

draft

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
CONGRESSIONAL CLUB LUNCHEON
WASHINGTON, DC
MAY 15, 1996

TALKING POINTS

[Acknowledgements: Bonnie Livingston, Lois Breaux, co-chairs;
Mary Clement, President; Janet Bryant (gives invocation)]

■ I am delighted to hear that the Congressional Club is helping support House of Ruth. As Washington's oldest and largest shelter for women and their children, House of Ruth has provided compassion and hope for ~~tens~~ of thousands of homeless ~~or~~ abused women and children over the past 20 years. *and*

■ *At a time in our country when politics and Washington are often derided, each of you embodies the true meaning of public service.* Since its inception, the Congressional Club has stood for friendship. We see in the Club's work this year on behalf of the House of Ruth that the friendship members share with each other is also being extended to the community around us.

■ I want to thank you for your generous spirit, for the friendship you have shown me over the past 3 1/2 years, and for your ongoing concern for those in need.

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you see

The Congressional Club

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June 30, 1995

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The White House
Office of Scheduling and Advance
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
OEOB Room 185 1/2
Washington, D.C. 20500

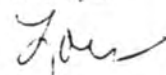
Dear Hillary:

I have been given the honor of serving as Chairman of the 1996 Congressional Club First Ladies Luncheon. We would like to honor you again next year with this very special luncheon. As you may recall, it is attended by approximately 1400 people from all over the United States including Congressional and Senate spouses, Cabinet Members or their spouses and spouses of our Supreme Court.

The luncheon has traditionally been held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. and the hotel has just informed us that the only workable date for them at this time would be May 15, 1996. If this is not feasible for you, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make other arrangements. As in years past, there is a reception from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm and the luncheon from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Always,



Lois Breaux

Reference: May 15, 1996

Reception: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Luncheon: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Contact: Lois Breaux (202) 543-9011

File May 5/15
5/18

VIP Reception 125 people
committee + donors -
gave \$ toward lunch
\$15,000 - 19,000
House of Reps
\$6,000 Building Museum T.

11:30 am - 12:15 VIP Reception

5/15
his is the format
from last year

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1995
PAGE 2

FORMAT:

Video #1: Reading Recovery

Video #2: Arkansas Math & Science

Video #3: Juvenile Diabetes - Man of the Year
Award

Video #4: Women Count

NOTE: Each video is approx. 2-3 minutes in length.

Staff Contact: Dave Anderson 456-7150

11:00 am

DEPART West Executive Ave

EN ROUTE The Omni-Shoreham Hotel

[Drive Time: 10 minutes]

Travelling w/HRC:

- Kelly Craighead
- Doris Matsui
- Julie Romfph (Mrs. Gore's Staff)
- WH Photographer

NOTE: Mrs. Gore will ride with HRC to the event.

11:10 am

ARRIVE The Omni-Shoreham Hotel

NOTE: Mark Doyle will meet HRC curbside.

Greeters:

- Mrs. Bonnie Livingston, Chairman
- Mrs. Lois Breaux, Co-Chairman
- Mrs. Bob Clement

11:15 am

VIP RECEPTION

Ambassador Room

CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 180 expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

FORMAT:

- Receiving line and official photos {NOTE: A photographer from the Congressional Club will be present}

NOTE: Head Table participants will hold in Ambassador's Room for procession. HRC and Mrs. Gore will be presented last.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1995
PAGE 3

12:00 pm-
2:00 pm

CONGRESSIONAL CLUB LUNCHEON
Omni-Shoreham Hotel
Regency Room
Holding Room: The President's Room
Phone: 202-234-0700
Attire: Business
CLOSED PRESS

PARTICIPANTS: Approx. 1,200 expected to attend
[See briefing book for further info]

FORMAT:

- Mrs. Bob Livingston and Mrs. John Breaux intro runway participants, HRC will be presented last, proceed down runway to head table w/military escort.
- National Anthem & brief invocation given by Mrs. Jim Bunning
- Mrs. Clement gives brief welcoming remarks
- Lunch
- Mrs. Clement makes remarks and announces the charity will receive a gift from the Congressional Club
- Mrs. Clement intros HRC
- HRC makes remarks
- Entertainment
- Closing remarks by Mrs. Clement
- Depart the headtable (exit down runway, do not work ropeline)

[illegible]

2:00 pm DEPART The Omni-Shoreham Hotel
 EN ROUTE The White House
 [Drive Time: 10 minutes]

2:10 pm **ARRIVE** The White South Portico



House of Ruth Fact Sheet

House of Ruth began in 1976 as a small emergency shelter for women who were homeless or abused. Today, as Washington's oldest and largest social service agency for women and children in crisis, we're providing much more than a bed and a meal. Women and children who are homeless or abused come to us from countless circumstances with complex needs. Crisis burdens them with anger, hopelessness, addiction, physical and mental illness, unemployment, inadequate skills for raising a stable family.

