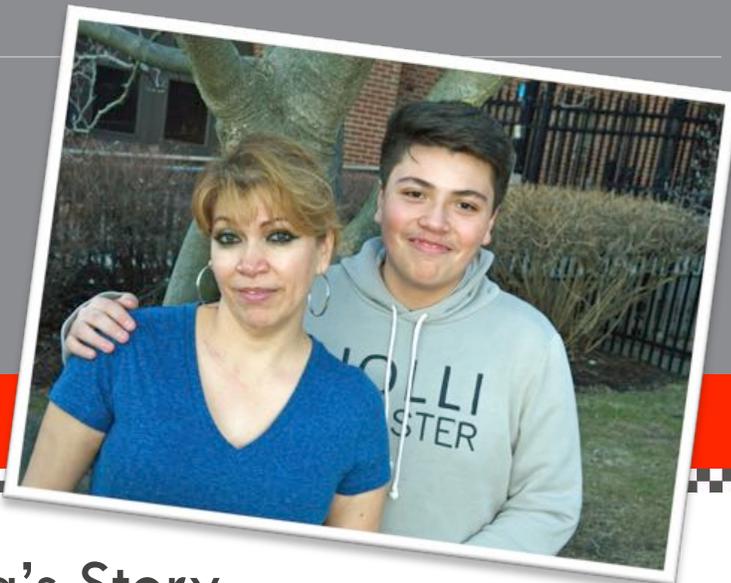


Heal. Empower. Sustain.

Heal, through shared experiences.
Empower, by nurturing
accountability and development.
Sustain, through a lasting
community.

Spring, 2017



Recent Activities

- JUL 13 BEACH DAY
CROYA holds Beach Day
for our kids and moms
- OCT 21 LAKE FOREST OPEN
Paddle tournament &
fundraiser through Chicago
Platform Tennis Association
- OCT 29 CHICAGO ARCHDIOCESE
Mass to end domestic violence
at Holy Name Cathedral
- NOV 5 ROCK FOR PEACE
BoDeans play at a rock
concert at the Gorton
Community Center
- NOV 12 PLAY TENNIS FOR PEACE
Annual event at College
Athletic Park
- NOV 22 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Mass and celebration of our
milestone

Gloria's Story

Gloria struggled with domestic violence throughout her marriage. She was raised to believe that it was her responsibility to make the marriage work. She tried for many years to sustain her spirit while raising her boys. The emotional abuse and the alcoholism of her husband escalated, and the controlling and hurtful patterns pushed her to isolation, depression, and a kind of lethargic existence. "The hardest thing was seeing my boys affected by this life." Gloria also struggled with the fact that she didn't have family nearby for support. She remained submissive as a way of surviving in such a toxic environment. Gloria relied on her faith as a way to help her survive. That is why she looked for help at her church and began talking with a professional counselor.

One day three years ago, her youngest son noticed her crying after another verbal attack from his dad. When his dad left, he quietly came, holding a suitcase, and told Gloria: "Mom, today is the day we will leave." Gloria called the House of Peace that day and moved in with her children.

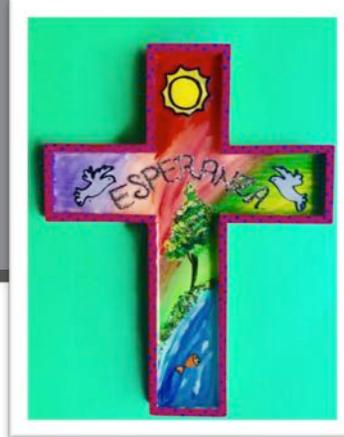
"The House of Peace gave me the family-like support that I needed to find the strength to sustain changes. It helped me to dream again about what I wanted for our lives. I had to push myself to accomplish my goals and work for what I wanted. I started working and financially supporting my children. I started to learn English again." Gloria became a U.S. citizen last year. She says, "The love and support that we experienced at the House of Peace has helped me to value myself, my life, and my community in a whole new way." Today Gloria volunteers at the shelter, giving back to the community, and serving as a role model for other mothers beginning their transformation.



Come join us and strengthen our community!
Contact a staff or board member or connect through our website
www.houseofpeaceshelter.org to explore ways to help.



