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**LAUREL ADVOCACY AND REFERRAL SERVICES, INC.**  
**Serving the community since 1987**

**You are cordially invited to the  
LARS Annual Meeting  
and Open House**

When: Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
Where: at LARS, 311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, Maryland  
LARS will share proposed plans  
for the renovation and expansion of  
our building at 311 Laurel Avenue.  
The Annual Report will be distributed.

Dessert will be served.

**Fourth Annual Casey's Crab Co.  
Thanksgiving Morning 5K Run/1-Mile  
Fun Walk to Benefit LARS**

Please join **First United Methodist Church of Laurel** on November 27<sup>th</sup> as they host the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Casey's Crab Co. Thanksgiving Morning 5K Run/1-Mile Fun Walk** to benefit Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc. The course begins and ends at the parking lot of First Methodist Church at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets in Laurel. "Non-traditional" prizes will be awarded to the first and second-place male and female in each 5K division. The run begins promptly at 8AM, with the walkers leaving at 8:05 AM.

The divisions are: 13 and under, 14-18, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and over 70. The first-place team will also receive a prize.

Visit the LARS website at <http://www.laureladvocacy.org/> to register on line or to print a registration form. Registration fees are \$20.00 before November 12<sup>th</sup> and \$25.00 after.

Last year 330 people registered for the **Turkey Trot**. Our goal is to exceed 430 this year. Come out and join the fun!

Lucille Young  
Oaklands  
Presbyterian Church

#### STAFF

Don Phillips, LSWA  
Director of  
Emergency and  
Homeless Services

Ruth Blake  
Case Manager  
Emergency Services

Abdis Diaz  
Spanish-speaking  
Outreach Worker

Steve Millard  
Office Manager

Lori Timlin, LSWA  
Case Manager  
Transitional  
Housing and  
Employment Services

To be added or  
removed from our  
mailing list,  
please contact  
[smillard@laureladvocacy.org](mailto:smillard@laureladvocacy.org)

Laurel Advocacy &  
Referral Services  
provides a  
continuum of  
services to help  
those in crisis  
move from emergency  
assistance to self-  
sufficiency.

During September  
2008, LARS assisted  
17 families and  
individuals with  
stipends to deter  
their eviction.  
Fourteen of those  
served were first  
time clients at  
LARS.

## Turkey Trot Sponsors Needed

It's not too late to become a **Turkey Trot sponsor**. Sponsors offset the administrative fees associated with the race, allowing the registrations, and often a large part of the sponsorship money, to go directly to LARS. Last year, more than \$13,000 was raised for LARS by this event.

Sponsorship levels range from \$300.00 to \$2,500.00, and are open to all, including: individuals, families, congregations, businesses and civic organizations. Sponsorship will provide you with the opportunity to send a message or place promotional information in the race-day bags, and to have your name or logo displayed on the race-day t-shirts that will be distributed to at least the first 350 registered participants. Please contact Nancy Graham at [ngraham@laureladvocacy.org](mailto:ngraham@laureladvocacy.org) for more information on becoming a sponsor.

The **Thanksgiving pies** that were presented to last year's Turkey Trot winners were a big hit, so we plan to award pies again this year. We will continue our "tradition" of including a personal note or ad from the individuals or organizations that donate pies. Notes can be about anything, from "Congratulations," a note of thanksgiving, or a business card or message from a congregation. We are requesting donations of \$10.00 to \$13.00 per pie. Send checks and messages (on 3 x 5 cards, please) to LARS, c/o Turkey Trot Pie Donations, 311 Laurel Ave., Laurel, MD 20707.

## Good-bye to a Fine Board President

This summer, the LARS Board of Directors, reluctantly accepted the resignation of Arlene Batchelder as President of the Board of Directors and as a board member. Arlene served as Vice-President prior to her election to her first term as President in July 2007. Arlene headed the Volunteer Committee and developed the Volunteer Handbook. An outstanding volunteer herself, she often took on such tasks as delivering donated bread to LARS each week. She was also active on the Maintenance Committee and in the development of the Board Book. Arlene's concern for others is reflected in her (and her husband's) fostering of dozens of babies awaiting adoption and their volunteer work with the Seventh Day Adventist church this August in Madagascar. Arlene will be greatly missed.

## Bienvenidas, Abdis! Welcome!

Abdis Diaz joined LARS in August 2008 as a full-time Bi-lingual Outreach Worker. Her newly-created position is funded by a two-year grant from the **Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation**. We are proud of our partnership with this foundation and the opportunity it gives to LARS to serve individuals and families in our community who speak Spanish as their first language.

