



## Spring/Summer 2015 Newsletter

### Laura's Art Studio at King Street Center

When King Street Center celebrated its grand re-opening on February 18, we had an opportunity to tour the entire facility and see the completed Laura's Art Studio, which was more spectacular than we had anticipated. It is spacious, colorful and state-of-the-art with plentiful storage, stainless steel countertops, an abundance of natural light-and just about everything a budding artist could possibly need or desire.

Below and on the back are some pictures of this wonderful new space.



*"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond." - Gwendolyn Brooks*

### Dear Friends and Family,

Laura's March to End Sexual Violence will take place on September 12, Laura's actual birthday. It has been 10 years now since Laura's life was ended but, while losing her is an abiding sorrow, we feel reassured knowing her legacy endures for others in the LKW Fund's accomplishments. It is our purpose to increase community awareness of the issue of sexual violence and raise money for vital under- or unfunded programs. We are deeply grateful that our accomplishments have been made possible by all the support we have received throughout these long years, support that has enabled Laura's Fund to endure and thrive.

American poet Gwendolyn Brooks implies that we are indeed our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Because sexual assault is an epidemic and we are ineluctably connected, it is imperative that each one of us do our part to transform our culture into one that does not tolerate or turn a blind eye to sexual violence. Each time we do not ignore or tolerate sexist attitudes or behavior, we are doing our part. When we have conversations with our children about respect, about exploitative behaviors, about ways to protect themselves and about ways to compassionately engage with and look out for others, we are doing our part.

For the LKW Fund, there remains much work to be done, and Laura's March is an integral part of the effort to end sexual violence and help survivors. On September 12, Laura's March will be raising funds for 3 vital programs that need our support. Please join us there; please help us accomplish our goals.

Wishing you a season of sunshine and well-being.

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To date, the LKW Fund has donated over \$130,000 to Vermont organizations and programs consistent with our mission.

Please consider making a donation to help us continue our work in Laura's name.

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*King Street kids in Laura's Art Studio*



**Contact Us**

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**Laura's March 2015 – September 12<sup>th</sup> at Oakledge Park**

Laura's March 2015 will be raising money for the following:

- **H.O.P.E. Works** in collaboration with **Champlain College** will establish BREAKAWAY programs (interactive video games) in afterschool workshops in schools and other youth sites in Burlington and around Chittenden County to promote gender equality and violence prevention.
- **Pride Center of Vermont** will expand its outreach by providing legal clinic services through its LGBTQ Sexual Violence Social Justice Advocacy Project.
- **The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE P)** at the **University of Vermont Medical Center** will send 2 nurses to the annual conference of International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) to attend workshops to augment their skills in ministering to sexual assault survivors.

A portion of the funds we raise also goes toward growing and sustaining the LKW Fund, enabling us to increase our capacity to serve the community.

**2015 Donations & Gifts**

- In March we contributed funds to Burlington's 2nd annual Women's Day Celebration, an event that recognizes and applauds the triumphs of women over adversities and obstacles.
- Also, in March, we donated to help defray a survivor's legal costs.
- In May, we provided scholarship money to Camp Paw Paw, Burlington City Arts summer camp, and Dirt Divas and Rosie's Girls of Vt. Works for Women.

**THE LAURA K. WINTERBOTTOM MEMORIAL FUND**

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**LABEL**