Our mission is to help women and children overcome the effects of crisis to secure lasting stability and independence. We've developed a continuum of services to assist each woman and child in each stage of recovery. Along with shelter and food, our seven programs provide housing and employment assistance, legal aid, physical and mental health care, individual counseling, and support groups. Each of our programs addresses a particular area of need:

- Herspace Domestic Violence Program gives refuge and assistance to women who are battered and their children. Herspace also operates a 24-hour domestic violence hotline and leads educational presentations in the community to prevent domestic violence.
- Madison Emergency Shelter Program provides immediate shelter and meals to 84 women every night. Individual counseling is available at Madison 24 hours per day.
- The Food Service Training Program trains 6 women at a time in food service and employment skills through 6 months of instruction and on-site job experience.
- Kidspace Child Development Center provides developmental day care for children ages 2 to 5 who are homeless, abused, or at risk. Parents work with Family Advocates to build stable family lives.
- Unity Inn Transitional Program houses 25 women for up to 2 years while they secure employment and permanent housing and prepare to live successfully on their own.
- The Mother/Infant Program provides a home and crucial support for 10 women and their infants while they recover from substance abuse.
- Every night of the year, the Van Run Outreach Program takes food, clothing, blankets, toiletries, and personal attention to men and women living on the streets of Washington.

Funding In Fiscal Year 1995, 26% of House of Ruth's \$3.5 million budget was provided by the local government, 14% by the federal government, and 60% by such private sources as individuals, foundations, corporations, religious and community groups, and the United Way.

Operation House of Ruth is governed by a 15-21 member volunteer board of directors. Sixty-five staff members direct programs and deliver services with support from 150 volunteers.

House of Ruth □ 5 Thomas Circle, NW □ Washington, DC 20005 □ (202)667-7001

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
CONGRESSIONAL CLUB LUNCHEON
WASHINGTON, DC
MAY 17, 1995

TALKING POINTS

- Nothing pleases me more than to know that the Congressional Club is helping support the work of Mother Teresa here in Washington. I had the rare privilege of visiting Mother Teresa's orphanage in India recently. It was a memorable experience for me, as I'm sure it is for anyone who visits there.
- I think we all feel fortunate that the boundless love and compassion we associate with Mother Teresa -- a love and compassion that transcends geographic borders, political ideologies, religious beliefs, and cultural attitudes -- will now be shared with disadvantaged men, women and children in our nation's capital.
- Since its inception, the Congressional Club has stood for friendship. We see in the Club's gift this year to the Missionaries of Charity that the friendship members share with each other is also being extended to the community around us.
- I want to thank you for your generous spirit, for the friendship you have shown me over the past 2 1/2 years, and for your ongoing concern for those in need.

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19TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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November 24, 1986, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: METRO; PAGE B1

LENGTH: 823 words

HEADLINE: Bittersweet Anniversary at House of Ruth

BYLINE: Peter Perl, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Life hit bottom for Cheryl K. Barnes on March 14, 1984. Jobless, homeless and struggling to overcome dependence on marijuana and PCP, Barnes said, she gave up on her future at age 34.

On that snowy day, she left her cramped room in a friend's house in Hyattsville and found herself walking five miles to D.C. General Hospital. She told them that she needed help or she was going to kill herself.

"I had no place to go, so I came to the House of Ruth," Barnes recalled.

Her arrival at the District's oldest and largest shelter for homeless women marked the turning point in a life headed nowhere.

Thirty-two months later, she has a \$ 5.76-an-hour job that she enjoys, an apartment and a solid group of friends, "and I have a sense of self- esteem . . . I am happy. The happiest I have ever been," she said.

Barnes is one of more than 20,000 women whose lives have been touched by the House of Ruth, which yesterday celebrated its 10th anniversary with a joyous but bittersweet party.

The celebration filled the already overcrowded shelter in the abandoned Madison Elementary School at 10th and G streets NE.

Celebration was perhaps the wrong word for yesterday's event, said Sandra Brawders, the executive director of the four-shelter House of Ruth women's network.