## Holiday Program

LARS is currently accepting applications for the 2008 holiday program. Families in need of holiday assistance and who have a Laurel zip code (20707, 20708, 20723, 20724) should contact LARS at 301-317-0442, ext. 30 for an appointment before December 1<sup>st</sup>. Holiday Program appointments are available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 AM until noon, and Monday evenings between 5 and 7 PM. Due to the large number of participants in this program, walk-ins cannot be accepted.

The Holiday Program also needs donors and volunteers. **Donors** can “adopt” families who need food at Thanksgiving and food and gifts during the December holidays. Donors can also provide gifts/gift cards to needy families who are not adopted. **Volunteer drivers** are also needed to pick up food and gifts from local businesses when we are in a bind. Although we ask donors to deliver their gifts to LARS, they can’t always deliver. Most requests for would likely be for daytime pick-ups. Call Ernestine at 301-776-0442, ext. 30, to be added to the list of helpers.

## Employment Opportunity

LARS is seeking a full-time case manager to assist with the start-up, implementation, and management of the **LARS Permanent Housing Program**, which will provide housing and supportive services for six or seven chronically homeless individuals. Applicants must have a BSW or MSW and be licensed in the State of Maryland as a social worker. Reliable transportation and some weekend work required. Qualified applicants should send a cover letter and resume to: Nancy Graham, 311 Laurel Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707.

## City of Laurel Makes Generous Contribution

LARS received a \$5,000 contribution in September from **Mayor Craig Moe** and the members of City Council: **Fred Smalls, Council President; Michael Leszcz; Janis Robison; Michael Sarich; and, Gayle Snyder**. The money will be used to support LARS’ work in the community. **Thank you for your continued support.**

## Others We Want to Thank . . .

- ✓ **Security Vault Works, Inc.** of Laurel for their generous \$5,000 contribution.
- ✓ Members of the community who donated **school supplies** for low-income families. People were extremely generous, and no one was denied help who needed it.
- ✓ **The Knights of Columbus** for their generous monthly donations of SHARE food packages to the LARS food pantry.
- ✓ The **Laurel Lions Club**, who works with us in providing hearing aids and reading glasses to those in need. The Lions are also generous donors to LARS.
- ✓ **Roy Cloud**, our longtime friend and food pantry volunteer. Roy gives generously of his time to organize, stock, break down boxes, and pull expired items from the shelves.
- ✓ **Ernestine Gibson**, a 10-year volunteer, who comes in each week to interview clients who are in crisis and work with the transitional housing program. During the next three months, she will be leading the Holiday Program.

DONATING  
On  
LINE  
IS QUICK & EASY!

Visit the LARS  
Website

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

CLICK ON  
“GIVE DIRECT”  
under  
DONATE NOW.

100 %  
of your  
donation  
will  
go to  
LARS!

Documents and information  
submitted to the State of Maryland  
under the  
MD Charitable Solicitations Act are  
available from the Office of the  
Secretary of State, State House,  
Annapolis, MD 21401.

SAVE THE DATE!

Fourth Annual  
Silent Auction and Dinner

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

American Legion Hall  
Laurel, MD

## Food Drives Urgently Needed

Laurel Advocacy and  
Referral Services, Inc.

311 Laurel Avenue  
Laurel MD 20707

PHONE:  
301-776-0442

FAX:  
301-604-7076

E-MAIL:  
ngraham@  
laureladvocacy.org

Donate on the web!

Visit us at:

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

Did you know The  
Fannie Mae  
Foundation  
estimates the  
average age of a  
homeless person in

LARS is appealing to our friends in the community to undertake food drives. In a typical year, LARS would receive enough donated food during November and December to restock the pantry until the next summer. This is not a typical year for us. Hard times have hit everyone, and the poor hardest of all. As we approach the holiday season, our food pantry is unusually low on supplies due to the overwhelming amount of food we have distributed.

LARS urgently needs non-perishable food donations for our pantry. Useful items include: cereals, oatmeal, pastas and sauce, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, canned tuna, soups, "Hamburger Helper"-type meal stretchers, canned fruit, canned vegetables, and pancake mix, especially the kind that needs only water. Pop-top items work especially well for homeless people.

Donations are accepted during business hours, which are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 AM until 2 PM, and Monday evenings from 5 to 7 PM.



LAUREL ADVOCACY AND  
REFERRAL SERVICES, INC.  
311 LAUREL AVENUE  
LAUREL MD 20707

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Laurel, MD.  
Permit No. 647