



Working to end the violence.



ANNUAL REPORT
2013

From the desk of our Executive Director

The Women's Center continued its 38-year history as the recognized expert and sole provider of survivor services within the Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield 13-town service area. Our strongly committed team of dedicated staff, direct service and board of director volunteers sustained the provision of high quality, professional services for all who turned to us for help, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.



Over 26,000 clients

During the past fiscal year, a total of 26,125 individuals from our local communities received the free and confidential services provided through our Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Resource Services programs as well as our comprehensive primary prevention, education, and training programs. Specially trained and certified direct service staff and volunteers continued to provide critically needed intervention, support, and counseling to adults and children both in person and via the hotlines.

Saving lives

Elizabeth House, our shelter for women and children fleeing from the danger of violence in their own homes, offered the safety and support needed in their time of crisis (men are provided shelter in a separate safe place). During their stay, shelter residents received crisis counseling, advocacy and assistance with rebuilding their lives and planning a future that is violence-free.

Our Family Violence Victim Advocates, who work at Danbury Superior Court, provided daily outreach and assistance to all individuals involved in domestic violence arrests. The Women's Center also joined other programs across the state participating in the Lethality Assessment program, formally partnering with our local police departments to ensure that victims who were identified as high risk in domestic violence police calls receive immediate, on-site telephone connection with one of our specialized counselor advocates.

Risk reduction and prevention

Our Prevention, Education and Training staff members provided programs to a wide range of audiences, from pre-school children to senior citizens. Many new schools asked to participate in our popular Healthy Relationships program for area high schools and our age-appropriate children's programs and puppet shows. Our unique use of clicker technology has been well received by our audiences and has provided us with immediate feedback as to the effectiveness of our programs. Our Act Out theatre group continued to engage and effectively educate audiences by their portrayal of real life dating violence, bullying and other relevant scenarios. Trainings for area police, legal, medical and other professionals gave us the opportunity to ensure that anyone dealing with survivors has the most up to date information about, and sensitivity to, domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

Dedicated team of volunteers

The support provided by our dedicated volunteer team enables the Women's Center to reach the many people we do. Upon completion of our extensive certification, as well as additional and ongoing training, our direct service volunteers serve as hotline counselors, in-house counselors, support group facilitators, court advocates, community educators, trainers, and child advocates. Our board volunteers continued to provide countless hours of service via committee work, fundraising activities and ensuring the ongoing fulfillment of the Center's mission. Members of our Advisory Council provided us with invaluable support and suggestions at their quarterly meetings as well as throughout the year.

Activism and partnerships

Our continued partnership with Western Connecticut State University provides us with the opportunity to offer consistent and ongoing educational and training programs to the campus community. Continued funding by the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services enables us to sustain our Campus Advocate, who is housed at the university and serves as both a direct services provider and resource for students. Our bi-lingual/bi-cultural counselor advocate continued to provide counseling one afternoon a week at our local Hispanic Center, providing on-site services and support to their clients. We remain actively involved in local and statewide collaborative teams and task forces, ensuring the interests of our clients are well represented.

Thank you to all who are a part of our 38-year legacy. It is because of you, giving so generously of your time, talent and financial support, that we remain committed to "working to end the violence."

With gratitude,
Patricia A. Zachman, M.Ed.
Executive Director



HOW:

OUR VISION

To end the violence against women, men, and children and to foster equality and empowerment for all.

OUR MISSION

To serve the needs of individuals, families and the community with prevention, crisis intervention, and support services with regard to domestic violence, sexual assault and other major life crises.

➔ How we are working to end the violence:

Our three major programs

Domestic Violence Services

Sexual Assault Services

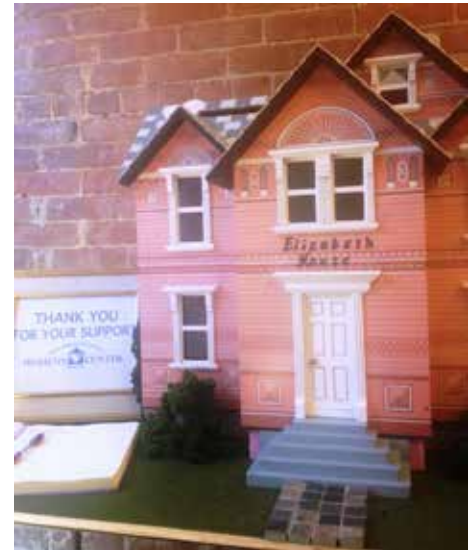
Resource Services

What we provide

- Crisis intervention, including two 24/7 hotlines with on-site response to area hospitals and police departments
- Emergency shelter for adults and children fleeing from violence in their homes
- Individual & support-group counseling
- Individual & system advocacy
- Primary prevention, education and professional programs and training for pre-school through senior citizens
- Information & referral services

