

THE JULIAN CENTER MEDIA KIT



*Working today
for a safer tomorrow*

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In the United States, a woman is beaten
every 9 seconds

Everyone deserves a life free of violence

Message from the Executive Director

What comes to mind when you hear “The Julian Center”? Perhaps you think of an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and you would be partially right. However, The Julian Center is so much more.

Each year, we provide a multiplicity of services to more than 5,600 individuals who seek help. Through outreach efforts we reach individuals too fearful to reach out to us. Through community education, we speak out to raise awareness across our city and in schools, churches and businesses. We provide transitional and permanent housing as we travel with survivors and their children on their long, arduous journey to wholeness and self-sufficiency.

Integral to all of The Julian Center’s work is breaking the cycle of violence - to build a safer tomorrow for all central Indiana residents.

Why?

- Because 1 in 4 adult women will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.
- Because children who witness domestic violence in the home are many times more likely to become victims or perpetrators themselves.
- Because Indiana is second in the nation in teen dating violence.
- Because domestic violence costs this country’s economy billions of dollars each year in healthcare costs and lost productivity.

For 37 years, The Julian Center has served as a beacon of hope. Here are just a few of the things that went on in 2011:

- In September, 2011, Ann DeLaney retired from The Julian Center. She spent the 15 years as Executive Director and was instrumental in moving The Julian Center from a small, under-resourced building in a hidden location to a model domestic violence center in the heart of Indianapolis. Ann will forever be connected to The Julian Center for she laid the foundation that it will enable The Julian Center to continue to provide its services for years to come.
- Through a generous donation from the Reuben family foundation, The Julian Center was able to relocate our counseling center to a new

building. It was renamed the *Sara I. and Albert G. Reuben Counseling Center* in honor of Larry Reuben’s parents. The relocation allowed The Julian Center to expand our therapeutic work and triple the size of our art therapy program.

- The relocation of the Reuben Counseling Center created new space in our administrative building for our outreach services. The new Outreach space has increased the security and confidentiality for all of our clients.
- We opened a state-of-the-art Technology Center, with the support of the Interactive Intelligence Foundation, that enables survivors to learn marketable skills, use high tech tools, and search the internet for employment.
- Capital campaign donors also provided funds for a new overflow room with eight beds, a renovation of the Shelter, and an updated security system.
- 34 North, our affordable housing complex, continues to be fully occupied since its grand opening in July of 2010, which speaks to the great need it addresses in Indianapolis.
- Our thrift store and donation center, Thrifty Threads, has shown extraordinary growth bringing in over \$220,000 in net income to help offset shelter operating costs in 2011.
- Our outreach services have expanding with our IMPD Outreach Advocates serving more than 1,900 clients in 2011 and our on-site Outreach Advocates serving more than 1,800 clients.

As the new Executive Director of The Julian Center, I plan to build on the incredible legacy I have inherited. This will be accomplished with the help of a dedicated Board of Directors, outstanding staff and all our community partners, funders and donors whose contributions insure that our clients have every opportunity to return themselves and their children to safe, healthy and productive lives in our wonderful community.

- Melissa Pershing

Mission

The Julian Center is a nonprofit agency providing counseling, safe shelter, and education for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other life crises. Through outreach and consultation, we also seek to educate the community about the issue of domestic violence and its impact on all our lives.

Our programs and services are designed to contribute to a significant reduction in the incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault, to support survivors in healing, and to help break the intergenerational cycle of abuse.

Our History

The Julian Center was founded in 1975 by The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, with funding from the Lilly Endowment. The original mission of the agency was to serve as an information and referral service for women in central Indiana. With no existing organizations specifically designed for women in crisis, simple referrals proved inadequate. To help fill the gap, The Julian Center opened a Counseling Center staffed with therapists specializing in trauma therapy. A few years later, our first shelter for victims of domestic violence was opened. Both were sufficient for some years, but by the late 90's we were turning away more clients than we could serve. A capital campaign was launched and the current facility opened in 2001 making The Julian Center the largest residential facility in Indiana for domestic violence survivors. Most recent additions have been the grand opening of *34 North* - a 71 unit apartment complex - in July 2010 and the opening of the new *Sara I. and Albert G. Reuben Counseling Center* in March, 2011.

Over the past 37 years, the agency has transformed from a simple referral service into a nationally recognized agency providing a continuum of care that is unparalleled.

Organization

The Julian Center is organized across eight divisions offering a variety of programs providing comprehensive, holistic services to women and children seeking help. The eight divisions are:

- 1) Emergency Shelter
- 2) Transitional Housing
- 3) Counseling Center
- 4) Family Violence Outreach Advocacy
- 5) Legal Services
- 6) Thrift Store
- 7) Affordable Housing
- 8) Community Education

Leadership

Melissa Pershing
Executive Director

Melissa Pershing joined The Julian Center as the Executive Director in 2011.

A native Hoosier, Melissa has a track record of success as senior executive/CEO and consultant in multiple sectors including business, membership associations, and non-profits. Melissa brought to The Julian Center fifteen years executive-level experience in non-profit organizations and thirteen years experience in corporate/agency public and media relations and marketing communications.

Melissa earned her B.S. in Radio/TV from Butler University, and her J.D. in Law from Georgia State University College of Law.

After law school, Melissa served as the Director of Public Service Activities (including volunteer lawyer programs) for the North Carolina Bar Association and as the Executive Director for Legal Aid of North Carolina where more than two-thirds of the cases were domestic violence-related. As Director of Legal Services Alabama, among other accomplishments, she provided critical leadership in coordinating the disaster legal assistance response after Hurricane Katrina.

