



HOUSE OF RUTH
MARYLAND
Prevention • Intervention • Advocacy

HOUSE OF RUTH MARYLAND KICKS OFF “MAN UP!” CAMPAIGN

Grand Historic Venue to host inaugural event on November 3

Baltimore, MD (October 2, 2014) – In honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, House of Ruth Maryland, one of the nation’s leading intimate partner violence centers, today announced it will hold its inaugural “Man Up!” event on **Monday, November 3 at The Grand Historic Venue** in downtown Baltimore. The event will celebrate the launch of the organization’s initiative to engage men in the issue.

The Baltimore Ravens, which recently entered into a three-year partnership with the House of Ruth, is the event’s sponsor.

“We are so grateful to The Grand Historic Venue and the Baltimore Ravens for sponsoring this event, which officially launches our strategy to involve men in making a change in our community,” said House of Ruth Maryland’s Executive Director Sandi Timmins. “Thanks to their generous support we will be able to raise valuable funds for this initiative, which encourages men to get involved in changing behaviors and the attitudes that perpetuate abuse, and to foster healthy partner relationships.”

1 in 4 women will experience intimate partner violence at some point in her lifetime. Our objective is to shift the conversation and focus on the source of the problem. The Baltimore Ravens will help lead this effort throughout Maryland and encourage all citizens, businesses and organizations to join in the initiative. Over the next three years, the team will also donate \$600,000 to the House of Ruth Maryland towards this effort and will participate in a variety of educational programs including workshops focusing on intimate partner violence in the workplace, and abuse intervention programs which aim to increase the safety of victims of intimate partner violence by holding batterers accountable and teaching non-violent relationship skills.

Guests will enjoy an evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and conversation with special guests **Dick Cass, President of the Baltimore Ravens** and other special guests. The event will feature an open bar, jazz band, and a silent auction. WMAR will serve as the media partner for the event, which will be emceed by **WMAR Anchor Jamie Costello**.

The “Man Up!” event will take place from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2014. Tickets are currently available for \$350 per person. Please visit www.hruth.org for more information.

About House of Ruth Maryland

The House of Ruth Maryland was founded in May of 1977 by a coalition of women’s organizations, religious groups, service providers and elected officials to provide a safe haven for victims of domestic

violence and their children. In November of 1977 The House of Ruth Maryland opened Baltimore's first crisis shelter for these victims in a row house on North Calvert Street. The shelter was staffed by one paid staff person and a voluntary Board of Directors.

In November 1998 a new 84-bed shelter and 6 transitional housing apartments, featuring expanded services and programs, opened. This shelter has a holistic health and wellness program, including an on-site health clinic staffed by the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Today the House of Ruth Maryland is recognized as one of the nation's most comprehensive intimate partner violence centers and has a staff of more than one hundred twenty. Its voluntary leadership consists of a thirty member Board of Directors.

The House of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end violence against women and their children by confronting the attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear. For more information, please visit www.hruth.org. Follow House of Ruth Maryland on [Facebook](#) and Twitter @HouseofRuthMD

About Grand Historic Venue:

Located in Baltimore, Md., the Grand Historic Venue began as the Grand Lodge of Maryland Masonic Temple in 1886, and was refurbished in the early 2000s. The five story venue reflects an era when careful design and skilled craftsmanship were held in high esteem. Grand Historic Venue hosts weddings, meetings and events in 19 different banquet halls, and offers on site catering. For more information, call 443-573-8444 or visit <http://www.grandhistoricvenue.com/>.

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