



## Celebrating Mothers. Rebuilding Families.

When women suffer from drug or alcohol addiction their children also feel the effects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that Wisconsin leads the nation with the highest rate of binge drinking among women. A family treatment model can help both mothers and their children get the help they need to break the generational cycle of abuse.

In 1988, Meta House became one of the first facilities in the nation to include children in the residential treatment setting. We help women live a substance-free lifestyle by acknowledging their role as mothers and by providing gender-responsive treatment in all areas of their lives.

This year we are celebrating mothers, and the success of women at Meta House. In recognition of Mother's Day, *A Day for Meta House* will be held on May 6, 2011 to honor the achievements of Meta House women, their children, and their work to reclaim their lives and rebuild their families. This is the agency's only fundraiser in 2011, and our goal is to raise \$75,000 to support the operating expenses of our family treatment program.

Enjoy food catered by Bartolotta Restaurants and hear the incredible stories of mothers whose lives have been changed through Meta House's internationally-recognized family treatment program. It is the perfect opportunity to celebrate with a woman who has made an impact in your life. Call 414-977-5802 or go to [www.metahouse.org](http://www.metahouse.org) and reserve your space for this free fundraising event today.

## Day for Meta House Online

Our *A Day for Meta House* Tweetathon and Tweetup were a big success last year. This year we're planning another new online surprise, so stay tuned to [facebook.com/MetaHouse](http://facebook.com/MetaHouse) and [twitter.com/MetaHouse](http://twitter.com/MetaHouse), and our website, [www.metahouse.org](http://www.metahouse.org), to learn how to get involved!

Meanwhile, we will be sending out e-newsletters every few months to keep you updated on the latest news. If you do not already receive them, sign up on our homepage at [www.metahouse.org](http://www.metahouse.org) and add [Meta\\_House\\_Inc@mail.vresp.com](mailto:Meta_House_Inc@mail.vresp.com) to your address book to ensure the emails don't end up in your Spam folder.

Thank you for staying connected and feel free get in touch with us if you have questions or comments. We look forward to hearing from you!

Winter/Spring 2011



## A Day for Meta House – Celebrating Mothers. Rebuilding Families.

Friday, May 6, 2011  
Breakfast (8 – 9 a.m.)  
Lunch (Noon – 1 p.m.) and/or  
Evening Reception (5:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

Pier Wisconsin/Discovery World  
500 N. Harbor Drive  
Milwaukee's Lakefront

RSVP 414-977-5802 or  
[www.metahouse.org](http://www.metahouse.org)

## Message from Executive Director, Francine Feinberg



This is the time of year to reflect on past achievements and look forward to future successes. We recognize that addiction affects not only the mother, but her children as well. Meta House was one of the first treatment programs in the country to allow children to stay with their mothers in the residential substance abuse treatment setting. Our parenting program and extensive child and family program

help women improve their parental roles, and help them build stronger families. In 2010, Meta House served 335 women and over 230 children. Twenty-one babies were born to Meta House residential clients, and of the thirteen women who came to us at least one month before giving birth, all gave birth to babies free of alcohol and drugs.

These achievements belong to the women who are working hard to change their lives and the lives of their families. They also belong to you, our supporters, who are integral in helping us provide the comprehensive services necessary to ensure the success of women at Meta House.

In these challenging times, the holistic nature of our programs is more valuable than ever. Being able to meet the diverse and overwhelming needs of our clients provides the tools needed for their success. Our completion of treatment rates remain more than two-times higher than the national average. You are helping to create stronger women, healthier families and a better future for all Milwaukee residents.

We invite you to hear more about the important role a mother plays in the lives of her children and her family, and how recovery from addiction builds stronger families and a healthier community. Join us on Friday, May 6 at *A Day for Meta House*. Witness what your support provides to the many families we serve at Meta House, and hear how, together, we are helping women reclaim their lives and rebuild their families!

