

Randi's Message

Providing Therapeutic Programs to Help
Children Who Experience Domestic Violence

2021 | EDITION I

www.randishouseofangels.org



in this edition

- ♥ Randi's Virtual Race
- ♥ 5th Annual Round Fore Randi Golf Outing
- ♥ Vendor Spotlight:
Members 1st Federal Credit Union
- ♥ Nanny's Blessing
- ♥ Counselor's Corner
- ♥ Board of Directors Spotlight

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 8, 2021 17th Annual Randi's
Virtual Race for
Hope and Courage

Sept. 10, 2021 6th Annual A Round
Fore Randi



**MAKE A
DONATION AT**

<https://randishouseofangels.org/donate/>

Letter From The Chair

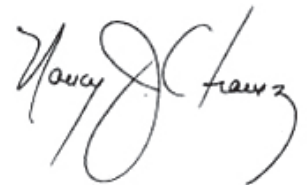
Reports that I have read over the past several months tell us about the growing concern for domestic violence victims during this Covid-19 pandemic. Stories that share how abusers are using this pandemic as a tool. When I read the words of many victims sharing how they are "lonely, feel isolated, and see that things are getting worse," it brings back memories living with my abuser and feeling captive.

Without a doubt, children are experiencing domestic violence in their homes at a heightened level. They are experiencing more tension at home and feeling stuck with no escape plan because now the abuser is always present. Unfortunately, children are not seeing things getting any better and see their isolation in their home getting worse.

The limitation to children, provision of services and access to therapists have made a significant impact on the health of Randi's House of Angels. (RHOA). Although we have been able to hold our fundraisers this year, the amount of funds has declined which has impacted our financial health

RHOA is strategically aligning with our partners and learning from this experience to see how we can better serve our clients. We have been engaged in discussions about how we can be creative in implementing therapy to children without impacting the integrity of the programs. Offering our programs via social media does not work for us as we value a "safe place" for our children to engage in dialogue that is confidential only in the group setting. We are currently exploring a teen group via zoom.

I am sure we all agree that a perfect storm is happening in many homes across the nation and leaving our children at greater risk. RHOA recognizes that our programs will be more in demand as the pandemic continues. With help from the community, we will work harder than ever to meet this increasing demand.



16th Annual Randi's Race for Hope and Courage

Spring 2020 brought a wave of uncertainty as we were just two months from this year's Randi's Race. Instead of canceling our 16th annual 5K Run/Walk for Hope and Courage, we put our all into transforming our largest annual fundraiser into our first "Virtual 5K". During the week of May 2 – 9, 2020, we encouraged runners and walkers to join us virtually to show support for and raise funds for our programs. This year, we were pleased this year's Randi's Race raised more than \$26,102, garnering 158 runners and walkers.

Notably, 19 teams organized fundraising efforts and collectively raised more than \$7,000! Since 2005, Randi's Race has raised, in total, nearly \$500,000. In 2021, we intend to hold both in-person and virtual Randi's Race events! Save the date for Saturday, May 8, 2021! More details to be announced in early 2021.



5th Annual A Round Fore Randi Golf Outing

The 5th Annual "A Round Fore Randi" Golf Outing teed off on September 11th at the Rich Valley Golf course in Mechanicsburg PA. Despite the challenges that we all faced in 2020, the support from our sponsors, communities and friends brought the outing record numbers. We've grown substantially from our humble beginnings with 36 golfers and 11 sponsors, to now having 108 golfers, 9 lead sponsors and 29 hole sponsors. Congruently, the 2020 outing raised \$16,970, which is more than \$11,000 over our first year's results. We are so grateful to everyone that came out to support this effort, with a special thank you to our

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT: Members 1st Federal Credit Union

