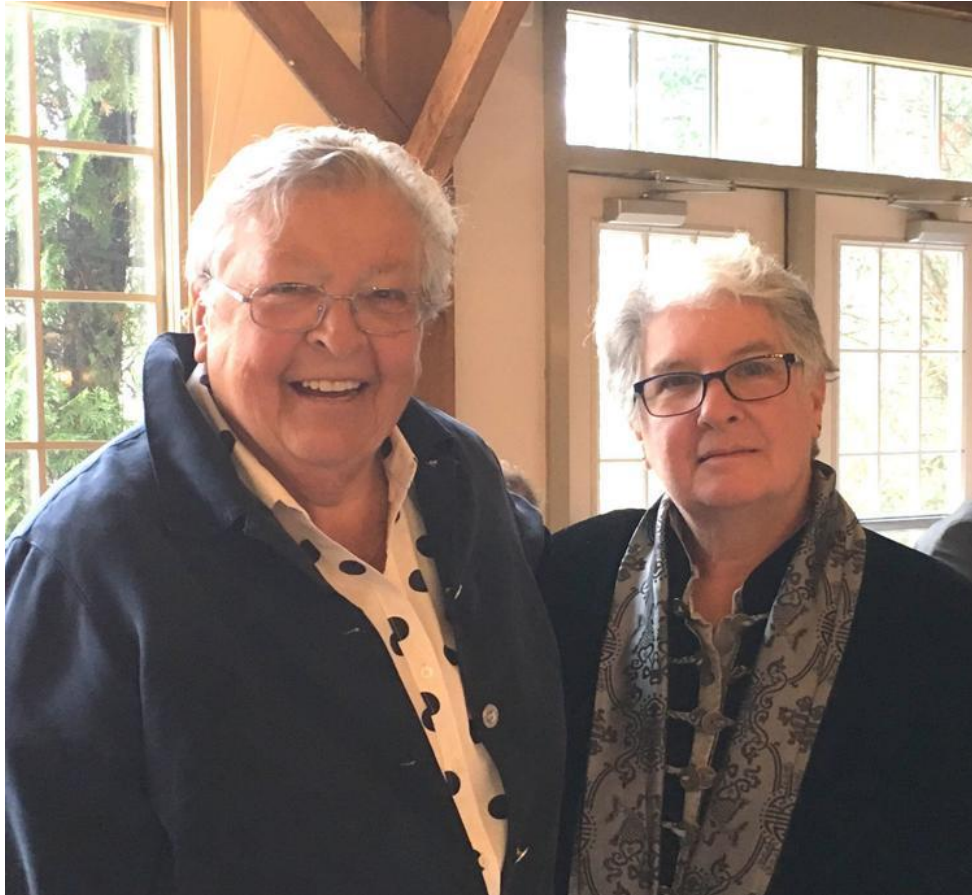


https://www.cape-news.net/falmouth/briefs/independence-house-celebrates-40-year/article_8beb1c9f-f77c-58a6-95fd-c17f79587e58.html

Independence House Celebrates 40th Year

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Mary Brunette and Sandra Faiman-Silva

Independence House, Inc., held its 40th Anniversary Gala at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis on November 16. The event celebrated the organization's work from its beginnings in 1979, including building an array of services for domestic and sexual violence survivors and their families throughout Cape Cod.

Independence House now serves the entire Cape out of offices in Hyannis, Orleans, Falmouth and Provincetown. Services include individual and family counselling, court advocacy, a 24/7 hotline, Mentors in Violence Prevention Programs at area schools, prevention, education and outreach programs, safe shelter and transitional housing.

Falmouth residents Mary Brunette and Sandra Faiman-Silva were honored for two decades of service to Independence House as board members, fund raisers and donors. They received the 2019 Lighthouse of Empowerment Donor Award "signifying support of over \$100,000 shining a light for survivors of domestic and sexual violence." Dr. Faiman-Silva and Ms. Brunette have donated and raised more than \$200,000 in the past two decades, including organizing an annual Falmouth Road Race fundraising team. Team Independence House members have raised more than \$140,000 in the past ten years.

"It's become a family affair to support this important local non-profit," Ms. Brunette said in describing her commitment to Independence House.

Dr. Faiman-Silva's son Luke is a Falmouth Road Race team runner and many extended family members have donated to the team, donated school backpacks, or supported other Independence House activities.

"We hope that our family story of giving to Independence House will encourage others to find ways to support the important work of Independence House or other non-profits in your community," Ms. Brunette said.

To learn more about Independence House or to donate to the organization, visit www.independencehouse.org.