after I’ve been able to healthily process my grief, I get to be there for him and help his grieving process. I can never bring back my son, but I’ve gained back everything and more than I lost from my depression and addiction. Marian House was with me each step of the way as I got to rebuild what was broken.”*



*Support Marian House,*  
**DONATE TODAY!**



# MARIAN HOUSE HEART OF THE HOUSE

## *Maryland's Top 100 Women*

Please join us to congratulate Karen Albert for being chosen as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2020, in the 25th year of this Daily Record recognition program. Karen is a member of the Marian House Board and Governance Committee and has served on the board since 2008. Karen is currently a Board Vice Chair and also chairs the Board Development Committee, in addition to serving as a member of the Advancement Committee which at one time she chaired. When Karen isn't offering her time, talent and treasure to Marian House, she is the Senior Director of Internal Audit and Chief Audit Executive at W.R. Grace & Co, a global chemicals manufacturing company, where she has worked since 2014. The Daily Record gathered a panel of business professionals and previous Maryland's Top 100 honorees to review the 510 nominations that were made. Karen Albert exemplifies what it means to be one of Maryland's Top 100 Women.



## *2020 Influential Marylander*



Congratulations to Katie Allston, Marian House Executive Director, on being recognized as a 2020 Influential Marylander by the Daily Record. The Influential Marylander award recognizes those who are leaving a mark on the community throughout the state. Honorees were selected by the editors of The Daily Record for their contributions in their respective fields and their leadership in Maryland. Honorees were selected in the following areas: civic leadership, communications, education, finance, freestyle, general business, health care, law, philanthropy, real estate and technology. The Daily Record started Influential Marylanders in 2007. This year, 52 people were selected for the honor. Katie and the other honorees will be celebrated at a special event on June 3rd. We are so proud of Katie for receiving this well-deserved acknowledgment.

## *Marian House is the proud owner of a new bus!*

Deputy Director, Pete McIver, is so excited about the new bus that it will be hard to keep him away from it!

We are grateful to Constellation, an Exelon Company, for a quick grant award to underwrite a portion of the purchase price.





# MARIAN HOUSE HEART OF THE HOUSE

*Rescheduled for June 17, 2020*



Our inaugural event, BLINGO! Play Bingo and Win Bling has been postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the procedures we are being asked to observe.

Originally scheduled for March 25th, we have now re-scheduled BLINGO! for June 17th, 6:00-9:30 p.m at ServePro of Hunt Valley, 15 Loveton Circle, Sparks, MD. We received such an overwhelming response to this event that we were sold out three weeks prior to the original date.

For those of you who purchased tickets, your ticket is good for the new date. We are grateful to the BLINGO! sponsors, in-kind donors, BLING donors, volunteers and all who are involved with this event. We look forward to seeing many of you on June 17th. For questions about BLINGO!, please contact [advancement@marianhouse.org](mailto:advancement@marianhouse.org), or call 410-467-4250.

## *2nd Annual Ravens Raffle*

If you ask Ron Griffin what one of his favorite highlights was for 2019, he will tell you it was being the first Ravens Season Ticket Raffle winner! When Ron purchased his 3 raffle tickets at a festival in Bowie, he said "I never win anything but I'll support the charity." Well to his surprise, on July 30th he learned that he had won 3 seats to the entire 2019 Ravens football season and what a year it was! Year two of the Ravens Raffle started on April 1, and you can purchase raffle tickets online at [www.marianhouse.org/ravens](http://www.marianhouse.org/ravens). Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and the drawing will take place on Thursday, July 30th at our Independence Place Campus at 4105 Old York Road in the Pen Lucy Community of Baltimore City. YOU GOTTA PLAY, TO WIN! GO RAVENS!



## *2nd Annual Community Night at Gertrude's*



Gertrude's graciously hosted the 2nd Annual Community Night Fundraiser for Marian House on February 6th. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces, and some new faces with whom we shared information about Marian House. Our guests ate to their heart's content and we raised almost \$900.

Thanks to all who came and congratulations to Nicholas Napolitano for winning the autographed copy of John Shields' latest cookbook.