



United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley, P.O. Box 460, Winchester, VA 22604

**THE LAUREL CENTER INTERVENTION FOR DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
RECEIVES GRANT FROM UNITED WAY NSV FOR \$30,000**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cindy Marzullo, Development Director, The Laurel Center
540-667-6160, c.marzullo@thelaurelcenter.org

Winchester, Virginia (May 18, 2017) – The Laurel Center is pleased to announce it has received a \$30,000 grant from the United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley. These funds will support the emergency shelter program, including a 24-hour confidential hotline, education and supportive counseling, advocates, and support for women and families.

The Laurel Center is a dual program offering services to victims of both domestic and sexual violence in Winchester, Frederick and Clarke Counties. Our philosophy is empowerment through support and education. We provide the client with the knowledge, methods, and tools to make healthy choices, cope with the present situation and to prevent, when possible, violence in the future. Prevention is an important part of our efforts to address intimate partner and sexual violence before it happens.

The Laurel Center is the only agency providing services to domestic and sexual violence victims in this area. Each year, we provide services to over 2,500 people in our community. In FY16, The Laurel Center sheltered 102 women and children but had to turn away 54 because we were full. Of 1175 individuals who called the hotline, 2/3 identified as domestic violence victims.

The Laurel Center provides a comprehensive emergency shelter program that meets the basic needs of food, shelter, and safety for women and children and addresses the higher-level needs of increased life skills, supportive counseling, advocacy, health care and employment.

Specifically, funding from the United Way will support our efforts to:

1. Help women and families who are victims of domestic and/or sexual violence meet their basic needs.
2. Increase their ability to cope with their life situation through crisis intervention, life skills building and supportive counseling.
3. Prevent the effects of risky behaviors associated with domestic and sexual violence.

Extensive community collaboration is required to ensure our clients have all available resources. The Laurel Center works cooperatively with many organizations, groups and individuals to create a community response that supports and enhances the victim's desire to live a violence free life.

United Way NSV awards annual grants through a competitive application and Fund Distribution review process that is entirely completely by community volunteers. This year volunteers reviewed funding applications, undertook site visits and recommended grant funding to focus on priority human care needs as defined by United Way's Community Needs Assessment.

About United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley: Since 1946 the United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley has worked to impact the community human care needs that matter most to the people of Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah Counties and the City of Winchester. United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley convenes the people and organizations necessary to create solutions to our region's most pressing challenges and collaborates with effective partners. United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley seeks to serve as the catalyst for community change by supporting over 42 partner agencies in the areas of Financial Stability, Health and Education. For more information visit our website www.unitedwaynsv.org. Follow us on Twitter @UWNSV.

About The Laurel Center: The Laurel Center Intervention for Domestic and Sexual Violence 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. For more information, contact 540-667-6160 or visit www.thelaurelcenter.org.

The Laurel Center is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization which makes all gifts tax-deductible as allowed by law. Contributions can be mailed to: The Laurel Center, PO Box 14, Winchester, VA 22604.