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

## Dr. Francine Feinberg Awarded for “Putting Her Stamp on Metro Milwaukee”

The United States Postal Service (USPS) celebrated Women’s History Month in March by paying tribute to women with outstanding achievements in the metro Milwaukee area. Meta House Executive Director, Dr. Francine Feinberg, was honored for her work at Meta House in the “Health and Social Services” category.

USPS has given out these awards for the past 13 years in honor of women who have made a positive impact in the community. Dr. Feinberg was nominated for her instrumental work in developing the successful family treatment model at Meta House that helps women reclaim their lives and rebuild their families.

## How to Get Involved

### Donate

Your support is critical to the work we do in the community. To give a financial gift, contact Wendy at 414-977-5807. To donate items from our Wish List, contact Caroline at 414-977-5823. All gifts are tax-deductible and are investments toward building stronger families and a healthier community.



### Contribute

Stop at the Customer Service Counter at your local Pick ‘n Save and let the representative know that you would like to designate Meta House as your chosen charity to receive a percentage of your purchases. Our charity code number is 506160.



### Volunteer

There are many opportunities for you to volunteer for a special project or on an ongoing, weekly basis. Contact Caroline at 414-977-5823 for more details.



## A Mother's Quest to Break the Cycle of Addiction



Deborah didn't think she had a problem. Though she was using crack cocaine, she was living with her mother and holding down a job as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She thought she had everything under control. But her drug use soon became an uncontrollable addiction.

Deborah grew up in Florida, raised by a grandmother because her father was an alcoholic and her mother left the family. She didn't have many friends. She suffered from low self-esteem and significant hardships at home. As an adult she moved to Milwaukee and feeling so much emotional pain, she started using drugs.

When Deborah met Thomas, she was already deep into her drug use. He didn't know. She was using drugs when she got pregnant with their first child, but she quit four months before she gave birth. She had been using

the money to pay for drugs, and it wasn't until they got evicted that Thomas and his parents learned of her addiction. She finally agreed to get help after being charged with child neglect. "I had this fear of talking," Deborah says, "when I was young I saw my mom get beat up, I saw her prostitute herself to pay for food, and I had so many things inside keeping me down and keeping me from being a better parent."

Deborah came to Meta House in 2008 with her children. She says the motivation for getting help was to never be homeless with her children again and to never take her family through that again. "It was time for me to wake up and start being a good mother, start working on myself, and stop being dysfunctional."

Meta House gave Deborah the tools she needed to overcome her addiction and rebuild her family. When she was in residential treatment, her middle son lashed out and even tried to run away. Now, Deborah says he is different. "I know it has something to do with me being clean, being a mother, taking time with him, loving him, and being patient with him." Feeling as though she turned her back on her children when she was using, Deborah is grateful to have found Meta House and get the help she needed to repair relationships with her family."

At Meta House Deborah learned to live a better life. The most valuable thing she received from Meta House was "learning how to be a mother to my children again."

### Yes, I want to support Meta House!

Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Meta House, Inc., a 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit organization.  
Your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.  
Please detach and mail to: Meta House, Attn: Development, 2625 N. Weil Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

**Thank you!**

Winter/Spring 2011



2625 N. Weil Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212



United Way  
of Greater Milwaukee



Meta House provides an equal opportunity in employment and service.

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## Current Wish List

We appreciate your donations of new or gently used items that help our women and their children. At this time we are looking for: Bassinets, baby bottles & nipples, diapers, baby wipes, sippy cups, new car seats, plastic dishes, serving bowls with covers/lids, rocking chairs, dressers, DVD players, and pots & pans.

## Thank you to our Board of Directors:

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## Mark Your Calendar

### *A Day for Meta House*

### *Celebrating Mothers. Rebuilding Families.*

Friday, May 6, 2011

Breakfast, Lunch, or Evening Reception

Pier Wisconsin/Discovery World

### **Meta Moments**

Thursdays: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

July 28, October 6

Meta House Residential Facility

Call Wendy at 414-977-5807 for event details or  
visit [www.metahouse.org](http://www.metahouse.org).