



# News from Russell House

*Spring 2011*

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## *From Sharon's Desk*

As a board member of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV), I lobby state legislators. I have lobbied both our state and national legislators. One of the most successful efforts we have had in Missouri this year was the House of Representatives on Thursday night, 5/5/11, unanimously passed Senate Bill 320, sending this far-reaching domestic violence bill to the Governor to be signed into law. On the same day, both the House and the Missouri Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2012 state budget with a total of more than \$2.36 million in funding increases for domestic violence services and sexual assault forensic examinations. In yet another year of fiscal constraints for the state, it was a tremendous victory to gain bi-partisan support for these MCADSV priority funding increases. It also is to our credit that lawmakers put aside so many differences to be united in efforts to pass legislation to address violence against women. (MCADSV, 2011). Further, to keep up to date on what is happening in the capitol we receive e-mail alerts before important issues related to domestic violence are brought to a vote. These e-mails are forwarded, with instructions concerning contacting state or national legislators. We express our views and explain the impact of the vote on the people we serve. Our law makers really do listen to their constituents! Why bring this up? I have spent many, many hours this spring meeting with legislators in the capitol and attending hearing concerning bills concerning domestic and sexual violence

*Sharon Meusch*  
*Executive Director*

## *Upcoming events*

June 7 Russell House Annual Meeting at Benton Square

July 25-29 Volunteer training

## Contributions:

If you would like to donate to Russell House your kindness would be very much appreciated. Whether you choose to contribute one time or each month your monies are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to The Russell House and mail them to PO Box 2259 Rolla MO 65402. Cash donations can be placed in a marked envelope and dropped off at Rolla Police Department.

## Social Networking

Russell House is now on Facebook! You can find us at [The Russell House PCFCS](#). By liking our page your Facebook wall will be automatically updated on the happenings at Russell House.

## We always need volunteers

We are currently in need of volunteers to assist in the following areas:

- Shelter Relief – assisting staff over the weekend
- Transportation – to doctor's visits, The Partnership, and job interviews. This service is mainly needed on Tuesday and Thursday (other days as needed)
- Shelter relief- to answer the business line and assist residents with daily needs

If you can help on a regular basis or once in a while we would greatly appreciate any assistance you can offer. Please call Stacy Blakley, Volunteer Coordinator or e-mail her at [russellhouse.vc@gmail.com](mailto:russellhouse.vc@gmail.com).

## Items needed:

The following are some items that Russell House is in need of:

- Deodorant
- Hair Brushes
- Wal-Mart gift cards
- Paper towels
- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Pots and pans
- Diapers (sizes 2 – 6)
- First Aid Supplies
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Socks (all sizes)
- Undergarments of all sizes

## Mission Statement

Russell House is a non-profit organization that provides services to victims of family violence and their children. We support the principle that all individuals have a right to a life free of abuse and sexual assault. We seek to break the cycle of violence through increasing public awareness of the problem of domestic violence, acting as advocates for victims, coordinating existing resources for the benefit of survivors and providing a safe environment for survivors.