The gathering proudly marked a decade of helping women whose lives were shattered by poverty, joblessness, illness, drugs, alcoholism, divorce and sexual abuse. But the event also was intended to draw attention to the claim that growing numbers of homeless people are overwhelming shelters and the budgets of social service agencies.

"How do you 'celebrate' a homeless shelter?" asked Brawders as she guided visitors on a tour of cramped classrooms-turned-dormitories with beds three feet apart and women's belongings crammed into metal lockers. "We want to work to get rid of this place. We want people to have homes, and our advocacy is for

The Washington Post, November 24, 1986

low-income housing."

At the Madison shelter, 119 women are sleeping in an 84-bed shelter, Brawders said, with 35 women using cots, couches or mats on the floor to try to grab a night's sleep. "Overcrowding not only wipes out programs and wipes out the ability to really serve people," she said, "it also wipes out dignity."

"We need to maintain a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week set-up. You can't have a line-up-at-night-serve-em-a-cup-of-soup-and-put-em-out-again program," said Brawders. Too many shelter programs, she said, are only Band-Aid approaches because they do not work full time with the women, who Brawders estimated need at least six months of residential stability to begin patching their lives together.

"We are talking about people who are broken, in complex ways, and are disconnected," she said. " . . . You need some time."

The House of Ruth was named for the biblical widow who was homeless. In 1976, the average age of the women served was 54, and many were the stereotypical "bag ladies." But today, younger women are filling the shelters, often those who had dead-end, low-wage jobs and unwanted pregnancies. The average age today is 25, Brawders said.

Brawders -- whose background includes teaching English to New Jersey migrant children, studying ethics for a degree at Princeton University, counseling the criminally insane at Trenton State Prison and working with victims of Alzheimer's disease -- said the shelters' burden has risen dramatically in the 1980s. Roughly 1,000 women per year stayed at the House of Ruth in the late 1970s. But the figure mushroomed to 3,000 in 1982, and the four facilities are expected to serve an estimated 7,000 for 1986.

District Mayor Marion Barry proclaimed yesterday House of Ruth Day to honor the "House of Ruth family" of hundreds of volunteers, 36 staff members and thousands of women who have gone through the shelter. The D.C. Department of Human Services provides nearly half of the organization's annual budget of about \$ 900,000, with the remainder coming from foundations and donations.

Cheryl Barnes, a 1972 graduate of McKinley High School, had lost her parents and her home and had been laid off from a night janitorial job in 1984. After psychiatric treatment, counseling and "the inspiration of friends," she now works as a "life coach" helping other homeless women at the shelter.

"It was a miracle what happened to me here," Barnes said. Around her, the high-ceiling school rooms were strung with colored streamers and filled with blue balloons. Volunteers carried trays of cold cuts, cookies and snacks, as women and their children packed the rooms. Barnes was able to donate \$ 50 for the cake.

Barnes hugged Brawders, and both women wiped away tears.

The key event that pulled Barnes out of the pits, she said, was meeting Brawders. "She helped me get my self-esteem. She is kindhearted, and she believes in fighting for the right to help other women," Barnes said, "She saw something in me, and she brought it out."

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GRAPHIC: Photo, Cheryl Barnes a former resident of the House of Ruth, joined Sandy Brawders, the shelter executive director, for 10th anniversary celebration yesterday. (Cheryl Barnes and Sandy Brawders of the House of Ruth), Fred Sweets; Photo, House of Ruth resident Mary Hughes, left, embraces director Sandy Brawders during 10th anniversary observance. Said Brawders, "We want to work to get rid of this place. We want people to have homes.", (Mary Hughes and House of Ruth director Sandy Brawders), Fred Sweets

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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December 23, 1991, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: STYLE; PAGE B1

LENGTH: 1936 words

HEADLINE: The Peaceful Corner of Their World;
Respite for Children of Chaos At House of Ruth's Kidspace

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Elizabeth Kastor, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

They stumble up from the cots and wander to their seats, still wrapped in the softness of sleep. Lights blink on. The bathroom is visited. Shoes are tied.

Nap time is over at Kidspace, and all the 25 nappers wear that crumpled look that makes groggy children seem simultaneously very young and very old.

Soon the electricity of their personalities will seep back into them and they will once more be raucous 3-year-olds and giddy 5-year-olds, but now they are closer to the babies they used to be. One girl walks over to a stranger and curls into her lap. She does not know the lap, but she knows the warmth of a female body. Silently, she molds her body to the surrounding arms.