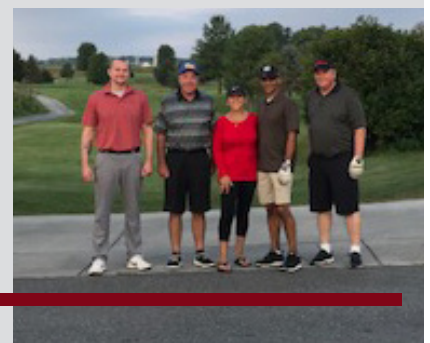


For 70 years, Members 1st Federal Credit Union has been serving its members, associates and communities through support, empowerment and meaningful relationships. The credit union is committed to serving and supporting the local community by volunteering time to support charitable

causes in the Central PA region. At Members 1st, associates volunteer thousands of hours each year to community partners. One of these many organizations that the credit union has been able to support throughout the years is Randi's House of Angels.

Since 2008, Members 1st has been privileged to support the annual event Randi's Race: Annual 5K Run/Walk for Hope and Courage. Associates at the credit union's Enola branch have been onsite at the event that is held at Adams Ricci Park, and they have had the opportunity to educate those in attendance about the many benefits of credit union membership and the mission of Members 1st. With various giveaways on hand to support the day, the team at the Enola branch very much enjoys this opportunity to give back to the community and to show support for an event that is so impactful. Organized to serve, the credit union has stayed true to its mission and is proud to be part of the advancement of the Central PA community. Community service has always been a fundamental part of Members 1st's core values, and the credit union feels fortunate to have the opportunity to support events like Randi's Race: Annual 5K Run/Walk for Hope and Courage through volunteerism and charitable donations. Community outreach will continue to be of paramount importance to Members 1st and the credit union looks forward to supporting Randi's House of Angels in the future!

lead sponsors, Presenting Sponsors RED Salon and The MacLean Family, Gold Sponsors PSECU, Tim Curtis Handyman Services, Mid Penn Bank, H L Stoneberger Plumbing & Heating, ReNu Solar & Roofing and our Beer Sponsors Wickenheiser Family and Highmark. Proceeds support programs and services offered on behalf of RHOA such as Randi's Kidz Club, a ten-week therapeutic group for children, Randi's Camp, a three-day interactive summer camp and Randi's Klubhouse, a 4-week interactive therapeutic group for children ages 5-7 years.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Jennifer Boyle, MSW, has been involved with Randi's House of Angels (RHOA) for close to seven years serving in multiple capacities. Along with Shelly Farmery, MSW, she developed and facilitated the first and current model for Randi's Camp for Hope and Courage. This model utilizes a psychoeducational model allowing the campers to learn and practice skills to better cope with the effects of observing or experiencing Domestic Violence. Additionally, Jennifer has facilitated multiple sessions of Randi's Kidz Club and serves on the Program Development Committee for RHOA.

Jennifer has seen firsthand on many occasions how the programs of RHOA enrich the lives of the participants. The children participating in both camp and Kidz Club learn from the programs as well as from each other. Many that enter the programs are normally quiet and withdrawn, feeling a stigma about what has happened in their lives through no fault of their own. Jennifer has witnessed the progression as each child moved through the programs. "It was inspiring to see them open up, fill with hope, and make lasting connections with the other children who have had similar experiences.

"The programs offered by RHOA offer a new perspective to the children involved" per Jennifer. Jennifer believes that the children are no longer alone in their experiences but now have new friends and supportive adults who can walk with them on their path toward healing.

Nanny's Blessing

As a young child Kleo sustained much trauma, emotional and physical abuse from her father. Both parents suffered from SUD (substance use disorder). Kleo's mother was in and out of her life for the better part of 10 years.

I took the liberty to fight my daughter in court to get custody of Kleo at 3 years old and provide her with the stable and consistent life. When she was reintegrated with her father, following a long separation, Kleo would act out and suffer severe anxiety. This sad moment told us that she had suffered from physical and psychological abuse from her father.

My blessing came when I enrolled her in a weekly counseling session when she was in 3rd grade. That was when I was introduced to Nancy Chavez and learned of her mission to help children that suffer from abuse.