Where we provide it

- At our Administrative Headquarters, 2 West Street in Danbury, Connecticut
- At Elizabeth House, our 13-bed confidentially located domestic violence shelter
- At satellite locations in Danbury Superior Court, the Danbury Multicultural Center, and the Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) campus



Our traveling Elizabeth House for information and donations.



PROGRAMS:

→ 2013 program highlights

Domestic Violence Clients	2,040
Crisis & Individual Counseling Sessions	9,453
Advocacy Contacts	10,552
Elizabeth House Clients	111
(73 adults and 38 children)	
Sexual Assault Clients	613
Crisis & Individual Counseling Sessions	2,311
Safety Planning Contacts	1,959
Resource Services Client	1,109
Crisis & Individual Counseling Sessions	2,971
Info & Referrals	2,191

Survivor Groups

Breaking the Silence: for female sexual assault survivors
SOAR: Survivors Overcoming Abusive Relationships
Voices of Courage: for male sexual assault survivors

Support Groups

Children of Divorce with concurrent parent group
Endings: divorce
New Heights: healthy relationships
“Project Be” Girls Empowerment Program
I’m OK! Reclaiming your Self Esteem
Women Thriving

“I am so happy I finally contacted the Women’s Center. I never in my wildest dreams thought I would need to go into a shelter, but as I leave a new person, I thank you all and hope you are able to help people rebuild their lives for years to come.”

—from an Elizabeth House resident

Community Education

Participants	22,363
Total Education & Prevention Programs	762
Including: 513 Colleges & Schools	
179 Professional Trainings	
70 Community Presentations	



“I have received a lot of great comments from veteran teachers about your program.”

—Principal,
Sarah Noble
Intermediate
School,
New Milford



2013 FACTS:

➔ Reaching children and young adults

- 47 Children received direct services from sexual assault, domestic violence and resource services programs
- 1,075 Counseling sessions with children
- 513 School and college presentations for a total of 20,399 youth contacts

➔ Helping families

- Thanksgiving outreach to 80 families in need & December holiday outreach to 91 families, by more than 60 donors & groups with gifts and food baskets
- Easter baskets, back-to-school supplies
- 878 advocacy contacts with schools, Headstart, doctors, DCF, and YMCA
- 419 parent consultations by Child Advocate

➔ Crisis response

- 73 women and 38 children resided at Elizabeth House during this fiscal year
- Reduced trauma faced by child victims of sexual assault or severe abuse, by participating in 43 annual initial meetings with Multi-disciplinary Investigation Team (MIT) of Greater Danbury
- Counselor/Advocates or hotline volunteers accompanied sexual assault victims to hospital on 49 occasions and police department or court 53 times

➔ Court advocacy

- Our Court Advocates worked with 865 victims this year, 320 of whom were victims of dating violence.
- Clients were assisted in obtaining almost 1,000 Temporary Restraining and Protective Orders at Danbury Superior Court.

“Having a safe place to be, helped me feel better about myself.”

—from an Elizabeth House resident

“A parent’s worse nightmare—my child was sexually abused. I thought this meant a life of struggle and pain for me and my family. But the Women’s Center was there each step of the way and they helped us get back to life as normal. Thank you.”

—from the parent of a sexual assault client

Who we helped in 2013

Total clients served: 26,125

Bethel	3,286
Bridgewater	114
Brookfield	1,641
Danbury	10,694
Kent	22
New Fairfield	1,547
New Milford	3,665
Newtown	1,308
Redding	177
Ridgefield	1,751
Roxbury	138
Sherman	479
Washington	710
Other CT	409
Other States/Unknown	184

17,115 Children & 9,010 Adults

11,703 Counseling Sessions

2,235 Hotline Calls

762 Education Programs

.....

