

The Center for Empowerment and Education Celebrates Leadership Legacy

DANBURY, CT, December 5, 2024— The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE) held its Annual Meeting on December 4, 2024, bringing together the Board of Directors, CEE members, and CEE Leadership to honor the transformative leadership of three dedicated Officers of the Board who have reached their tenure: Eric Eggan, Board Chair; Elaine Cox, Vice Chair and Development Chair; and Glori Norwitt, Board Secretary.

Though stepping away from their Board roles, these visionaries are not stepping away from their commitment to CEE's mission. Each will transition to CEE's Ambassador Council, with Elaine Cox continuing as Co-Chair alongside Board Member Paul Fiedler, ensuring their influence and passion remain integral to the organization's future.

"This is a celebration of leadership and legacy," said Ashley Dunn, CEO of CEE. "Eric, Elaine, and Glori have each left an indelible mark, and their work has set the stage for a stronger, more empowered future for CEE and the communities we serve."

Eric Eggan: Championing Governance and Financial Stewardship

Since joining the Board in 2018 and serving two terms as Chair, Eric Eggan has been a steady hand, guiding the organization through critical transitions and ensuring it consistently met its fiduciary obligations. His tenure saw a rebranding from The Women's Center of Greater Danbury to The Center for Empowerment and Education, a pivotal moment that aligned the organization's identity with its mission.

Eric also provided invaluable leadership during an executive transition, welcoming Ashley Dunn as CEO in 2022, and supported the Board in professionalizing its governance practices. "Eric's leadership has strengthened our Board's focus on policy governance and accountability," said Dunn. "Eric brought his Midwestern practicality and unwavering commitment to every challenge, ensuring our Board met its fiduciary responsibilities and stayed true to our mission."

Eric's legacy is one of measured, meaningful progress—a testament to his ability to balance vision with practical execution.

Elaine Cox: Transforming Dreams into Reality

Elaine Cox's contributions to CEE over her decade-plus of service have been transformative. Since joining the Board in 2013, Elaine has been a driving force behind fundraising and development, helping turn ambitious goals into reality. As Vice Chair and Development Chair, she spearheaded efforts to fund the "Speaking Up Speaking Out" Enrichment Campaign, ensuring victims and survivors have access to a state-of-the-art shelter space to begin their healing journey.

"Elaine is the heartbeat of our development work," said Dunn. "Her energy, optimism, and ability to inspire others have ensured that CEE has the resources needed to meet survivors where they are and provide life-changing support."

Though stepping off the Board, Elaine will continue her role as Co-Chair of the Ambassador Council, where she will remain a steadfast advocate for CEE's mission. "She's been an ambassador since day one," added Dunn. "There's no one better to Co-Chair the Ambassador Council."

Glori Norwitt: Driving Systemic Change and Social Justice

A Board member since 2011, Glori Norwitt has been a passionate advocate for systemic change and social justice, bringing an unwavering commitment to equity and accountability. As a former Board Chair and most recently as Secretary, Glori has used her leadership to push for meaningful improvements in the community's approach to interpersonal violence and prevention.

“Glori is an advocate for progress,” said Dunn. “She has the unique ability to identify systemic barriers and champion solutions that uplift victims, survivors, and the community as a whole. Her voice has been a guiding force in our most challenging and rewarding moments.”

Glori’s vision was instrumental in launching CEE’s new shelter, providing a safe, empowering space for those fleeing violence. Her belief in the organization’s mission—and in the responsibility everyone shares to address systemic issues—has been a cornerstone of her service.

A Legacy That Inspires

Together, Eric, Elaine, and Glori have shaped CEE into a stronger, more resilient organization, leaving a legacy of progress, compassion, and empowerment.

“They’ve raised the bar for what leadership means,” said Dunn. “Their contributions will ripple through generations, ensuring CEE remains a beacon of hope and support for all who need it.”

As CEE welcomes six new Board members, appoints three new Officers of the Board, and looks to the future, the organization stands on a foundation built by the passion, guidance, and vision of these extraordinary leaders. Their transition to the Ambassador Council signals not an ending, but the continuation of their impact in new and meaningful ways.

For more information on how you can support The Center for Empowerment and Education, visit www.thecenterct.org or follow us on social media.

About The Center for Empowerment and Education

Since founding in 1975, The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE), formerly The Women’s Center of Greater Danbury, has been a safe haven as the sole provider of services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield County areas. Each year, CEE serves over 22,000 individuals from area communities with confidential services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and provided at no cost.

CEE provides support services in the form of crisis intervention and advocacy, counseling, and emergency shelter. Their advocates empower individuals to find their voice and choose their path toward healing as they rebuild their lives. CEE prevents and reduces interpersonal violence in the community through prevention education and awareness. CEE is reducing trauma by stopping violence from manifesting in the first place. CEE believes that everyone deserves to live a life free from violence.

All funds provided to CEE support their critically needed domestic violence, sexual assault, and resource services for adults and children in an 11-town service area, including: Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, and Sherman. CEE is a member of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

NOTE TO MEDIA: For further comment, please reach out to Ashley Dunn, CEO of The Center for Empowerment and Education, contact her at ashley.d@thecenterct.org