



## MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MONROE LEGAL REPORTER

913 MAIN STREET · STROUDSBURG, PA 18360 · MONROEBAR.ORG

570.424.7288

570.424.8234 (FAX)

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FROM: MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
DATE: April 20, 2018

### **Sharon Taylor to be honored with 2018 Liberty Bell Award by Monroe County Bar Association**

**STROUDSBURG, PA:** As part of its annual Law Day Ceremonies, the Monroe County Bar Association will present Ms. Sharon Taylor, Executive Director of Pocono Area Transitional Housing, with the 2018 Liberty Bell Award. This award is presented each year to a man or woman, who has promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged greater respect for the law and courts and stimulated a sense of civic responsibility.

For the past 26 years, Ms. Taylor has been the Executive Director of Pocono Area Transitional Housing, better known as PATH. The road to PATH was a bit of a windy one for Sharon. After graduating from East Stroudsburg University with a degree in Sociology, Sharon moved to New York where she worked as a paralegal for a real estate firm. Eventually, she and her daughters, Laura and Amanda, returned to Pennsylvania.

The opportunity to work at East Stroudsburg University's New Horizons Program was a great fit for Sharon. In addition to her professional experience and education, she was a victim of domestic violence. New Horizons gave her the chance to help displaced women many of whom were also victims of domestic violence. Working with New Horizons was rewarding and when Ms. Taylor received a call asking her if she'd interview for the Executive Director's position at PATH she hesitated. She loved what she was doing and more so, the women she was helping. So with the thought that one more experience would help her relate to these women, Sharon decided to go to the interview. Much to her surprise, and eventual pleasure, she was offered and accepted the position as PATH's Executive Director.

The ongoing challenge to support women who have been abused and who are now homeless with their children has been the mission of PATH from the beginning. But PATH had only one small facility which limited the number of women and children they could help. In 1992 ESSA approached Sharon and the Board of Directors with an opportunity to expand the existing number of people they were helping. With a donation of \$150,000 from ESSA the Board and Sharon worked together and raised a total of \$600,000 allowing them to purchase and renovate their second location on Park Avenue. Financial commitments were received from not only ESSA, but Sanofi Pasteur, the Hughes family and Lester Abeloff, to name just a few. A true grassroots initiative that was fully supported by the Borough of Stroudsburg and with the help of local building contractors allowed PATH to open their second location and continue to be good neighbors to all in the Borough.

Looking back at the impact PATH has had on our community, Sharon credits the commitment and dedication of the Board of Directors and her staff, the ongoing support of the residents and members of the business community and the number of volunteers who work hard each and every day to fulfill their mission.

PATH provides temporary housing for homeless women with children, many of which have been victims of domestic violence. Over 458 families with 809 children have stayed at one of the two PATH houses for a total of 185,000 'people nights'. Sharon is proud of what PATH offers because the organization does much more than provide temporary safe housing. Helping mothers get on their feet so they can be self-sufficient takes commitment from both parties and both are very proud that the experience is truly not a hand out, but a hand up to a better life. Making sure the moms are ready to step into the work force by partnering with other agencies allows them to obtain employment, learn to manage their finances, continue their education and even sometimes just learn to cook. This is only some of what Sharon and PATH do every day.

When asked what Ms. Taylor is most proud of she didn't hesitate to talk about the important things in her life: her family and her work. She brightens when she speaks of her family, daughter Laura and son-in-law Chris Fehl and their two children, Mikah and Margot, and daughter Amanda and son-in-law Chris Brodhead and their two children, Madison and Garrett. At PATH Sharon is most proud of all the things the organization has accomplished as well as those things yet to be, because they are "not quite there yet".

Members of the community are invited to attend the award ceremony which will be held on Friday, April 27, 2018 at 9:00 am in Courtroom 1 of the Monroe County Courthouse. Please join in the celebration of Law Day and the 2018 Monroe County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award recipient, Sharon Taylor.

The mission of the Monroe County Bar Association is to maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of the law, to cultivate social intercourse among its members and to increase its usefulness in promoting the due administration of justice. For more information on the Monroe County Bar Association visit [www.monroebar.org](http://www.monroebar.org) or call 570.424.7288

For further comment:

Denise Burdge

Executive Director

Monroe County Bar Association

913 Main Street

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

[570.424.7288](tel:570.424.7288)

[dburdge@monroebar.org](mailto:dburdge@monroebar.org)

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<Photo of Sharon Taylor, Executive Director of Pocono Area Transitional Housing is attached>