Who helped us in 2013

- 19,968 hours of dedicated service provided by more than 140 volunteers
- Almost 50% of our income is self-generated through grants, special events, private contributions, tenant rent, and membership

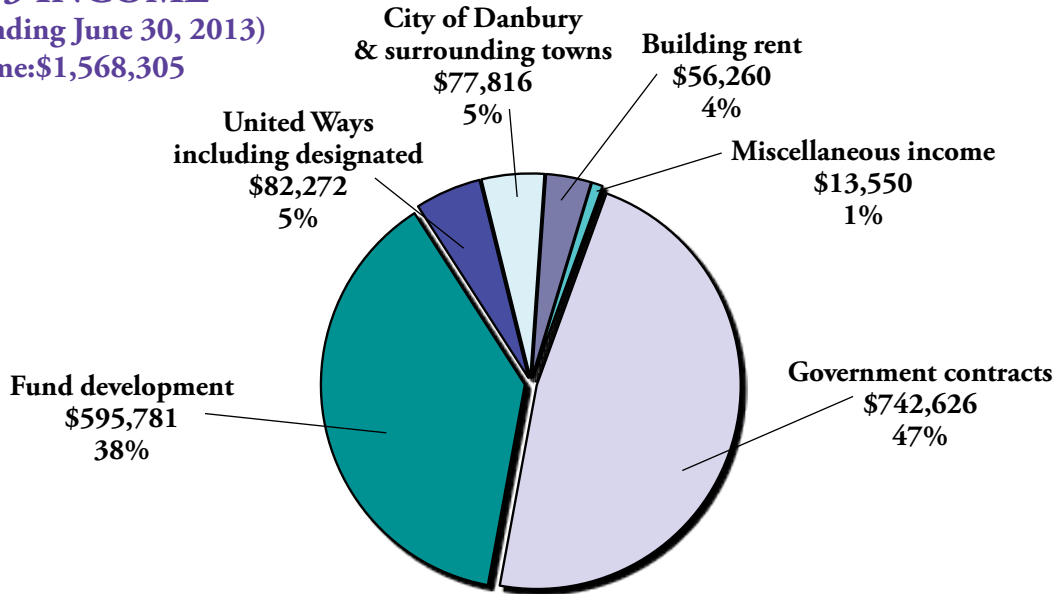


2013 NUMBERS:

WC 2013 INCOME

(for year ending June 30, 2013)

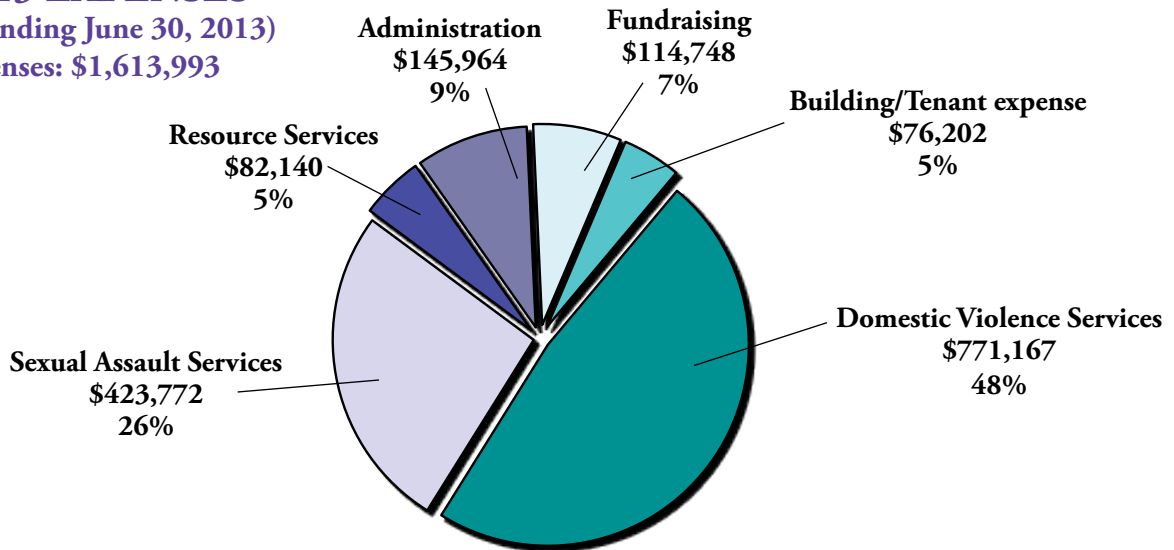
Total income: \$1,568,305



WC 2013 EXPENSES

(for year ending June 30, 2013)