It is the most routine ritual of childhood, napping, but here the two hours of uninterrupted sleep sometimes seem like the greatest gift these children can be given. "We never sleep," the mother of one has said, "because of the sound of the rats overhead."

Look around and there is no sign that Kidspace is different from any other small day-care center. The younger ones wear peanut butter mustaches after their snacks and the older ones are learning the alphabet. The walls are hung with paintings and collages. Hooks hold snow jackets and hats.

But Kidspace is something different. In a church basement in the middle of Shaw, a mile north of the Capitol, it is a sanctuary. Founded by the House of Ruth, Kidspace daily welcomes children who are homeless, whose mothers have been abused by their husbands and boyfriends, whose short lives have been defined by chaos. A large majority of these children live with their mothers in city-run or private shelters or in transitional housing managed by the House of Ruth and similar organizations. A handful of the families Kidspace serves have moved past the hard times, but still seek the nurturing this day-care center provides. For the mothers, it brings six, eight, 10 hours in which they can look for a job or go to school. For the children, it brings two meals, two snacks, games and songs and books and much that is far less tangible.

"It gives the kids some peace," says Pat Fitchett, who fled a shelter in

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Delaware for one in Washington earlier this year to escape a husband she feared. Her 2 1/2-year-old son, Keyondre, has been attending Kidspace since June and she has been a volunteer and now is a teacher at the day-care center. "If the kid sees the mom always upset, then the kid's going to be upset. But here the kid has a time to relax and run wild and get his frustrations out."

Stand still for a moment and children hurl themselves at you. They leap on your back, cling to your legs, squeal with reckless joy as they pull you down to the floor. It is an instant affection that contains both violence and yearning. You do not yet know their names and they do not know yours, but by entering the door to this basement room you have become theirs -- part jungle gym, part friend, part punching bag.

Perhaps they are even more hungry for affection than the average kid.

Oh yes, Fitchett says with the laugh of a woman who has been climbed upon herself.

"They get so much love here," she says. "They're learning to love people, not to abuse people."

What do you do here, Quoran?

"Cereal. Milk. Toast. Juice," says the 4-year-old. That is breakfast.

" 'Twinkle, Twinkle.' 'Ring Around the Rosie.' 'London Bridge.' " she says. Those are the songs.

"Read our books. Go outside. Come back inside. Wash your hands. Sit down. Then eat," she says. That is the schedule.

The day is orderly, and deliberately so. "They need to know every day when they walk through the door that the same person is going to greet them in the same way," says acting director Abby DeLong.

It is a cliché of child-rearing that children thrive on continuity, predictability, the security of knowing that what was there last night will still be there this morning. But for these children, the teachers believe, such things are particularly important.

"These are children who don't have, in many cases, a room of their own because they've been taken away from their home, they've been moved," says Stanley Kulewicz, a psychology PhD who consults with the teachers. "In just a physical sense, their lives are subject to a lot of change. Just in terms of their relationships with people, when there is so much change going on, it's hard to establish consistency, so the boundaries that might be there -- for example, between a mother and a child -- that boundary is not there."

The kids are, in that sense, older than many of their peers. They have seen a lot and often play a role in their families that is closer to an adult's than a child's.

"There are kids here who are out running the house," says DeLong. "I have moms call and say, 'My son doesn't want to come, so he's not.' This is a

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3-year-old telling the mother what to do! I think some of these mothers feel they have put these kids through so much, they can't say no."

But many of the children here also lag developmentally. Their language skills are often poor -- DeLong thinks they have spent too much time in front of the television, shunted away from the disarray preoccupying their parents.

The kids fight a lot. They bite. They have trouble sharing toys. No parent of a small child can say such behavior is unfamiliar, but Kulewicz says that at Kidspace it is more "intense." More fighting. More biting.

"Some kids don't know how to play," says DeLong. One girl has grown up at the Community for Creative Non-Violence homeless shelter. "She's never left. She has a great vocabulary -- she's been around nothing but adults. She's terrific, but she's never had a chance to be with other kids.

"It's so basic, but it's stuff they've never been exposed to."

So for that 3-year-old, the ability to sit with another child and do a puzzle is a triumph in her teacher's eyes.

There are other more tangible problems that point to the realities of living in shelters.

"Lots of diarrhea," says DeLong. "This is really down and gross, but it's a real problem."

Just getting some healthy food and milk into them is an accomplishment. "These kids have grown up on sweets. When those kids come in, they look at that stuff on their plates and say, 'You expect me to eat that?' " DeLong says.