'Transformation'



'Hope'



'Finding Spiritual Strength'

Our resilient women reveal their “resurrection stories” through artistic expression

Art therapy uses a creative process to promote healing and self-expression. It is used in a variety of clinical and community settings for people suffering trauma from abuse, loss, or illness. This creative self-reflection coupled with the opportunity for positive social interactions helps foster personal growth and fuels self-esteem.

Carmen is the artist that

facilitates this process. “On the first day, they always say, ‘I can’t do that. I can’t paint.’ But then they surprise themselves and say, ‘Oh I did it!’ when they see their art.” Says Carmen, “I love seeing the mothers’ faces.”

Recently the women created beautiful crosses describing their “resurrection” stories. Each cross tells an individual woman’s story of overcoming

suffering from abuse with the help of God’s healing grace that renews us from within. While traditionally symbolizing suffering, these crosses are unique in that they are an expression of new life born out of suffering. The crosses were displayed at Holy Name Cathedral on October 29 at Chicago Archdiocese Mass to end domestic violence.



‘A New Beginning’

“A butterfly that flies with freedom and beauty represents my cross. I choose colorful contrasts to spread the joy that I feel now. I give thanks to God for finding the House of Peace in my path when I most needed it.

From the time that my call was taken I knew that there was hope in my life and in the lives of my children. When we moved into the House of Peace we were offered time, patience and support by so many wonderful people. The house

was a place where I learned many new things that helped me to develop personally.

I live with profound gratitude for the new beginning for my family and me. I see my resurrection as the beginning of a new life and the power of making things new.

I have also experienced resurrection as the peace and tranquility for me and my children that I love with all my heart and soul.” A.R.



Our Unique Model Works!

1000

Individuals are served each year through our wellness program, which includes the Phoenix program and counseling services.

65

Families have lived at House of Peace, including 135 children since opening in 2011.



85%

Percentage of women on average nationally* who leave an abusive relationship and return to their abuser.

0%

Percentage of women who have returned to an abusive relationship after their transformation at House of Peace.

* National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

CROYA in our Community

On January 22, CROYA held a fundraiser called "Helping Peace by Piece" with a silent and live auction. The House of Peace was grateful to receive \$11,000 from the event. This biannual event was organized by the young adults from CROYA.



CROYA, Committee Representing Our Young Adults, is open to students in grades 7 through 12 living in Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood. CROYA has been partnering with House of Peace over the years to provide community service opportunities to their young adults. In prior years, the students helped organize a game day for the children, helped sort the donation room, and collected toiletries for our families.

"Our relationship with CROYA has really blossomed this past year" said Mary Meister, House of Peace board member. "I expressed a need for summer activities for our kids, and from that comment came five activities organized by the students from CROYA last summer."

The outings included an afternoon at the beach and joining CROYA at the Lake Bluff 4th of July parade. Many of the HOP children have never had the opportunity to try various water activities like kayaking. Mary added, "The CROYA and HOP kids worked together as peers while building the float for the parade. Throughout the summer, the kids made a genuine connection to each other, and we see a mutual respect in the relationship."

"I am most impressed by the leadership, commitment, and creativity of the CROYA students," said Mary fondly. "We also acknowledge the incredible staff at CROYA who guides these young future leaders. We are thankful for the difference they have made in the lives of our children."

The CROYA students also feel the impact of the relationship. Adele O'Neil, a high school senior from CROYA said, "I love working with the House of Peace because every opportunity is a two way street of reward. Not only do the kids bring joy to me, but it feels great to give them fun and positive experiences."

At the House of Peace, we stress the importance of community in sustaining the positive changes with our families. We are delighted to include CROYA in our community.





Give A Night of Security and Hope

- \$500 Give A Night for the whole shelter; it provides shelter and support services for one day (for six families)
- \$300 Give independence and a new beginning to a family transitioning out of the shelter; it provides refurbished beds, basic furniture and household items for a family's transition
- \$85 Give a Night for one family; it provides shelter and services for one day
- \$30 Give hope of a new beginning; it provides emergency move in items, like underwear, and pajamas

Name _____

Email _____

Enclose check payable to MBT-House of Peace (Mail to MBT-House of Peace, 450 Keller Ave. Waukegan IL 60085) Donate on-line at www.houseofpeaceshelter.org Gifts are 100% tax deductible

DCW 4.7.17e



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