

**Our Mission:**

*The Laurel Center empowers victims of domestic and sexual violence by providing emergency housing, advocacy, support services, and education.*

*We reach out to our community through education and awareness programs.*

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*The Laurel Center now has a consignment account with Finders Keepers Consignment Shoppe located at 2014 S. Loudoun Street. Our consignment number is 203 or donors can just mention The Laurel Center when dropping off items.*

*Finder's Keepers accepts clothing, accessories, household items and furniture! Items donated in our name will be placed for sale for 90 days. The Laurel Center will receive payments quarterly for items sold that were donated in our name.*

*For more information please call Summer or Suzi at Finder's Keepers at 540-313-9000.*

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The Laurel Center is hosting a continuous and open support group for survivors of sexual assault and incest on Thursdays from 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm. For more information or to register for the next class call Connie at 540-667-6160.

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Domestic violence and sexual assault are serious and deadly problems in our community and in our country. Every day women are beaten and killed by the men who claim to love them. Women are raped. Annually over 2,500 individuals contact our hotline for help with domestic violence or sexual assault, over 200 women and children stay in our shelter and over 800 individuals will be helped through the Court system following an assault.

October is domestic violence month. Domestic violence is everyone's business. It affects all of us -- every family, every workplace and every community. And each one of us has a role to play in ending domestic violence and sexual assault. Action can be as simple as teaching boys that violence against women is always wrong or putting a bumper sticker on your car to raise awareness about abuse. Women who used The Laurel Center services said. *"I would recommend The Center to other women in crisis because you learn to open up and express yourself, and find yourself."*, *"I would recommend The Center to other women in crisis because ...it's a good place to come."*, *"Thank you so much for what you've done for me, I am grateful."*, *"The shelter is safe and can help a scared women get back on her feet. The counseling services are also helpful to learn coping skills."* Ending violence in our community is possible but it requires a commitment from each and every one of us. Each of you can make a difference. Join with us this fall to learn more about domestic violence and to support our fundraising efforts.

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**A Window Between Worlds Exhibit**

The Laurel Center will be hosting an exhibit featuring artwork from local survivors of domestic violence. The Laurel Center staff has been providing *A Window Between Worlds* art workshops to women, children and teens in shelter and the community. The Windows programs implement art as a healing tool for survivors of domestic violence. The mission is to make images of hope; survival and strength become "a window between worlds" for survivors taking steps to change their lives. Please join us at the Daily Grind (on the Old Town Walking Mall) during the month of October to view the art exhibit and join our efforts to help end domestic violence

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**Support Service Volunteer Training**

The Laurel Center is currently recruiting new volunteers. A training will be held Monday through Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide administrative support, childcare, donation management, and assist with community events, fundraisers, and public awareness activities. To sign up or to receive more information call Jessica Carper at 540-667-6160.

THE  
*Laurel*  
CENTER

*Intervention for Domestic and Sexual Violence*

PO Box 14  
Winchester, Virginia 22604

Phone: 540-667-6160 (office)  
540-667-6466 (hotline)  
540-667-0138 (fax)

Email: [thelaurelcenter@comcast.net](mailto:thelaurelcenter@comcast.net)

Web: [www.thelaurelcenter.org](http://www.thelaurelcenter.org)

*Executive Director*

Donna Carpenter, MSW

*Board Members*

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Ann Barrett, Secretary

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Tim Mayfield

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Page Allen Groseclose

Matthew Karen, MD

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Toni O'Connor

John Lamanna

Pam Lamborne

The Capital Campaign is moving full steam ahead with a recent pledge of \$150,000 from Valley Proteins! *To find out how you can help make the new building a reality, call us at 667-6160!*

**Wish List**

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Twin size sheet sets
- Bath Towels
- Laundry Detergent and Bleach
- Store Gift Cards

*More information on the 2009 Christmas Assistance Program*

*to come in a future issue of*

*The Laurel Center's News and Events.*

## 17th Annual Candlelight Vigil

The Laurel Center is sponsoring its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Candlelight Vigil on the steps of the Joint Judicial center on Cameron Street, Winchester, Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 starting at 7:00pm.

The Vigil is held to remember victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, to honor and support survivors and to recognize those who work to end the violence. There will be musical entertainment featuring Sherando High School Choir and Brenda & Kristeen of "Push to Start", poetry readings, and an open mike for survivors to speak. Luminaries representing the number of women and children who stayed at the Shelter during the past year will be lit along the courthouse walls. A candle will be given to all who attend.

Following the vigil, please join us at the Daily Grind (on the old town walking mall) to view the "Window Between Worlds" art exhibit. The exhibit will feature artwork from local survivors of domestic violence.

## International Children's Festival

The Laurel Center will be participating in the area's first **International Children's Festival** on **October 10, 2009** from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The festival will be held at the new **Winchester Active Living and Recreation Center in Jim Barnett Park**. This festival is a great opportunity for children and families to learn about different cultures and countries from around the world! Come by The Laurel Center's booth and take the "Hands and Words Are Not For Hurting" pledge of non-violence! This event will be fun and worthwhile for children of all ages!



## The 7th Annual Empty Bowl Supper

*Sponsored by The Shenandoah Potter's Guild to benefit  
The Laurel Center*

Date: Friday, November 13, 2009

Time: 5:00-7:30 pm

Tickets are \$25.00 each. Tickets are limited — Purchase yours now!

Order your tickets before October 30th by mail. Send check to:

**The Laurel Center, PO Box 14, Winchester, Virginia 22604**

Please write "Empty Bowl" on your check. Your tickets will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment. Late purchases will be held at the door. Tickets can also be purchased at The Laurel Center's office by calling 540-667-6160.

**No, I cannot come to the Empty Bowl Supper, but  
I would like to make a donation:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Mail to above address.

*All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*