

# Randi's Message

Providing Therapeutic Programs to Help  
Children Who Experience Domestic Violence

2016 | EDITION 1

[www.randishouseofangels.org](http://www.randishouseofangels.org)



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## 1 in 15 CHILDREN

are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.

(National Coalition Against Domestic Violence <http://www.ncadv.org/learn-more/statistics>)

## Letter from the Chair

"One child at a time." I know that this sounds like something you've heard before, but sometimes the smallest step you take can make the biggest difference in a person's life.

Since I made a commitment to help children that are victims of domestic violence, I have seen how Randi's House of Angels (RHOA) has helped so many young people. Each day I learn about another victim of domestic violence that lost her life and left behind children that are being raised by grandparents, aunts and close friends. Then I am reminded of how 3-4 million children between the ages of 3-17 are at risk of exposure to domestic violence each year, and I wonder if that child may have also been a victim of domestic violence.

Perhaps one way we can reach "one child at a time" is to first overcome the stigma that children are not also victims of domestic violence. Another may be to form strong partnerships with a number of domestic violence and crime victim agencies, and community agencies that serve children. Over the last two years, RHOA has dialogued with agencies and attended outreach events to reach parents/guardians and service providers that see the value of our therapeutic services for children. The events have served us well in recruiting children for Randi's Kidz Club and Randi's Camp for Hope and Courage. As we move into a new year, our goal is to actively identify and meet with providers that extend their hand to help save and build the lives of children.

I am pleased that Randi's House of Angels has served over 63 children. At first I was anxious and frustrated about not reaching more children. Now with lessons well learned, I understand that it is not about numbers of children served but how we touch one child at a time through our therapeutic services and how we educate mothers, fathers, grandmothers and guardians about the impact of domestic violence on children.



## Randi's Race 2016 Highlights: A 5K Run/Walk for Hope and Courage

The twelfth annual Randi's Race: A 5K Run/Walk for Hope and Courage was held on Saturday, May 7, 2016. This community event was held in memory of Nancy Chavez's beloved daughter, Randi Lee Trimble, who was murdered in East Pennsboro Township on January 10, 2003, by a hit man hired by her husband.

This annual event has grown over the last twelve years, now hosting more than 400 runners and walkers, over 100 volunteers, and several major sponsors from corporate and business community organizations.

Over the last twelve years, Randi's Race has raised

more than \$354,000 supporting Randi's House of Angels services and programs. In addition donations are awarded to comprehensive agencies throughout the Central Pennsylvania region and domestic violence programs including: YWCA of Greater Harrisburg Victim Services; ACCESS York & the Victim Assistance Center-programs of YWCA York; Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County; Dauphin County Victim/Witness Assistance Program; and Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties.

Mark your calendars for May 13, 2017 for another successful Randi's Race.

## Inaugural Golf Tournament a Success

Randi's House of Angels hosted A Round Fore Randi, their inaugural golf event, benefiting children affected by domestic violence.

A Round Fore Randi attracted 53 golfers who teed up to support the inaugural event. With the support of the business community, the golf outing raised over \$5,800. Funds raised support Randi's House of Angels therapeutic programs for children who are victims of and /or exposed to domestic violence.

Special thanks to the our major sponsor H&N Landscaping, LLC, our nine hole-sponsors and over twenty-five donations received from individuals and local businesses, as well as our volunteers.





# Randi's Camp

## for Hope and Courage

The minute you meet Cora Ann Vance you know she is special. Perhaps it's her energetic walk or how she talks with calmness or the way she styles her hair with streaks of rainbow color.

I first met Cora in 2012 when she was an eight-year-old at Randi's Camp for Hope and Courage. Like many of the children who attend Randi's Camp, Cora was experiencing the aftermath of domestic violence in her life. Like many of the children who attend the camp, including Cora, she had shown the typical signs of domestic violence that impact their lives each day in their homes. She was quiet and would shy from speaking to adults and/or engaging in activities. Each year thereafter Cora returned, bringing her younger brother Malcom, trailing behind her. Cora would often talk about Randi's camp telling others how "it empowers children to believe that they are valuable contributors to the whole family unit and that their thoughts are worthy of expression."

Campers who have returned to the camp show signs of maturing and healing from the trauma that they experience. Over the years, Cora's confidence and self-esteem grew as she engaged in team activities and began to demonstrate leadership among the other campers. We learned about her love for art, drawing and singing, and how in her spare time she participates in school plays and takes voice lessons. We learned that she aspires to perform open mike and write music one day.

As our poster child, Cora encouraged other campers to



*Nancy Chavez and Cora Vance  
at Randi's Race 2016*

overcome their obstacles by expressing what they love and how they feel. Her willingness to recite poetry, draw a beautiful picture, or sing a song paved the way for others to see that she was a leader.