Total expenses: \$1,613,993



➔ Fundraising highlights

- 5th Annual Breakfast at Fox Hill Inn: \$21,017
- 11th Annual "Shelter From the Storm" Gala: \$171,532
- 6th Annual SafeWalk: \$30,396
- Annual Appeal: \$85,953
- 3rd Party Events: \$17,195



WC BOARDS:



➤ Board of Directors

President

Glori Norwitt, Esq., Community Activist

Vice President

Elaine Cox, Community Activist

Treasurer

Nancy Hawley, Chair, Finance Committee,
Town of Bridgewater

Secretary

Mary Anglade, Partner, Starpoint Marketing

Board Members

Tamar Christopher-Hord, Business Owner,
Hord Industries, LLC

Rebecca Ciota, Esq., Private Practice

Barbara Cottingham, Business Owner,
Cottingham Graphic Design

Ryan Doherty, Esq., Corporate Counsel,
GE Capital Corporation

Mark O'Leary, Esq., General Counsel,
Corporate Finance Division, GE Capital

Lynne Phillips, Production Manager, Taunton Press

Karen Ross, Business Owner, Joe's Salon & Spa

Alexa Skalandunas, Director, Client Services at
ConnectedHealth; Principal, Skalan Consulting, LLC

Jeanne Street, Co-owner, Fresh Marie Company;
Reiki Energy Healer

Laura Tashjian, Training & Development Manager,
Newtown Savings Bank

Mary Elizabeth Corso (Emeritus & Founding
Member)

➤ Advisory Council

Co-Chairs

Mark J. Nolan, Partner, Nolan Enterprises

Glori Norwitt, Board President, Women's Center

Council members

Brenda Berta, Community Activist

Lou-Ann Daprato, Senior Loan Officer, Total
Mortgage

Paul P. Dinto, President and CEO,
Paul Dinto Electrical Contractors

Beth Ann Fetzer, Assistant Vice President,
Savings Bank of Danbury

Hillel Goldman, Attorney, Mix & Goldman

Laura Goldstein, Attorney, Collins, Hannafin,
Garamella, Jaber & Tuozzolo

Kathy Graham, Vice President, Fairfield County Bank

Margot Bradley Jacobs, Anthropologist

Barbara R. Manners, Selectman, Town of Ridgefield

Rona Rothhouse, Community Activist

Christopher C. Setaro, Attorney, Ventura,
Ribeiro & Smith

Harold Spratt, Retired

Paul Steinmetz, Interim Associate Vice President of
Institutional Advancement, WCSU

Eileen Walker, Community Activist

Virginia B. Young, Community Activist

Patricia A. Zachman, Executive Director,
Women's Center



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVISM:

Each year, CCADV and CONNSACS, the state coalitions against domestic violence and sexual assault of which we are a member program, identify legislation that impacts our clients. Legislative liaisons from each center, often with the help of phone calls and e-mails from staff and membership, educate our local state legislators on these issues and how proposed legislation or budgetary items can (or, in some instances, cannot) help their constituency – our clients. As a result of this activism, 2013 legislative session successes include (unless otherwise indicated, all laws are effective 10/1/13):

Public Act 13-214: An Act Concerning Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault:

- **Provides for enhanced communication for probation violation:** Previously, probation officers contacted the police and, as of last year, the victim when they suspected violation of probation. With this current legislation, probation must also alert victim advocates (such as our court-based Family Violence Victim Advocates) as long as they have that person's contact information.
- **Extends housing protections to victims of sexual assault:** Victims of sexual assault can terminate their lease early without penalty if relocation is necessary for safety or healing. This accommodation had been granted to victims of domestic violence in a previous session. Thirty day notice to the landlord, however, remains. Examples of when a victim may want to break a lease: assault happened in their apartment or on the property; assailant lives in the complex or in the neighborhood; regardless of where the assault happened or where the perpetrator lives, victim does not want to stay in a place that provides daily reminders of being assaulted.
- **Requires the Chief Court Administrator to provide secure, private courthouse space for victims of family violence and their advocates:** When our Family Violence Victim Advocates (FVVAs) have their own office in the courthouse, the ability of victims to quickly find our advocates is increased; their protection from batterer and/or the abuser's support system intimidation is enhanced since they did not have to share the same public space; the efficiency of our provision of services is increased as we had a secure place to house our computers and files; and our ability to insure privacy and privileged communication as guaranteed by CT General Statutes, VAWA and FVPSA are maximized. Several years ago, our FVVAs lost their office due to lack of space in the courthouse. As of October, our FVVAs have regained their office space.
- **Development of a plan to incorporate financial relief into a restraining order:** Requires the Chief Court Administrator to develop this plan and submit it to the Judicial Committee and Speaker's Task Force on Domestic Violence by 1/15/14. This plan will statutorily allow judges awarding civil restraining orders to require the defendant, if s/he has the legal duty to do so, to temporarily continue payments (and not terminate services for) such things as rent/mortgage, child support, utilities, insurance, car payments; and restrain the defendant from withholding/denying the victim's access to her/his personal property (such as a car) or selling or damaging property to which the victim has equal rights. Ninety eight percent of domestic violence victims suffer some form of financial abuse. Lack of resources often keeps victims in abusive relationships, forces them to return to a batterer, impedes employment or ends in homelessness. Giving the judge the option of adding these financial assurances to restraining orders will address all these dangers.
- **Enhanced gun forfeiture protocols:** Requires the Commissioner of Emergency Services & Public Protection to develop a protocol for the forfeiture of firearms by people who become ineligible to possess a firearm (arrested for domestic violence, subject to an order of protection.) Under current law, firearms must be surrendered to a local police department, State Police or licensed firearm dealer within two business days of becoming ineligible to own a firearm. This requirement begins the process of determining how to monitor and verify that firearms are indeed surrendered. In CT, an average of 8,000 orders of protection are issued every year.

(continued)



- **Training for Guardian Ad Litem (GALS):** Requires the Judicial Branch to establish an ongoing training program for GALs that includes information on the function of the family violence intervention unit and orders of protection. It is critical that professionals who make decisions about children in domestic violence cases have a thorough training grounded in facts so that their recommendations are made in the child's best interest and the victim can perceive systems as being allies. Providing this stipulated training for guardian ad litem is a start in strengthening the GAL system.
- **Assessment of Judicial training programs:** This requires the Chief Court Administrator to assess the domestic violence training currently offered to judges and Judicial Court staff, comparing CT's training programs with those in other northeastern states. Report due 12/31/13.
- **Feasibility study: Eligibility to apply for civil restraining orders for victims of sexual assault stalked by non-family or household members:** Establishes a task force to study changing the law covering domestic violence civil restraining orders to include these victims. 40.8% victims are raped by an acquaintance, 13.8% by a stranger, and 2.5% by a person in authority while 36% of stalking victims are stalked by someone other than a current or former family or household member, and yet none of these victims can apply for a civil restraining order. Report due to the Judiciary Committee by 2/5/14.
- **Other legislation not a part of PA 13-214:**

PA 13-47: An Act Concerning the Sexual Assault of a Person Who is Physically Helpless or Whose Ability to Consent is Substantially Impaired: After many years of advocacy, the statutory definition of "physically helpless" has been expanded to include a wide range of severe physical and developmental disabilities. Previously, the CT Supreme Court ruled that in order to be considered "physically helpless" and unable to consent to sexual contact "a person must be unconscious" or in a state akin to unconsciousness. This change will make it easier to prosecute someone who sexually assaults a person who is conscious but cannot communicate consent/lack of consent due to the severe physical/developmental disability.

HB 6342: An Act Concerning Criminal Penalties for Failure to Report Child Abuse: This law will make it a Class D felony to intentionally interfere with or prevent someone from reporting child abuse; it will also make failure to report child abuse a Class A misdemeanor for mandated reporters. Previously, a mandated reporter's failure to report resulted in a fine and requirement to complete remedial training.



Governor Dannel Malloy speaking at the One Billion Rising rally held at the state capital, February 14, 2013.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

The Women's Center's education team put words into action, providing 762 programs to a total of 21,568 participants from throughout our 13-town service area in FY 2013. Far beyond the numbers, the real value is in the effectiveness of the programming provided as our team worked tirelessly to educate, inspire and motivate our communities to end violence.

During the past year, we implemented our first Boys Group, the kick-off of the "Where Do You Stand?" Campaign, the creation and launch of our teen workshop "He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not" with survivor/thriver/activist Jessica Solomon, and the design and distribution of our new education pamphlets with the most up-to-date information and connection to technology via QR codes. In addition, we offered new and improved puppet shows and Act Out theatre group programs. We were able to hire a part-time male educator who has proven to be an invaluable asset to our team. We also created and filled a volunteer position for an Outreach Coordinator who now organizes all print materials, and schedules and staffs all fair tables and community events. She is responsible for outreach to local organizations, corporations, salons and local businesses, which helped increase our programming to some underserved populations. Our two full-time educators completed five days of intensive training from the Connecticut Department of Education to become state certified School Climate Specialists and training facilitators.



➔ Boys Group Piloted (Primary Prevention)

Our Education Department created and piloted an 8-week boys group, appropriate for middle and high school aged males, consisting of a series of workshops based on primary prevention. Through activities, discussions and games, participants explore prevalent notions of masculinity and their relationships, intervention techniques, resources and support systems. This program helps boys and teens identify their own conflict and communication styles as well as uncover prejudice and sexist beliefs and attitudes they and society hold. They learn techniques for dealing with feelings of anger and aggression, healthy communication and conflict skills, effective methods of intervention, and how to be an "upstander." Our program was piloted in a middle school as a disciplinary option for a group of "repeat offenders." The group met with great success and enthusiasm by school personnel and the boys themselves.

"There has been a noticeable difference in all the boys since the group started. None of them have had behavioral issues and one has been a complete success story."

**—Pam Chapman, Vice Principal,
Bethel Middle School**

➔ Launching the "Where Do You Stand?" Campaign (Primary Prevention)

The Women's Center is participating in a statewide primary prevention initiative to engage men and boys in the movement to end violence, especially men's violence against women. To end the violence, all men need to be actively engaged in addressing the common, accepted, "normal" behaviors, attitudes and beliefs of our society that degrade and dehumanize, norms such as media or systems that blame victims for crimes

(continued)



committed against them, or rigid definitions of masculinity. Every man can work to hold other men accountable through bystander intervention by directly confronting behaviors, engaging in positive peer pressure, role-modeling healthy masculinity, thinking critically, and being an activist.

This program is a proactive approach to stopping violence before it occurs and takes into consideration the complex relationships we have with our world and how that world influences our behaviors. Violence can be prevented, but it takes all genders working together to empower individuals and communities. Our education team completed extensive training on engaging men and boys to bring the program to our communities through school programs, clubs, sports teams, community workshops, and awareness campaigns.

➤ “He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not” —Jessica’s Story

Our Educators teamed with a teen dating violence survivor to create an interactive workshop which utilizes storytelling, victim impact statements, discussion, question and answer periods, and activities to raise awareness and educate pre-teens, teens and adults about dating violence. The program was presented to large audiences in an assembly and also to small intimate groups of teens and adults. An important aspect of the program proved to be the creation and/or growth of empathy in the male members of the audience. Many students talked about cultural and familial attitudes toward women and how that may have contributed to Jessica’s abuse.



“I am amazed how quiet the kids were. For a group of 200 rowdy 8th graders about to graduate this week to sit so quietly that you could hear a pin drop was really amazing. They really listened.”

—Teacher, Rogers Park Middle School

➤ Puppet Shows

Our Educators created a new and improved version of our anti-bullying puppet show entitled “Respect.” The show incorporates techniques for dealing with anger, frustration and sadness, as well as actors dressed as the puppets (after the puppets have exited) and our new song “Choose Respect,” which has actions to go with each sentence of the song. The song reinforces the lessons learned in the puppet show regarding treating others with respect, care and kindness and thinking before we take action or speak. The children have been mesmerized by the program and we have received excellent feedback from teachers, parents and administrators.



“I am writing to express gratitude for the wonderful presentation put on by the Women’s Center. Kelly and her team did a wonderful job making the information about kindness and respect both fun and accessible to the children. The kids gave rave reviews about the puppet show in particular.”

—Social Worker, Berry Elementary School



(continued)

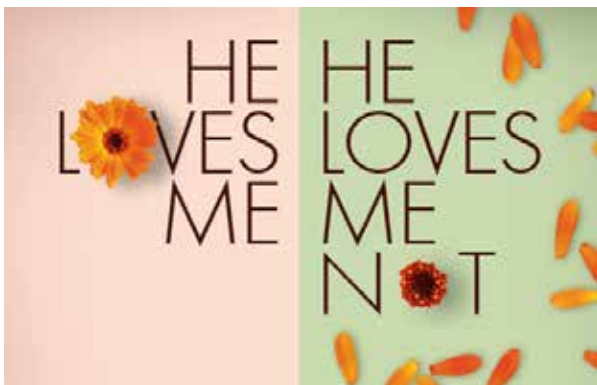


➤ Workshops, Parent University, Community Programs

During the year, our Educators provided a wide range of programs throughout the community such as one for the Girl Scouts on Healthy Relationships, Teen Dating Violence and Bullying. A quote from one of the organizers and attendees of the event:

I want you to know my best friend was there tonight with her 13 year old daughter. Her daughter has been bullied at school. She is a very naïve girl and I know she has been changing who she is to be accepted. She has been dealing with this for 3 years. My friend called me and told me that she and her daughter talked afterward, in the car and when they got home...about you and what you said today, and a light bulb went off for her today. She really heard what you said, and I am so glad. She is a sweet girl, only wants to be accepted, but now I think she is maybe on the road to realizing she needs to love herself a little more. This means so much to me, as both she and I were bullied in high school and taken advantage of by boys...so it's something that is close to my heart.

Staff also participated in numerous Parent University workshops throughout our school districts such as one in New Milford where they provided Cybersafety for Parents and Protecting Your Child from Predators, which were both well attended and very well received.



“Thank you for doing this. I thought I knew what to look for, but I learned a lot and I’m going to talk to my family and friends about this.”

—Workshop attendee and mother

“Every parent should be at this workshop.”

—Workshop attendee and father

MEN'S INITIATIVE:

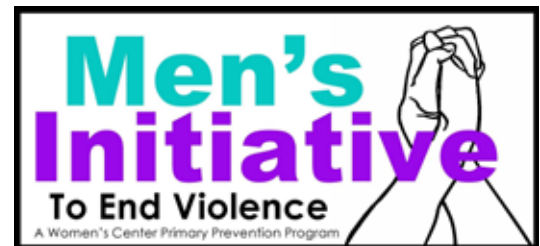


2013 SafeWalk
“Men in the
Movement”
honorees

The Men's Initiative (MI) is a volunteer program of the Women's Center providing men and male youth with opportunities to be allies in the movement to end interpersonal violence by becoming cultural change agents promoting healthy definitions of masculinity and gender equality.

This year, a small but energetic group of men continued to define and advance this work.

For the past three years, CCADV has recognized men from across the state who have worked to end domestic and sexual violence as allies in our movement. This year, three men from our community, two members of our MI, received CCADV's First 100+ Award. We hope the public recognition of their efforts will inspire other men to become part of the movement.



Kyle Pinto: In his two years as a staff community educator, Kyle transformed our MI from a paper initiative to a visible community volunteer program. He also created the first edition of our “I Stand With You” photo campaign, a poster exhibit wherein the names and faces of men from all backgrounds give visibility to their local voices for anti-violence change. With the same energy, Kyle organized our first MI campus event – “Walk A Mile In Her Shoes” – and developed a nine-week primary prevention curriculum, One Man Up, to give young men the tools to promote healthy constructs of masculinity, practice bystander intervention and enact social change, which was piloted at WCSU and presented at the first International White Ribbon Campaign's conference in Sydney, Australia.

Shaun McDonough: Shaun has been a committed member of our MI for the past two years. He has been active not only on the WCSU campus, where he is a Resident Director, but also was tasked with developing outreach to men in our surrounding communities. In that capacity, Shaun proposed, created and serves as primary (and virtually sole) administrator of our MI Facebook page. Shaun posts stimulating, thought-provoking and cutting edge ideas and links derived from his very diverse interests in social justice.

Chief Alan Baker: Since his first days at the Danbury Police Department, Chief Baker has been an enthusiastic proponent for collaboration between his department and the Women's Center. Efforts he has supported and spearheaded – from implementation of the station-based VALE victim advocate program to participation in the Lethality Assessment Program for immediate linking of victims at high risk of homicide to our counselors when responding to domestic violence calls – have been instrumental in increasing the safety of domestic violence victims and the accountability of abusers.

To learn more, contact
Program Manager of Education & Outreach,
Kelly Mullins, 203.731.5200 ext. 233
or visit its Facebook page.



YOUNG MEN'S INITIATIVE:

➔ Our Middle School component of the Men's Initiative

The majority of students have witnessed bullying or harassment, or have been victims themselves. Our Goal: increase the visibility of those students who believe that violence against anyone is unacceptable.



Through a seven-week certification program, students will learn and practice multiple techniques of bystander intervention. We will be exploring multiple ways to help students be positive peer leaders and role models in their school. We will also practice healthy and safe ways they can intervene in negative situations.