Kleo immediately wanted to be part of the group where she could spend time with other children like herself that suffered abuse and trauma. She found a safe place participating in Randi's Kidz

Club to discuss her feelings. Following a move to Upper Dauphin, Kleo was very excited when Randi's Kids Club was being hosted near her home. She was excited to take part in the sessions and saw herself as a mentor to the younger children in the group. She wanted to assure the children that they are not alone and had a safe place to share their feelings without being judged.

Kleo has participated in Randi's Camp for Hope and Courage each year. Kleo has formed a strong bond with other children, the counselors, and of course Miss Nancy. Without a doubt RHOA programs have improved her self-esteem. Although Kleo is aging out of camp program, she hopes to become a counselor one day to give back to the children that continue to suffer similar trauma she once did.

I am thankful to Nancy and her wonderful crew and all the hard work and dedication they put into changing the lives of children. I am very grateful we were introduced into this wonderful program!

Special Thanks

FOR THE DONATIONS TO RHOA

We would like to express a special thank you to the multiple individuals, colleges, businesses and community organizations that made donations to RHOA over the last few months. The donations have supported our programs, and we are very grateful.

- Mind Akers
- Steve Barley
- Earl and Nancy Besch
- Lynn Bertram
- Stephanie Bradshaw
- Giant Food Stores – Bags 4 My Cause
- Chris Patterson
- Paul and Lynn Shiner
- Kandy Taylor
- Deborah Wilbert
- Charles Wright

Randi's House of Angels: Board of Directors

Nancy Chavez: Chairman and Founder, Retired; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Julie Barley: Retired, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Partner, FHW Textiles

Deb Donahue: Vice Chair, Retired; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Adjunct Professor Central Penn College

Sherry D'Agostino: Secretary, PA Society of Public Accountants

Landon J. Roe: Board Treasurer, Senior Accountant, DHC USA, Inc

Mark Green: Chief of Police, East Pennsboro Township

Edward Katz: Retired; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Victims Services, Retired; Chief of Police, Penbrook Police Department

George Labecki: Retired Teacher; Cedar Cliff High School

Dr. Melissa Ricketts: Professor, Shippensburg University

Karen Rousche: Public Relations Coordinator, PSECU

Donna VandeMortel: Retired; Director of Cumberland County Victim Services

Jodi Pezzuti Sentz: Physical Therapist Assistant

Sheila Kostiuk: Director Grocery Merchandising, Giant/Martins Food Stores



Are you on our mailing list?

Not sure? Quickly sign up and we'll keep you posted on major announcements and events:

<http://bit.ly/2CV51pj>

.....

Scan our Linktree code to contact or connect with us:



Board of Directors: Spotlight on George Labecki

Retired Teacher; Cedar Cliff High School

When horrific things happen in your neighborhood, you hold your loved ones close. When horrific things happen to people you know, you want to hold the world close.

So it was in January 2003 when my wife and I read of the murder of Randi Trimble and realized that she was the daughter of Nancy Chavez. Lee Ann had known Nancy through her work in the Commonwealth. I grew to know Nancy by that association. But it was the shock of that murder that led me to want to do my best to hold tightly to at least that portion of my world.

I had always been a champion of young people. I spent my entire 34-year working career walking in and out of the same doors at Cedar Cliff High School where I taught English, coached football and track, and sponsored various clubs. I was around many young

people during those times. Some were incredibly gifted; some were academically challenged. Each had a unique story, and some of those were not pleasant, regardless of academic talent or family income. As a teacher, you try and help where you can.

When I was approached with the retirement opportunity of serving on the board of Randi's House of Angels, I was equally humbled and excited. I was being given the opportunity to join a group of talented individuals who were making a positive impact in the lives of young people.

With Randi's I've served as chair of the Marketing Committee. Our committee provides opportunities to communicate our story, reach out to families, and connect with community and business organizations who would like to help us on our mission.

Randi's House of Angels makes a difference, and it has helped me to hold the world just a bit closer.