

## The Center for Empowerment and Education Celebrates 50 Years of Powerful Impact

**DANBURY, CT, January 13, 2025**— The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE) proudly announces its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, marking half a century of dedication to preventing and responding to interpersonal violence. What began as a courageous effort in a humble kitchen in 1975 has evolved into a beacon of hope and empowerment for countless individuals in the community. This milestone celebration reflects on CEE's legacy, honors the steady support from the community, and envisions a future free from interpersonal violence.

### A Legacy of Courage and Commitment

Fifty years ago, three visionary women—Alice Chapman, Mary Elizabeth Corso, and Bonnie Law—came together in a kitchen, driven by an unwavering dream of a world free from violence and inequality. Their grassroots movement led to the founding of The Women's Center of Greater Danbury. In 2021, the organization rebranded into The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE) to better represent their commitment to serving all individuals, regardless of gender. From those humble beginnings, CEE has steadfastly championed the cause of supporting victims and survivors of interpersonal violence, striving to build a community where every person is treated with dignity and respect.

### Impacting Lives, Strengthening the Community

Throughout its journey, CEE has been a lifeline for victims and survivors, providing critical services, advocacy, and support. The impact of CEE's work is felt in the stories of those who have found safety, healing, and empowerment through its programs. Thousands have been educated through CEE's prevention programs, creating a ripple effect of awareness and change that strengthens the fabric of the community. As CEE celebrates this golden anniversary, CEE renews their commitment to a future where every individual can live free from the threat of interpersonal violence.

### Honoring the Pillars of Strength

As CEE celebrates this significant milestone, they extend their deepest gratitude to the pillars of its strength:

- **The Founders:** The bravery and vision of CEE's founders ignited a movement that has touched countless lives. Their courage to dream and act laid the foundation for the future.
- **The Staff:** The dedication, adaptability, and passion of CEE's staff drive the mission forward, meeting the ever-changing needs of those served. Their steadfast commitment is invaluable.
- **The Board of Directors:** The leadership and guidance of CEE's Board of Directors has been instrumental, steering the organization through challenges and triumphs alike.
- **The Ambassadors Council:** The Ambassadors Council has consistently championed CEE's mission, leveraging their networks and support during crucial moments to advance the mission and vision.
- **The Community:** The unwavering support and belief in CEE's mission have been the cornerstone of its success. The community has stood with CEE for 50 years, making its work possible.
- **The Donors:** The generosity of CEE's donors fuels its programs and enables the continuation of critical work. Their investment in a future free from violence is deeply appreciated.
- **The Volunteers:** The time and commitment of CEE's volunteers continue to fill the gaps and ensure that victims and survivors have the resources to begin and stay on their healing journey.

### From 50 to the Future

Looking ahead, CEE remains steadfast in its commitment to elevating the voices of victims and survivors. The organization will continue to advocate for change, break down barriers, and ensure that support is accessible to all who need it. Prevention education programs will remain at the forefront of CEE's efforts, working tirelessly to prevent interpersonal violence before it occurs and fostering a culture of respect and equality.

### Join the Journey

The Center for Empowerment and Education invites everyone to join in celebrating this momentous occasion throughout 2025. The year-long celebration will include various events and initiatives designed to engage, inspire, and mobilize the



community. Together, lasting change can be achieved, advocacy for change continued, and empowerment provided to those who need it most.

Join in celebrating The Center for Empowerment and Education's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at their Annual Dinner on April 11, 2025, at the Amber Room Colonnade. This milestone event will be an evening of reflection, gratitude, and hope, honoring CEE's founders and the incredible impact CEE has made on the community.

For more information about the 50th-anniversary celebrations and how to get involved, please visit [www.thecenterct.org](http://www.thecenterct.org).

### **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](mailto:ashley.d@thecenterct.org)

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