A member of the Lacy Leadership Association, Melissa was the recipient of the 2010 Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Harlene Bartlett Public Service Award.

**1 in every 4 women will experience
domestic violence in her lifetime**

Ending domestic violence requires a community response

Services Summary

Emergency Shelter

- Provides safe shelter 24/7 for women and children who need to escape abusive relationships
- Numerous services are offered including on-site medical services, access to job training, personalized case management, tutoring and mentoring programs, three meals a day, hygienic items, and linens
- In 2011, The Julian Center provided emergency housing to 1,161 domestic violence survivors

New Life Transitional Housing

- Offers a longer-term housing option to women and families as they work to become self-sufficient
- Clients have access to supportive services and can live in Transitional Housing for up to two years
- Clients focus on building and/or enhancing awareness, accountability, responsibility, and empowerment
- In 2011, The Julian Center New Life Transitional Housing Program assisted 56 domestic violence survivors

Counseling Center

- Clients benefit from individual, group, and family counseling as well as an art therapy program; younger clients also benefit from play therapy
- Therapy is provided to residents without charge; community members may qualify for a fee reduction based on a sliding-scale
- In 2011, The Julian Center counseled 757 women and children

Family Violence Outreach Advocacy

- Case management for victims who do not require emergency shelter; clients are offered services including help with obtaining protective orders, safety planning, referrals, assistance with housing and job searches
- Includes six advocates working in partnership with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department where they accompany police officers on calls relating to domestic violence
- In 2011, the Outreach Advocacy Program served 3,792 clients; a number continually increasing

Services Summary (cont'd)

Legal Services

- Provides free legal aid to domestic violence survivors
- Legal assistance includes help with most civil law matters including separation, divorce, child custody, paternity, child support, bankruptcy, guardianship, U Visa, VAWA, and immigration
- In 2011, The Julian Center provided legal advice and representation on 1,225 cases for domestic violence survivors

Thrifty Threads

- Clients receive vouchers they can use to purchase clothing, furniture, and household goods
- Allows domestic violence survivors to obtain much needed items with dignity and respect
- In 2011, women and children received \$49,911 worth of vouchers to help re-establish themselves

34 North

- 34 North contains 71 affordable housing units ranging from studio to 4-bedroom apartments which provides victims of domestic violence with long-term, safe housing
- Two apartment complexes have units ranging from studio to four-bedroom apartments
- 34 North opened its doors in July, 2010

Community Education

- The Julian Center educated over 8,500 community members about the impact of domestic violence through speaking engagements and education seminars in 2011
- A variety of groups were reached including 1,300 police officers, religious and cultural organizations, Indianapolis-based companies and students
- Julian Center representatives present on topics as diverse as the effects of domestic violence on children, human trafficking in the United States and in our local communities, and domestic violence issues in community apartment complexes

Fast Facts

Each year, The Julian Center:

- Raises \$3.9 million to provide a continuum of care to victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Provides safe shelter to 1,200 - 1,300 women and children; 52% are women and 48% are children.
- Reaches an additional 3,700 women and children through various outreach services.
- Provides 27,000 nights of safe shelter.
- Answers 6,000 crisis calls and provides 7,500 referrals.
- Serves between 500 - 600 children in our shelter; 52% male and 48% female.
- Provides therapy to over 800 survivors seeking help from the Counseling Center.
- Provides 6,600 clinical hours of individual, family, and group therapy.
- Feeds 1,050 families who have moved out of shelter and into permanent housing for a week from our Food Pantry; the equivalent of 20+ years for one family.
- Serves more than 75,000 hot meals and snacks.
- Offers legal services to more than 1,000 resident and non-resident clients.
- Educates 7,000 members of our community on the effects of domestic violence and its impact.

Other information of interest:

- 91% of our residents make \$15,000 or less per year placing them at or below the federal poverty threshold.
- Of the women who entered our Shelter, 47% were accompanied with their children.
- 18% of our Shelter population are multi-cultural (Hispanic, Ethiopian, Zimbabwean, Russian, Iranian, Indian, Pakistani, etc.)
- 56% of the children in residence are 5 years old or younger.
- 1/4th of those seeking relief through therapy from the Counseling Center are in their 20s.
- Six Outreach Advocates work in partnership with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, serving victims at the scene of the domestic violence incident.

**At least 3,000,000 children witness
domestic violence in their homes each year**

Help save our children by ending domestic violence

Did You Know?

- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- In the United States, a woman is beaten every 9 seconds.
- Domestic violence kills more than 3 women in the United States every day, often leaving children parentless in its aftermath.
- Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes in the United States.
- 50% of all homeless women and children in this country are fleeing domestic violence.
- 85% of disabled women are victims of domestic violence.
- 1 in 12 women are stalked at least once in their lifetime.
- 85% of domestic violence victims are women; 15% are men.
- Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.
- Girls who are abused as children are likely to become victims of abuse as adults.
- Children have a 1500% greater likelihood of being abused or neglected when domestic violence occurs in their home.
- Physical violence tends to intensify after an abuser becomes aware of his partner's pregnancy.
- Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women.
- 54% of murder victims reported stalking to the police before they were killed by their stalkers.
- Domestic violence victims often return to their abusers when a viable option for permanent housing cannot be found.
- At least 3,000,000 children witness domestic violence in their home each year.
- Older children are often hurt when trying to protect their mothers.
- In 60% of the domestic violence cases, children are involved.
- Being abused or neglected as a child increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 53%.
- More than 1/2 of female victims live in households with children under the age of 12.

The Julian Center

2011 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Ph: (317) 941-2200

Fx: (317) 941-2209

www.juliancenter.org
info@juliancenter.org