In 2016 Cora served as our very first junior volunteer and counselor at Randi's Camp. She mentored new campers and helped them develop a comfort level when discussing difficult episodes in their lives. Cora also was our guest speaker at Randi's Race: A 5K Run/Walk for Hope and Courage. She shared her experience at Randi's Camp by telling everyone how important it is to provide a positive place for children to go to "help kids who were victims of domestic violence, is a great place to create confidence, friendship, teamwork, and leaderships."

We are so proud of how Cora has matured and has become a role model to many other children who are victims of domestic violence.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**1.19.2017** Randi's Kidz Club

**5.13.2017** Randi's Race: A 5K Run/Walk for Hope and Courage

**7.2017** Randi's Camp for Hope and Courage

**9.8.2017** A Round Fore Randi Annual Golf Outing

## Randi's Kidz Club

Randi's House of Angels works in collaboration with agencies in the five surrounding counties implementing Randi's Kidz Club, an outcome-based therapeutic group for children who have experienced domestic violence.

The ten-week interactive group curriculum is designed for children age 8-13 years with the mission of helping children process the feelings associated with exposure to domestic violence. It is an ongoing interactive group focused on helping children express feelings and emotions through games, art therapy, and relaxation techniques helping children build self-esteem, identifying and communicating feelings.

Since the 2015 initial implementation of  
**Randi's Kidz Club,**  
**22 CHILDREN**  
have attended the therapy sessions

Since 2010,  
**43 CHILDREN**  
have attended **Randi's**  
**Camp for Hope**  
**and Courage**

## Randi's House of Angels: Board of Directors

**Nancy Chavez:** Chair, Retired; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Sherry D'Agostino-Wickenheiser:** Secretary; PA Society of Public Accountants

**Gregory Green:** Treasurer, Retired; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Julie Barley:** Commonwealth of Pennsylvania/Department of Health and Human Services

**Todd Bashore:** East Pennsboro Police Department

**Deborah Donahue:** Vice Chair, Retired; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Edward Katz:** Retired; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Penbrook Police Department

**George Labecki:** Retired Teacher; Cedar Cliff High School

**Amy Norris:** The Bryn Mawr Trust Company

**Shannon Wood:** Geisinger Health System



Randi's  
House  
of Angels™

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## Board of Directors: Spotlight on Shannon Wood

**Board Member since January 2011 | Currently employed with Geisinger Health System as the Director of the Office of Sponsored Projects**

### Why did you decide to get involved?

I became involved with Randi's House of Angels through Lynn Shiner. Lynn's daughter Jennifer was my best friend growing up. We were inseparable from age 2 until her death at age 10. Jennifer and David Snead were murdered by their father on Christmas morning. Losing a childhood friend is difficult for any child to process and go through but a traumatic event like this was even worse. I struggled voicing my feelings and understanding what happened. As I grew older, I made it a lifelong goal to be a champion for those indirectly affected by domestic violence like I had been.

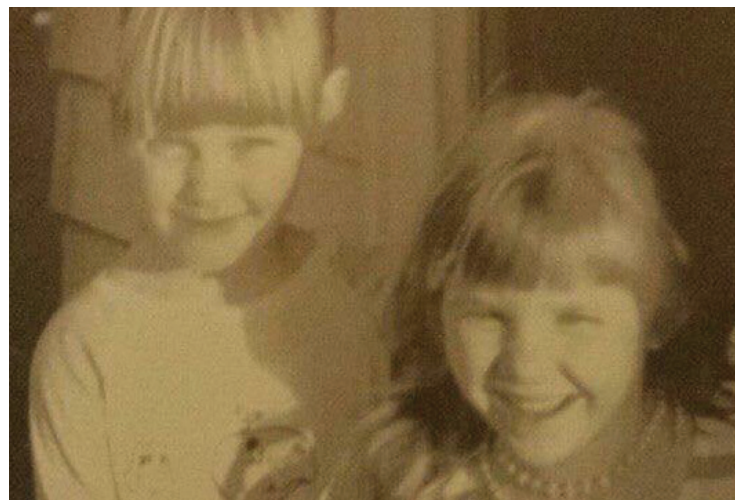
### What excites you about the board and its current initiatives?

The evolution of Randi's House of Angels over the 6 years that I have been a member of the board has been amazing. The children we have been able to help through our Kidz Club makes the effort we've all put in worth it. We've also been fortunate enough to offer our first round of grants which have gone to fund specific projects and needs of our community partners.

I have been able to work alongside some amazing partners in our community from all walks of life. Some

have been directly impacted by domestic violence and some have found our mission to be a passionate cause. I'm so thankful I had the opportunity to connect with these great minds and learn from them.

I look forward to the continued progress and growth that I expect RHOA to have in the future years. We are a passionate group of individuals who want to positively impact the lives of the children we help serve.



**Shannon with her childhood best friend, Jennifer Snead**