DeLong believes that bringing the children into the center every day offers something to the mothers beyond the free time to look for a job or go to school. "I think often the day care stabilizes the family situation," she says. "Asking them to have the kids here at a specific time and pick them up at a specific time -- it's helpful."

The fact that some mothers manage to get their children to Kidspace at all is worthy of notice. Isibat Idris, her 5-year-old son and twin 2-year-old girls must travel 90 minutes by bus in each direction from their home in Southeast Washington.

"I just bring them to school and go to the library or something," Idris says. "He knows everybody's name. The girls learned to count to five. He wants to sit down and read a book. I'm not comfortable doing that, but he wants to. I stopped coming because I felt it was too much, catching the two buses, but he wanted to come to school so I do it."

Kids tell their truths through oblique hints, actions rather than words.

Two-and-a-half-year-old Nancy, articulate beyond her years, plays with a puzzle as she is asked questions that soon prove to have been ineptly direct. Where does she live? "With my mommy," she says. Does anyone else live there? She is silent, concentrating on the puzzle, and then she tells the intruder, "I don't want to play with you anymore. Go back to your office."

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Some forbidden barrier has been breached, some nerve touched.

As with all children, you hear adults' voices filtered through these mouths. Three-year-old Chris shoves a visitor against the wall, shouting, "You're in jail, you're in jail." Why? "Because you said a cuss word. Because you're hotheaded."

The teachers remember moments that felt dense with significance. Mary Waters talks about seeing one particularly sad girl climb on a seesaw and smile for the first time. Abby DeLong tells of 5-year-old Clark with a toy house and a fire engine. How nice, she said with a teacher's pep, the fireman was saving the family inside. "The police never do anything to help anybody in our neighborhood," he said, and then went on with his game.

But the temptation to look at these kids as small symbols of society's ills, to hear in their every comment the weight of a child's pain, is dangerous.

"I think we have to be careful about what our assumptions are," says Kulewicz. "You might go into that setting thinking these are going to be 'disturbed' children, and I think that would be underestimating the capacity people have to rise above adversity and to develop strength when you might have expected them to develop weaknesses or crumble."

The mothers also refuse to let an outsider make any assumptions.

"Are you going to say these children are homeless?" asks Kimberly Ferrell. For her the word is weighty with past pain and implied judgment.

"Some people are working mothers," she says. She is, in fact, and wants this noted.

"Once we were living in a shelter. We just stayed for a month. It wasn't that we got put out for not paying the rent. It was because me and my mother couldn't get along.

"People are homeless, but then they get on their feet. Kids are living in shelters -- do you think they like living in there? I don't think so. I think everyone has feelings."

Ferrell pulled herself out. "We came a long way," she says. "I'm really proud of me and my children. I wouldn't have done it without them. If they weren't there, I wouldn't have done anything."

Look in the face of any child and inevitably you start to seek hints of the future. Will his smile always curve at the corner? Will she always be curious? Will he always be funny? What will they be in 10 years?

At Kidspace, the questions take on a pressing poignancy. These are the children social service agencies file away with the dry formulation "at risk." But who will come through and who will be lost?

In the dialect of a psychologist, Kulewicz talks about "resilient" and "vulnerable" children, concepts that include within themselves a certain

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fatalism.

"I think there are different factors that can play into how a child does -- one is what kind of support they're getting, and what kind of support their mother is getting. Another is a child's temperament. We can't do much to change a child's temperament, but we can provide help."

The children are not penalized if their mothers are able to reorder their lives; they can continue to attend the day-care center after the crisis is over. Several of them have moved on to kindergarten, and a few have even kept in touch with their teachers, but sometimes they just vanish with no warning and no goodbye.

"When I first came to this, every little thing bothered me," says DeLong. "If a child had to leave for some reason, it would affect me for a long time. I hope I'm not immune to it now, but you can't let it bother you as long."

There is no way, of course, to keep your imagination from playing across those faces.

"When they're out there asleep, I wonder what's going on in their minds," says teacher Carol Barnes. "Sometimes I wonder, what are they going to grow up to?"

As she talks, soft music is playing in the next room. Each child holds a toy chosen upon arrival at Kidspace and each child sleeps under a soft quilt. It is very still here. It is very peaceful. But soon nap time will be over.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, KIDSPACE ACTING DIRECTOR ABBEY DELONG, RIGHT, WITH LATOYA AGEE, LEFT AND ROMEO HAYES. DAYNA SMITH

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH