The Center for Empowerment and Education

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
From the Desk of Our President & CEO

It is with great pride that I share with you some of the many achievements from our 46th year of continuous service to adults and children from throughout our 13-town service area communities. Despite the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic continued to pose, The Center never faltered in its role as the recognized expert and sole provider of domestic violence and sexual assault survivor services. Our strongly committed team of dedicated staff, direct service and board of director volunteers continued the provision of high quality, professional services for all who turned to us for help, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, both in person and virtually. We are pleased to provide this report highlighting some of our many 2021 accomplishments.

New Name, New Look, New Building!

We are so excited to share we have a new name and logo thanks to the hard work of our Rebranding Committee. For many years, we have wanted to choose a name that was more inclusive to everyone we serve each and every day and better reflects all of the many services that we provide. This was not an easy task! Working with an outside consultant group, and after several rounds of suggestions, we were able to come to a unanimous decision to rebrand ourselves as The Center for Empowerment & Education dba The Center! Our new logo and colors are fresh and crisp and we believe will have wide appeal. We are also thrilled to announce that construction on our new Residential Facility for adults and children in transition due to domestic violence and sexual assault has been completed!

Our beautiful new 20-bed facility became fully operational in late Fall of 2021. We are so very grateful to the many people who so generously contributed to our Speaking Up Speaking Out Campaign, were involved with, and worked on the project! It has truly been a labor of love by so many and we are so proud of our beautiful new building!

Over 36,000 Clients

During the past fiscal year, a total of 36,684 men, women and children were the recipients of our confidential services provided at no cost through our Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Resource Services programs. Specially trained and certified direct service staff and volunteers provided the critically needed intervention, support, and counseling to adults and children in person, via the hotlines and virtually while our Education, Training and Outreach staff members offered our comprehensive primary prevention and education programs to a wide range of audiences both traditionally and utilizing social media platforms.

Saving Lives

Elizabeth House, our emergency shelter for adults and children fleeing from the danger of violence in their own homes, offered the safety and support needed in their time of crisis. During their stay, shelter residents received crisis counseling, advocacy and assistance with rebuilding their lives and planning a future that is free of violence. Residential staff continued to provide on-site support and services throughout the pandemic, ensuring that every resident’s needs were met. Our Rapid Rehousing Program continued to provide help to individuals or families living at risk of homelessness due to fleeing from abuse and moved them quickly into permanent housing, helping them to achieve independence and stability.

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 Center continued to participate in the statewide Lethality Assessment Program, formally partnering with our local police departments to ensure victims who are identified as high risk at the scene of domestic violence police calls, receive immediate, on-site telephone connection with one of our specialized counselor advocates.

Risk Reduction and Prevention

Our Education, Training and Outreach staff members provided critical primary prevention and education programming for ages pre-school through senior citizens. Our popular Healthy Relationships program for area high schools and our age-appropriate children’s programs and puppet shows remained in high demand and sought after by many new schools and organizations. As part of our overall goal to “end the violence,” these programs strive to arm young people with awareness, knowledge and strategies for recognizing and encountering abusive behaviors, including bullying, improper touching, unhealthy relationships and internet predators. It is our mission to help eradicate violence, in as many ways possible, so that all people can live safe, productive and connected lives.

Trainings for area police, legal, medical and other professionals gave us the opportunity to ensure that anyone dealing with survivors have the most up to date information about, and sensitivity to, domestic violence and sexual assault issues. Our Education team continued to find creative ways to provide our information despite the pandemic, and thanks to the virtual programming, were able to reach the most amount of people ever!

Dedicated Team of Volunteers

The support provided by our dedicated volunteer team enables The Center to reach the many people we do. Upon completion of our extensive certification, as well as additional and on-going training, our direct service volunteers serve as hotline counselors, support group facilitators, speakers bureau participants, court advocates, and advocates. Our board volunteers continued to provide countless hours of service via committee work,
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 work to END VIOLENCE
Our three major programs:
- Domestic Violence Services
- Sexual Assault Services
- Resource Services

What we provide:
- Crisis intervention, including a Lethality Assessment Program and two 24/7 hotlines with on-site response to area hospitals and police departments
- Emergency residential facility for adults and children fleeing from violence in their homes
- Individual counseling, support groups and workshops
- Individual and system advocacy
- Primary prevention, education and professional training programs for preschool through senior citizens
- Information and referral services

Where we provide it:
- At our main office at 2 West Street in Danbury, Connecticut
- At Elizabeth House, our 13-bed confidentially located residential facility
- At Danbury Superior Court
- At Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) campus
- Virtually

Thank you to all who are a part of our 46-year legacy. It is because of you, giving so generously of your time, talent and financial support, that we remain committed to our efforts of “working to end the violence”.

With gratitude,

Patricia A. Zachman, M.Ed.
President & CEO
The Women’s Center of Greater Danbury has been renamed The Center for Empowerment and Education. The new name is accompanied by a new brand identity that better reflects The Center’s commitment to saving and rebuilding lives and building stronger communities. Communities served by The Center are Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, and Washington.

Eric J. Eggan, Chair of The Center’s Board of Directors, stated, “The Center is at an important stage of growth and expansion, with a new facility for women and children in transition to open soon, that will provide support to even more people in crisis. The rebrand reflects the inclusivity of our mission and services that improve lives, strengthen families, and prevent violence through education. At this important juncture, we are excited to launch our new identity which represents the energy and compassion of our staff and our steadfast commitment to the individuals and families we serve.”

In describing the importance of the rebrand, Pat Zachman, President & CEO of The Center, added, “The new name is vital to underscore that we serve everyone in need of support, including women, men, and children. After 46 years of growth that addressed the changing needs of the individuals we serve, this new identity direction expresses our commitment to a wide geographic area and greatly diversified programs and services.”

The words “empowerment” and “education” are the two key pillars that guide everything The Center does to end violence in the 13-community service area. Beyond offering emergency and transitional shelter for individuals in crisis, The Center also provides crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, education and referral services.
We are thrilled to share that a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 5th, 2021 to celebrate the grand opening of our beautiful new facility for women and children seeking resources and assistance while transitioning from instances of either domestic violence or sexual assault. Attendees included our local legislators, the planning, design and construction teams, as well as The Center’s Board members and leadership. All were offered tours and learned how the new facility will better serve adults and children with multi-faceted programming.

Following a successful multi-year fundraising campaign entitled “Speaking Up Speaking Out Enrichment Campaign,” chaired by Vice-Chair of our Board of Directors and Chair of our Development Committee, Elaine Cox, and her husband Kevin, The Center has completed a new residential facility that will better and more efficiently serve the individuals and families for whom they provide safe and secure housing.

“Today’s event celebrates the completion of the new facility, an effort made possible by a very strong partnership with the City of Danbury and an especially supportive donor community. We are both amazed and grateful for the generosity of individuals, families, private foundations, and many wonderful local businesses who have supported our mission to provide prevention, crisis intervention, and support services to those in need,” said Elaine Cox at the event.

The Center’s new residential facility features nearly a three-acre campus that offers an ADA compliant safe housing option as well as a walking path and playground for children. The new facility has been named “Patricia House” in honor of Patricia Zachman, who has served as the organization’s President & CEO for nearly 30 years. “I am deeply honored and humbled to have this beautiful new facility named after me. It has been a dream for so long and know it will be a safe and empowering place for the adults and children in our care for many years to come,” said Zachman.

For 46 years, The Center has been speaking up and speaking out to raise awareness about non-violence, safety, and respect in our 13-town community. The Center helps save and rebuild lives and fosters safer communities through crisis intervention, shelter, counseling, advocacy and education. Confidential services are provided at no cost 24/7/365 through their Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotlines, and Resource Services programs. This year alone, The Center has reached more than 36,000 individuals.
Accomplished in 2021

**Virtual SafeWalk**

Although our SafeWalk was virtual, our cause remained the same; to unite the community in working to End the Violence. Participants walked, ran, hiked, and creatively moved their way to a 4k over a beautiful and crisp October weekend. We loved seeing all the smiles and SafeWalk swag in the photos that were sent in from all over, including New York City, Boston, and more! These efforts helped us to raise essential funds to support our services.

**Impact of COVID**

During the pandemic, The Center shelter residents spent more time indoors due to quarantine guidelines, lack of work, and online schooling. Residential managers spearheaded an initiative to make The Center’s residential facility more comfortable and accessible during this challenging time. Staff supported the families and reorganized the house so that it was better equipped and functional to support children and their parents. Children were able to set up their chrome books in the new resource room while parents were able to complete other tasks in separate common areas. This change created more space and made this time easier for everyone.

**Easter Basket Donations**

Counselor Advocates collaborated with Champ’s Gym who donated more than 20 Easter baskets to The Center’s child clients. The baskets consisted of Play-Doh, crayons, coloring books, candy, and more.

**EMDR & G-TEP**

The Center’s counselors who are trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) have been increasing their usage of this specific modality for trauma. The counselors are continually receiving phone calls with requests for EMDR. EMDR is becoming a widely used and a well-known modality to help with the effects of trauma. The Center remains committed to continue to bring this modality to underserved populations.

Counselor Advocates are also trained in Group Trauma Episode Protocol (G-Tep) which aims to target recent traumatic events in a group setting. By being trained in this modality, Counselors are now able to provide sessions to clients in support groups and during workshop sessions.

**Staff Training**

Advocates had the opportunity to attend a training offered through the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence and the Victim Rights Center of Connecticut. The training informed staff about advocating for immigrant survivors of sexual and domestic violence during COVID-19 and also provided advocates with information about the different immigrant options for survivors depending on the type of crime committed. The information that was provided during this training is very important when working with immigrant survivors. As advocates located in Danbury where there is a large immigration population, this training provided staff with new and enhanced knowledge in specialized areas.
**SAAM Book Drive**

The Child Counselor Advocates held a Book Drive for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The purpose of this book drive was to provide additional resources to the families served by The Center. Counselors identified six different children and adolescent books that focus on consent and body boundaries. In total, The Center had more than 80 books donated and the Child Counselor Advocates provided 30 families with these books. The Book Drive enabled parents to continue the conversation with their children at home about consent and how to continue to keep their bodies safe.

**Bitmoji Room**

The Child Counselor Advocates continued to expand on their E-Counseling Bitmoji room. They created a Bitmoji room that was focused on Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month for the month of February. The E-Counseling room consists of resources, interactive links, and book recommendations for teens who may find themselves in an unhealthy relationship. The Bitmoji room educates teens and parents about the topic of teen dating violence, which affects millions of adolescents every year. The limited-edition E-Counseling room provides a way for adolescents to interact virtually and learn information regarding this topic.

**Danbury Superior Court during COVID**

Covid-19 impacted the judicial system across the state as many courts merged after the pandemic caused them to shut down. Danbury Superior Court was closed for several months, and once it reopened, some changes were experienced there as well. Non-emergency family matters were scheduled for remote hearings rather than in person, causing challenges for many of our clients who did not have access to the necessary technology. There were also clients still living with their abusers and others who lived in confined spaces with their children, making it extremely difficult for them to attend their scheduled remote hearings. To alleviate the situation, The Center created designated office space at our main office for use by these clients.

Despite the challenges, remote hearings created a safer environment for many of our clients, as they did not have to be in the same room with someone that they were afraid of or who intimidated them. Survivors were also able to file for temporary restraining orders remotely. For those in danger and unable to go to court, the change enabled them to work with our advocates and file their application online. Many of the new systems created will remain in place beyond the pandemic. Our Court Advocates have and will continue to work hard to ensure that these judicial changes keep the safety of survivors in mind, and find creative ways to maximize resources and access to the court system.

**Working Together**

There has been an increase in collaboration of law enforcement and victim advocates working together to help with victims and their families at the police department during a criminal investigation. Many victims reported that having the support of an advocate makes the process much easier and more comfortable. Officers are also finding it very helpful to have multilingual advocates support, assist and translate. The collaboration not only helps police officers but also provides a more victim-centered approach for victims and their family members.
Hospital Response Team

The Center has a hospital response team. Every time a victim has a sexual assault kit completed, a member from our specialized team is contacted to support and accompany that person during the process. Here are some of our staff members during a meeting discussing trauma-informed approaches when working with sexual assault victims.

Support Groups & Workshops

Since the start of the pandemic, The Center’s support group attendance has remained at a 25% increase from years prior. As a result, Adult Counselor Advocates are now providing “support group training” to interns and volunteers in order to enhance the number of co-facilitators needed to run these various groups. Based on this success, the staff at The Center continue to work hard on creating new ideas for both in-person and virtual support groups.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

In light of the Black Lives Matter movement, The Center formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC). The Center’s DEIC is comprised of staff and volunteers from various departments across the organization. The DEIC’s mission is to address the intersection of all forms of oppression within anti-violence work by implementing a thoughtful, iterative process of research, allyship, centering the marginalized, and practices of inclusion. Within the DEIC, members are assigned to teams that address various facets of the work: communications; marketing and educational materials; a staff liaison; outreach and community building; special projects; and more. Our DEIC leads an internal book club, hosts movie viewing parties and other special events as a means to encourage dialogue about diversity and inclusion in our everyday lives.

Special Victims Unit

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), we thanked Detective Roger Hancock (pictured left) and Detective Ralph Anderson (pictured right), as well as the entire Danbury Police Department’s Special Victims Unit (SVU) for their partnership and hard work in fighting sexual assault crimes against adults and children in our community.

Holiday Program Success

The Center’s Holiday Program kept staff busy answering the phones and grateful to volunteers who helped make the program so successful. In total, The Center served 124 families (352 individuals including children) with contributions from more than 100 donors. The Center’s Thanksgiving gift card program was also a huge success! With the community’s support, The Center was able to serve 146 families with Thanksgiving dinners during a pandemic, when many families were struggling more than ever.
Support Groups & Workshops

SOAR
For female victims of domestic violence
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm

VOICES OF COURAGE
For male survivors of sexual assault or abuse.
Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm

THRIVE
For women with relationship issues or past traumas
Mondays, 11:00am-12:30pm &
Tuesdays, 4:00pm-5:30pm

BREAKING THE SILENCE
For female survivors of sexual assault or abuse
Mondays, 5:00-6:30pm

WRITING WORKSHOP
Promote & explore healing through journaling

FAITH & CULTURAL BASED SUPPORT
Focus on support & strength within our faiths and
our cultures

IN THE MIDDLE
For middle school aged kids experiencing parental
separation and divorce

GUYS GROUP
For men who’ve experienced unhealthy
relationships or abuse
Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00pm

PORTUGUESE SELF-ESTEEM GROUP
Promote self-confidence and self-worth
Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm

ATTORNEY CONSULTS
Provide legal advice and assistance

GIRL TALK
8-week support group for female-identifying college
students. Topics include relationships, sexuality,
body image and self-esteem

HOPE & HEALING
8-week support group for college students of
all identities who have experience dating abuse,
domestic violence or sexual assault

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2021 Program Stats

HELPING FAMILIES
✓ 146 individuals and their children enjoyed baskets
filled with food during Thanksgiving
✓ 352 clients enjoyed an abundance of gifts through our
Holiday Giving Program
✓ 35 youth clients received backpack and school supplies
for the beginning of the school year
✓ 20+ Easter baskets for children filled with Play-Doh,
crayons, coloring books, and candy

CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS
✓ A total of 1,359 children and adolescents received direct
services that included counseling, advocacy and support
groups

CRISIS RESPONSE
✓ Hotline & Crisis Calls – 2,715 calls that required
immediate crisis response and intervention
✓ More than 50 families were accompanied during Multi-
Disciplinary Investigations for suspected child abuse
and neglect cases
✓ 103 victims were assisted in hospital and medical
emergency calls

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (LAP)
✓ 514 LAP screens were conducted by law enforcement in
partnership with The Center
✓ 246 LAP screens were identified as high danger based
on victims’ responses
✓ 204 LAP identified victims continued services with The Center
✓ 678 victims were accompanied to and provided with
support at local police departments to report and
follow up on crimes

IMMIGRATION, INTERPRETER & TRANSLATION SERVICES
✓ 241 individuals and their families were assisted with legal
immigration referrals, support and advocacy
✓ 693 clients were supported by using bilingual staff and
translators

HOUSING ASSISTANCE
✓ 74 individuals fleeing from abuse were housed
independently by The Center’s Housing Assistance Program
✓ 39 individuals were successfully housed through Rapid
Rehousing which includes a total of 12 adults and
27 children
✓ 183 individuals transported, relocated and/or sheltered
to/in undisclosed locations

ELIZABETH HOUSE
✓ 38 individuals fleeing from abuse sheltered, 21 women and
17 children at 50% capacity during COVID

SUPPORT GROUPS & WORKSHOPS
✓ 1,982 individuals participated
It is part of our mission to help eradicate violence in as many ways as possible. Our Education, Training, and Outreach department operates from a primary prevention standpoint, knowing that education and awareness of our issues can prevent or reduce violence in our communities.

Our prevention education programs aim to affect children’s behavior over the trajectory of their school years, beginning in Pre-K or kindergarten, and extending over multiple years of students’ academic careers. Programs are age appropriate, corresponding to behaviors and situations that commonly arise at predicted points of students’ growth and experience. Our goal is to provide multi-tiered programming for students, so that prevention education programs are ongoing throughout the academic year. We focus our education efforts on younger populations where the greatest opportunity exists to prevent a child from developing a vulnerability of becoming either a victim or perpetrator of abuse, as well as providing education to teachers and parents, so they can reinforce concepts and help build protective factors in children. All local and regional school districts in Connecticut are required to implement sexual assault awareness and prevention programs in grades kindergarten through twelve, as per Section 17a-101q of the Connecticut General Statutes. All of our K-12 programs align with state guidelines to provide full compliance with the state mandate.

The need and demand for our education and training programs has increased exponentially, particularly as the state has not provided any budget for implementation of this mandate. 2020/2021 turned out to be our biggest year yet, in terms of program numbers and participants. Most of our education programs remained virtual, which helped increase our reach within the community. We adapted to many different teaching environments, including teaching outside. Our totals for the entire year were - 657 unique programs with 32,049 participants. COVID made our numbers dip quite a bit, but we came back stronger than ever! Virtual programming has allowed us to facilitate fewer programs while reaching more people than ever. We had an 11.3% increase in participants from our previous most successful year (2018/2019).

We also provide trainings to community professionals to ensure that systems and institutions are adequately addressing the issues of domestic and sexual violence. These trainings aim to give professionals the skills to combat these issues in their daily practice. Additionally, we offer education programs for adults, seniors and special populations.

By the Numbers

32,049 PARTICIPANTS

657 CLASSROOMS

5 EDUCATORS

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<th>AGE BREAKDOWN</th>
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<td>3,058 AGE 45-59</td>
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Group training at Sphere in Ridgefield, CT

Group youth training at Candlewood Lake Club
On the Move
This year our department remained as strong as ever. For most of our department’s history our educators all operated out of one room on the second floor of our headquarters. Our department has simply grown too big for one room. In June, a new training center was created from newly unoccupied space on the opposite side of the second floor of our main office. This new training center consists of one large training room to hold large group trainings in person as well as individual offices for each educator. This new space will allow us to hold more trainings on site as well as accommodate larger group meetings as well. Each educator having their own space now allows multiple virtual education programs to happen simultaneously without interruptions.

Social Media
The education department took to social media to provide education content to all ages and reach those who we wouldn’t normally reach in workshop settings. Our education content on YouTube expanded to 75+ videos addressing a wide range of topics, from Care and Kindness for younger viewers to Sexual Violence and Consent for older audiences. We partnered with The Brookfield Library and The Sherman Library this year to livestream some of our workshops to their patrons via YouTube as well.

This year we continued our weekly ‘Education Corner’ on our Facebook and Instagram Accounts. Providing short educational videos on our topics throughout the year. We also returned to our ‘Lunchtime Learn’ series, bringing together a panel of educators for a series of DV & SV related discussions. Currently our social media accounts have 4,000+ followers across all accounts.

We took advantage of social media during our awareness months. During DVAM, our SafeWalk went entirely virtual, we conducted specialty DVAM focused education programs and posted each and every day some sort of educational content. During SAAM we were able to hold a handful of events virtually, including a ‘Cocktails and Consent’ program educating on consent and alcohol. We also live streamed a concert from local folk duo Noelle & Tyler and had a live streaming yoga class from local teacher Jenny Schuck.

Feedback from our Youth
578 students who attended our Healthy Relationships/Dating Violence Program and Got Consent? Addressing Sexual Violence program filled out program evaluations. Through these evaluations, we are able to gather feedback, and test students’ knowledge of concepts just taught, and allow them to apply those skills and concepts to real-life scenarios.

After our K-12 programs:

- 94.6% of students indicated that they know more about teen dating violence because of our program.
- 97.9% of students indicated that they know more about sexual violence because of our program.
- 97.7% of students indicated that they know more about the different forms of abuse because of our program.
- 95.6% of students were able to correctly identify red flags in a relationship.
- 97.7% of students were able to correctly identify two characteristics of healthy relationships.
- 99% of students know when someone cannot consent to sexual activity.

Are these programs relevant to today’s youth? Yes!

- 19% of students identified being in an unhealthy relationship.
- 65% of students know someone in an unhealthy relationship.
- 34% of students know someone who has been sexually assaulted.
- 87% of students indicated that in the future, they would feel comfortable giving/getting consent before an intimate encounter.

These numbers illustrate that these are important and relevant conversations to be having with youth in our catchment area. Youth are experiencing and being impacted by dating violence and sexual assault.

“I wanted to take the time to thank you for all your help this school year with our students. It was not easy navigating COVID and school closing!! The Zooms worked out as did the topics. Your kindness and compassion is evident in every lesson with our kids. I am looking forward to the new school year.”

- Fran Peters, Bethel Transitional Program
The Center continued to provide critical services to the college population both remotely and in person. Our campus staff facilitated education programs and trainings, hosted virtual awareness events, conducted virtual outreach initiatives including our new initiative REAL Talk, and provided both individual and group counseling as well as advocacy services.

Due to the global pandemic, campus closures impacted our ability to provide our much needed services, but we were able to quickly adapt and continue to meet the needs of the students we serve. We shifted to virtual counseling and advocacy services when necessary and were able to conduct our long-standing support group Girl Talk virtually both in the Fall and the Spring semesters. We worked closely with the Title IX Coordinator, WCSU Police Department and Director of Judicial Affairs to ensure students making reports were still able to connect to and receive our services.

**Department Highlights**

In order to continue our awareness efforts on campus, our staff modified our in-person events to become virtual/remote awareness events, featuring our “Love Better” Instagram Live discussion with Carolina Grijalba-Rodriguez, LCSW from Center for Safer Communities, Jeopardy! with The Center for Empowerment and Education-themed questions with the WCSU Library and Programs and Activities Council, Movie and Paint Night with WCSU Black Student Union, Clothesline Project with Housing and Residence Life, and more.

REAL Talk is a video series that our campus staff created in Fall 2020 as a means to reach college students virtually in a meaningful way. REAL Talk is a space where our campus advocates and guests discuss relationships, empathy, advocacy and life. Some topics covered in the episodes included: how to support a dating partner who has experienced trauma, how race intersects with interpersonal violence, navigating break-ups, intimacy after trauma, the myth of the “friend-zone” and so much more. The intention of REAL Talk was to address relevant but heavy topics in an approachable and digestible way. Clients shared feedback that the REAL Talk videos helped them discuss personal topics with peers and family and also made them feel seen and validated.

Next year, our goal will be to expand our capacity to provide our critically needed counseling and advocacy services and prevention education, training, awareness and outreach programs and initiatives on campus.

**What WeMeasured**

- **3,415 Students Reached Through Campus Education, Training & Outreach**
- **100% Would Recommend The Center's Education Programs to A Peer**
- **79% Of Education Participants Know Someone Who Has Experienced A Form Of Interpersonal Violence.**
- **491 Direct Service Contacts**
  - Direct service contacts are defined as crisis intervention, counseling, civil legal, criminal justice, hospital/medical, information/referral, safety planning, victim advocacy, and other services.
- **39% Of Education Participants Have Experienced A Form Of Interpersonal Violence.**
Department Transitions

After 5 years at The Center, **Cara Mackler** began her new role as Director of Campus Services. Cara joined The Center as a Prevention Educator in 2016, and transitioned to Manager of Campus Education, Training & Outreach in 2019. Cara shares, “I am thrilled to take on this new role on campus and am beyond grateful for the support of Pat, the management team and everyone at The Center, and also the wonderful staff at WCSU.” With this transition, the campus department will be able to expand its programming and direct services.

**Rachel Krehel** joined The Center as our Campus Counselor/Advocate last summer. She is a recent graduate of WCSU, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Social Work. She was involved on campus as the Vice President of the Social Work Club and currently volunteers at Parent Connection in Newtown to provide support to parents, guardians, friends, and family members that are affected by their loved one’s substance use/abuse.

Previously, Rachel worked at Triangle Community Center (TCC) in Norwalk, Connecticut as an intern. At TCC, she provided case management services, developed a curriculum/co-facilitated the Autism and Anxiety support group, was involved in the young adult programming, food drives, and collected resources to support the LGBTQ+ community.

Rachel is thrilled to be back on campus working with the student population and has a passion for advocating for all individuals who may need assistance in navigating difficult life challenges and experiences.

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**Save the Dates!**

**14th Hearts of Hope Breakfast**
February 23, 2022

**“An Evening Together”**
19th Annual Dinner
June 17, 2022

**Annual SafeWalk**
September 29 - October 2, 2022

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**Donate Crypto**

The Center is now accepting Cryptocurrency to help end the violence. Cryptocurrency is a digital currency that can be used to buy goods and services, plus donate! We have partnered with The Giving Block and Gemini so you can securely make your contribution. Reasons to donate cryptocurrency include:

- Bitcoin and cryptocurrency donations are tax deductible. This is similar to if you were to donate stock.

- Because the IRS treats cryptocurrency as property, there is a huge tax incentive to donate Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies directly to The Center as you will not be liable for capital gains tax and can be written off on your taxes.

- Donating cryptocurrency is easier than entering a credit card by using the widget found on our website or by using the QR code below.

We are happy to expand our giving options and are grateful to have added another tool to our fundraising toolkit!

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Cara Mackler teaching a virtual program on Healthy Relationships & Dating Abuse with Newbury Hall residents.

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Scan me to donate crypto!
The Center | FYE 2021
(For year ending June 30, 2021)

Fund Development
$1,228,216
39%

Building/Rent
$28,380
1%

Government Contracts
$1,306,799
41%

Miscellaneous Income
$336,799
11%

Bonding
$178,541
6%

City of Danbury & Surrounding Towns
$62,500
2%

Fund Development
$1,228,216
39%

Building/Rent
$28,380
1%

Government Contracts
$1,306,799
41%

Miscellaneous Income
$336,799
11%

Bonding
$178,541
6%

City of Danbury & Surrounding Towns
$62,500
2%

Total Income
3,140,440

Total Expense
2,452,030

Speaking Up Speaking Out Enrichment Campaign | FYE 2021

Total Income
761,635

Campaign Donations
$761,635
100%

Total Expense
34,470

Professional Services
$34,470
100%

Fundraising Highlights 2021

Annual Fund
$462,724

Non-Government Grants
$251,834

3rd Party Events
$9,960

Events
$503,698
The Center Leadership 2021-22

Board of Directors

**Chairperson**
Eric J. Eggan

**Vice Chairperson/Development Chair**
Elaine Cox

**Treasurer**
Todd Skare

**Secretary**
Glori Norwitt

**Board Members**

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Larry Morgan  
Ridgefield Academy  
Kara Morgan  
Meredith Morgans  
Alexa Rae Morin  
Town Vibe  
Jackie Morrison  
Allison Mould  
Kevin Mulligan  
Gretchen Mullin  
Cynthia Mullins  
Iris Rainone and Gary Mummet  
Susan Murphy  
Bridget Murphy  
Sue Myers  
Jeanine Nadler  
Glenn Nanavaty  
Andréa Nardin  
Susan and John Neikirk  
Catherine Neligan  
Richard Nelson  
Ryan Nelson  
Sarah and Chris Nelson  
Candice Nelson  
Jonathan Nelson  
Sherri Nelson  
Lisa Nelson  
Casey Nelson  
Mark Nelson  
Neumann Real Estate  
New Fairfield High School Peace Project  
Monnie Newman*  
Lily Newman  
Claire Nicholson-Liston  
Joel and LeAnn Nickelsen  
Arlene Nickerson  
Shannon Nilan  
Jack Nix  
Karen Nixon  
Daryl Noble  
Nod Hill Brewery  
Kim Nolan  
Dorothy Norman*  
Karen Norton  

Pamela Norwitt  
Charles and Kathleen Nostrand  
Allison Noteware  
Cathy Noteware  
Elvis Novas and Zaraida Cabrera  
Doreen Nugent  
Heather Nunes  
Wendee Nussle  
Monica O'Brien  
Jamie Obijiski  
Daniel Obrien  
Dorothea O'Byrne*  
Alison O'Callaghan  
Gina O'Connell*  
Nancy O'Connor  
Maryellen O'Connor  
Maryann O'Dell  
Erin O'Hara  
Carol Olwert  
Patricia and Robert O'Neil  
Danette Onofrio  
P.W. Scott Engineering & Architecture*  
Miri Pachniuk  
Anthony and Carolann Paduano  
Sarah Paduano  
Linda Freeman and Jay Page*  
Bethany Pajak  
Kathy Palladino  
Babette and Stephen Palmer  
Julie Paltauf  
Emily Pambianchi  
Kathleen Pape*  

Sue and Stephen Papish  
Carol Papov  
Christy Pappas  
Kristen Papucci  
Anthony Papucci  
Kiritharan Parankirinanathan  
Rosemary and Thomas Pardalis*  
Claire Park  
Kelly Parker  
Parma Market  
Alissa Parrett  
Sayward Parsons  
Joseph Pastore  
Doreen Pastorok  
Olivia Patenaude  
Marlene and Matthew Patren*  
Laraine Pavarini  
Paypal Charitable Giving Fund  
Britta and Gary Pedersen  
Angela and David Pennucci*  
PepsiCo Foundation  
Dom Pereira  
Maria Pereira  
Candice Perkin  
Jessica Perkins  
Kathleen Perry*  
Debora Perry  
Sheri Pestka  
Joe and Nancy Peters  
Steven and Diane Peterson  
David Petrie  
Elizabeth Petrone*  
Kim Petruska  
Sandra Pezzullo  
Amy Pflaum  
Lynne Phillips and Charles Manos
Supporter up to $499 cont.

Laszlo and Denise Pinter*
Joanne Pirrone
Francis Pitrone
Amy Polacko
James Post
Margaret Powell
Emily Prezzano
Audrey Price
John Priola
Robin Prokopczyk
MaryBeth Prunty
Linda Puchall
Gina Pulice
Susan Purdy
John Purvis
Denise Qualey
Linda Queiroz
Sarah Quinlan
Denise Quinn
Pamela Quist
Ridgefield Hardware Co.
Suzanne Rabinowitz
Elizabeth Rabinowitz
Julia Radko
Katy Rafferty
Maureen Raftery*
Emily Ramirez
Mac Rand
JoAnne Read*
Leanne Ready
Reby Advisors*
Patricia Ann Reese*
Marie Rega
Celia Regan
Daniel Reilly
Caren Reinhardt
Todd Reisel
Rosamund Reisen
Jodi Rell
Dayle and Thomas Renna
Tina Reppas
Steven and Julie Revelant
Karen and Thomas Rezendes
Toni Ribeiro
Angela Rice
Valerie Rich
Claudia and Ralph Richard
Ridgefield Police Benevolent Association, Inc.
Kurt and Catherine Riordan
Joanne Marino and Patricia Riska*
Lisa Rivas
David Rivera
Michael Ro
Carol Robertson*
Theresa Robinson

Margee Rodgers
Stephen Rodier
Paula Rodrigues
Tanya Rodriguez
Michael Rodriguez
Kathleen and Pat Roig
Robert Ronan
Christina Rongetti
David Roos
Alison Rose
Nancy Ryan and Susan Rosengrant*
Daniel Rosenthal
Daniel Rosenthal and Meri Jitsukawa
Ana Ross
Richard Ross
Alexander Ross
Patricia Ross
Stephanie Rossi
Dan and Ellen Rossini
Dale Rothbell
Claire Rowella
Roxbury Congregational Church
Sheila Roy
Myrna and Robert Rubin*
Patti Rueff
Rich Ruggiero
Frank Ruiz
Albert L. Ryff
Thomas Saadi
Sabrina Style Boutique
Deborah Sacco
Steven Salcedo
Maureen Salerno
Lynne Salieno
Linda Salvagne*
Linda and Perry Salvagne
Gail and Chip Salvestrini*
The San Diego Foundation
Donna Sanford
Stephanie Sanford
Tricia Santamaria
Cheryl Santos
Cheryl and Amandio Santos
Neenu Saoji
Lara Saraiva
AnnMarie Sarbello
Anthony Sasso
Patricia Saviano
Christina Savo
Scalzo Property Management
Suzie Scanlon
Nick Scavo
Sherry Schachinger
John Schachinger
Robin Schamberg
Barbara Schancupp*
Carolyn Schanze

Yvonne Schapiro
Angela Schllichting
Patricia and Jeffrey Schmierer
Lynn Schneider
Janis Schoenemann
Linda Schramm
Anne Schuler
United Way Of Western Connecticut, Inc.
Ed Schultek
Tara Schuster
Schwab Charitable Fund
Karen Scott
Nicole Searles
Nancy and Stephen Sedensky
Susan and Paul Seeger
Nicholas Seiler
Maria Pia Seirup
Servicengine Corporation
Lynne Sewell
Donna Sexton
Patricia Sghia
Linda Shackelford*
David Sachs and Linda Shackelford
Chris Shanahan
Terence Shanahan*
Hilary Shapiro
Laurie Sharinay
Allison Shepherd
Wayne Shepperd
Lisa Sheridan
Ellen Sicinski
Allison Sidell
Susan Sidell
Sharon and Paul Siegel
David Siegel
David Sigworth
Frederick Silva
Olivia Silveri
Caryn Silverman
Iris Silverman*
Elissa Silvio*
Terry Sinclair
Jennifer Singer*
Anne Skandera
Sabina and Walter Slavin*
Marilyn Sloper*
David Smith and Maria Victor-Smith
Elizabeth Smith
Patrick Smith
Annabel Smith
Beth Smith
Heather Smith
Elizabeth Smolenack
Richard Sol
Jonna Solimine
Jessica Solomon
The UPS Store
Supporter up to $499 cont.

Ellen Sonders
Rachel Sondheimer
Steven Sondheimer
James Sowa
Liz Spero
Donald Spiegelman
Robin Stanton
Carole Stathis
Anne Stauff
Paul Steinmetz
Teresa Steneke
Daniel Stepanek*
Jodi Stewart
Birgitta Stone
Stop and Shop
Greg Straiton
Diondra Straiton
Delane Sullivan
Michael Summe
Ann Sunderland
Kathy Swift
Julia Taborsak
Tiana Taft
Jennie Taranovich
Ellen Tarsi*
Anne Tasch
Barbara and Zachary Taylor
Stephen Taylor
Walter Terbrusch
Matthew and Shelley Terry
Shelley Terry
SuAnn Tescher
The Reilly Law Firm, LLC
Jane and Edward Thomas
Elizabeth and Robert Thompson*
Marion Thompson
Marion and David Thompson
Connor Robert Thuss
Katie Tibbits
Mary Tinsley
Patricia Tistan
Jay Tittman*
Kathleen Tobin
Alex Tomas
Sarah Tornow
Jean Toussancy
John Tower
Margaret Towers
Keri and Dennis Tracy*
Keri Tracy
Linda and John Trentacosta*
Mary Ann and Tom Tryczynski
Diane and Victor Ugolyn
United Methodist Women of Danbury
United Way Of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley

Susan and Marc Uricchio
Michael and Jennifer Urquhart
Neida Valentín
Carol Anne and Kevin Valentine
Martha and Richard Van Riper
Florence Vannoni
Charles VanZanten
Carol and Richard Vazzana
Barbara Venturi
Sammy Vertucci
Diane Vertucci
Adam Vigil
Lorraine Villanueva
Victor Vinogradov
Dainius and Ann Virbickas
Vivid Style Inspirations
Charlene Vlahos
Blanket Real Estate*
Debora Volansky
Antonieta Vona
Sofia Vona
Lucie and Joseph Voves
Alyssa Voytek
Tish and Robert Vredenburgh
Leslie Vuilleumier
Neasa Waaler
Alyssa Wakin
Heather Waldman
Catharina Walker
Eileen M. Walker
Elisabeth Walker
Linda Wall
Rosemarie and Lewis Wallace
Wendy Wallach-Delucia
Monica Walsh
Kristin Ward
Raquel Wasserman
Abigail Wattley
Michael and Filomena Weiner*
Arthur Weinshank
Maureen Weir
Anne Wells
Donna and Mark Werner*
Eleanor and Ronald Weseloh*
Katherine Westover
Lisa Whelan
Michael and Linda White
Armando White
Jami Wilkenloh
Amy and Warren Willett
Terry Williams
Tara Winston
Sherry Winston*
Ken Wipperman
Laura Wisdom
Amy Wishingrad
Paul Wishneski
Christine Wohl
Mary Ann and James Wohlever*
Barbara Wojcik
Stanley and Beverly Wolf
Women Of The Moose, Danbury Chapter 314
Angela Wong
Alison Wood
Angela Wood
Laurie Wright
Kathleen Wrona
William Wyman
Xi Alpha Deta - Beta Sigma Phi
Robert Yamin
Young Yang
Melissa Yantorno
Victoria and David Yolen*
Dannielle Young*
Manuela Young
John Zaborowski
Laurie Lynch and John Zachman*
Deborah Zachman
Brenda Zamaray*
Henry and Kathleen Zembruszki*
Diane Zhornitsky
Anna Zielinska
Domestic Violence
3,502 Clients
514 LAP Screens
28,098 Total Domestic Violence Services

Resource Services
611 Clients
246 Counseling & Referral Services
887 Resource Services Provided

Sexual Assault
561 Sexual Assault Clients
103 Hospital & Medical Assistance
3,602 Total Sexual Assault Services

Court Advocacy
2,570 Criminal & Civil
336 Legal Advocacy

Education, Training & Outreach
32,049 Participants
657 Total education, training and outreach programs

Age Breakdown
- 27 AGE 0-5
- 3,579 AGE 6-12
- 7,792 AGE 13-17
- 8,477 AGE 18-24
- 7,795 AGE 25-44
- 3,058 AGE 45-59
- 963 AGE 60-64
- 358 AGE 65-80
- 0 AGE 81+

Total Clients Served: 36,684
Total Direct Services Provided: 32,587

2,715 Total Hotline & Crisis Calls

We’re Here to Talk About It.

Main Office:
2 West Street
Danbury, CT 06810
Phone: 203-731-5200
Fax: 203-731-5207

Services also provided at the following satellite locations:
Danbury Superior Court
146 White Street, 3rd Floor
Danbury, CT 06810
Phone: 203-207-8701

WCSU Midtown Campus
White Hall, 003A
Danbury, CT 06810
Phone: 203-837-3939

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