

[Who We Are](#)[What We Do](#)[How to Help](#)

Your April Newsletter

A contestant on American Idol this season told a sad but familiar story. He recalled how his mother was finally able to escape their abusive father, two years after finally deciding she had to leave. It took two years because he would never let her leave the house with all of the kids. **Keeping at least one child with him at all times ensured she wouldn't leave.**

After two years he slipped up. The kids were all school-aged and all needed vaccinations. He agreed to let her take all the kids to the doctors appointment and was too tired to accompany them - that was the opportunity she had been looking for. That day, they left and never went back.

A few days later there was an [article in the Washington Post](#) that described how, after many years of abuse, a mother finally filed for a civil protection order and got her husband out of the house after he threatened to kill her in front of her children. While that is good news, she is now struggling to remain in her home without the husbands' income, despite the fact that the housing support she receives should be increased and despite the fact that the Violence Against Women Act provides protections for victims of domestic violence who rely on housing assistance. The article noted something we know too well, "**Victims of domestic violence are particularly vulnerable to homelessness. Nearly a third of women who are homeless in the District said violence was a cause, according to a 2017 report.**"

We see women with this same determination and courage every day. With the support of the amazing MSP staff (some of whom are quoted below) and the support of our MSP community, including the past and current board members who came together a few weeks ago (shown below), 40 years on, MSP continues to provide programs to empower these amazing survivors.

National Social Worker Month at MSP

March was National Social Worker Month,
celebrated each year, National Professional Social

Work Month is an opportunity for social workers across the country to turn the spotlight on the profession and highlight the important contributions they make to society.

MSP is proud of the licensed social workers who help our clients to overcome the trauma of domestic violence.



SOCIALWORKERS

leaders. advocates. champions.

Elizabeth, MSP Shelter Manager, "I never really wanted to work in a shelter setting, but when I came and interviewed at MSP, the shelter was such a quality, healthy place. I wanted to be able to support individuals holistically and that's what we do. Social work allows you to look at a person's challenges from all angles. I was excited that I could look at a challenge -not just at the individual level- but also a systems level...and to advocate...so another individual would not face that same challenge."



Abby, MSP Social Worker/Children's Program Manager, "I've always wanted to be in a field that focused on helping people, I wanted to be able to give back, instill value in people's lives and empower them. I have never regretted the decision to become a social worker. It's a humbling feeling to be a part of an agency that has been doing great work since 1979, and continues to."

Ny'l, Social Work Intern, "Being a part of MSP has given me great experience that I will utilize in and out of work."

Celebrating 40 years means celebrating 40 years of helping, motivating, and guiding families to become independent. To see the reaction when someone gets approved for an apartment, reunited with their children, or passes that drivers test, makes you feel good inside, knowing that you played a role in their achievement. I am ready to graduate with my MSW so I can keep climbing the social work ladder to keep increasing the positive impacts."

Connecting to Our Supporters

Strengthening Ties...Old and New

In March, MSP reached out to a number of friends, old and new. One of those friends was L.S. Caldwell & Associates, a company that has been supporting MSP for many years. Sitting down with leaders at the firm gave MSP team members the opportunity to learn why Caldwell continues to support our work. Many thanks to Loretta Caldwell and C. Eugene Harvey -as well as the whole Caldwell team! Their support and input is invaluable.



It was an honor and a pleasure for MSP team members to brunch with MSP founders, Advisory Board and Board of Directors members at the home of board chair Zoe Sharp. In attendance were Advisory Board member, Jenny Brody, founding board members Susan Hoffman, Deborah Peebles and Amy Wind as well as current MSP Board members Shawn Wright, Eva Petko Esber and Sophie Sahaf. We were delighted

to also be joined by Shawn Yancy and Monica Johnson who have dedicated the proceeds from this years' Girls Night Out fundraiser to My Sister's Place. We are so grateful to our growing MSP community for all their continued support and their dedication to empowering families to overcome domestic violence.



Great Food and Fun - Join our 40th Celebration!



40 Year Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, May 14th 6:30-8:30 pm

Join Us!

Optoro Headquarters
1001 G Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20001
Register by May 1

Metro Center metro stop,
exit towards 11 & G
Street Parking or Hyatt Parking \$20
Enter on 10th St between H & G

Presenting the Judith Bennet Sattler Spirit of Service Award
to the **Junior League of Washington**

Event Chairs Ruth Jansson and David Collins

To join us, reserve your tickets at www.mysistersplacedc.org

Donor Leadership Circle

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Erin Creegan

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Tom Gjelten & Martha Raddatz

Nicole Jones

Mairzy & Alex Krulic

Alex Levin

Suzanne Malveaux

Mayvin

Lester Poretzky

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Santina Rocca

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Paul Boehm

Catherine & Philip Bye

Norma G. Byrd

Brooke & Eddie Fernandez

Leon & Dawn Harris, Jr.

Margaret & David Hensler

E. Desmond Hogan & Melinda Holmes

Andrea Houck & Peter Stokely

Eve Kramer & Zach Teters

Harriet & Steve Pearson

Mary & Jerry Sharp

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Mary & Jerry Sharp

Richard & Linda S. Jones

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Help us support families fleeing domestic violence **DONATE TODAY!**