For example, students learn to:

- Report to a teacher or adult about the situation
- Resist the pressure to participate in a negative group situation
- Feel comfortable telling others they do not approve of negative remarks
- Challenge negative comments and messages with healthy, positive intervention skills
- Indirectly intervene in negative situations. You do not need to “get involved” to deter a situation.



Launched in 2013:

➔ Piloted “Boys Group” Program

Eight-week groups for middle and high school aged males consisting of a series of workshops based on Primary Prevention; through activities, discussion and games, participants explore prevalent notions of masculinity and their relationship to violence, healthy communication and healthy relationships, intervention techniques, resources, and support systems.

➔ Created “Men’s Initiative” Facebook page

At <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mens-Initiative-Womens-Center-of-Greater-Danbury/287396258009281?fref=ts>

➔ Held VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) “Restoring Our Rights” rally

Rally in November to support renewal of the vital federal legislation.

➔ Upped the Green

More electronic communications, some exclusive; energy audit conducted and LED lighting installed throughout 2 West Street administrative building; single stream recycling implemented at 2 West Street and Elizabeth House.

➔ Participation in “Where Do You Stand?” Campaign

A statewide Primary Prevention initiative to engage men and boys in the movement to end violence, especially men’s violence against women. The campaign, which was created by the nationally renowned organization Men Can Stop Rape, uses a variety of media, materials, displays, and trainings to raise awareness and empower male bystanders to intervene in common everyday situations, as well as in potentially dangerous or violent situations.



“At 3:00 a.m. the phone gets answered. I feel bad thinking I am waking someone from their sleep, but the voice on the other end of the phone says kindly ‘how may I help you?’ and instantly my concern for calling dissipates. We talked for 20 minutes about what I was experiencing and with each passing minute I felt calmer. The voice validated my feelings. As we ended the call I apologized for calling so early in the morning – the voice told me ‘that’s what we are here for and you can call us anytime’ and knowing that, I felt safer than I did before.”

—excerpted from a sexual assault hotline call

New for 2014:

- **Implement new Lethality Assessment Program (LAP):** a proactive first responder instrument and protocol to help officers at the scene of an intimate partner violence call identify victims who are at greatest risk of being killed by their abusers, get them out of harm's way, and put them in immediate contact with a domestic violence counselor for direct services. The Women's Center will begin using the LAP with the Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, Redding, Ridgefield, State Trooper A (towns of New Fairfield and Sherman), and WCSU police departments.
- **Implement new Efforts to Outcomes (ETO):** Impact software solution in conjunction with CCADV – the program is designed to help measure the incremental progress of participants, understand the effectiveness of programs, and demonstrate impact to funders and key stakeholders quickly and easily. ETO Impact affords counselor/advocates and administrators time saving abilities to share participant information, referrals and other crucial resources among programs and even across community partnerships to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.
- **Expanding Social Media:** follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WCofGD> .
- **Offer new "Girls Circle" Groups on Friendship:** Eight-week sessions for middle and high school aged girls; topics will include being your own friend first, celebrating differences and similarities, and feuds, followers and fairness.
- **Offer new "Women . . . Empowerment Through Struggles & Perseverance" Monthly Workshop Series** with WCSU professor Dr. Darla Shaw.
- **Implement new Men's Initiative "I Stand With You" campaign:** The Men's Initiative to End Violence will launch an exciting new social media photo campaign called "I Stand With You." People can download a MI logo and I Stand With You photo sheet and then write why they unite with us against violence, take a picture holding the sign and post it to the MI facebook page. This campaign is designed to raise awareness and inspire men to action as well as to promote the Men's Initiative.

➔ **Please save these dates**

- **6th Annual "Hearts of Hope" Breakfast February 5, 2014**
- **12th Annual "Shelter From the Storm" Gala April 4, 2014**
- **8th Annual "SafeWalk" October 5, 2014**



We're here to talk about it.

2 West Street, Danbury, Connecticut 06810
Phone: 203-731-5200
Fax: 203-731-5207

Sexual Assault Hotline: 203-731-5204
Domestic Violence Hotline: 203-731-5206
www.wcogd.org

We would like to keep you informed of our work & events, and would like to send you information via email (which greatly helps reduce our costs!). If you would like to receive emails from us, or if you've recently changed your email address, please let us know! Send your full name & email address to: womenscenter@wcogd.org. Thank you!