



CEE Celebrates 50 Years of Impact at Annual Dinner with Over 350 Guests in Attendance Founders, Staff, and Future Leaders Honored in a Night of Tribute and Fundraising

DANBURY, CT, April 29, 2025— The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE) celebrated a remarkable milestone on Friday, April 11, with its Annual Dinner marking 50 years of uninterrupted service to the community at the Amber Room Colonnade. At their *From Fifty to The Future* dinner more than 350 guests gathered to honor the past, celebrate the present, and invest in the future.

The evening recognized the extraordinary contributions of CEE's **Award Honorees**:

- **Honoring the Past:** CEE Founding Members Alice Chapman, Betti Corso, and Bonnie Law
- **Honoring the Present:** Current CEE Staff
- **Honoring the Future:** The inspiring young women of *Girls Inspiring Girls* at Newtown High School

Guests were welcomed by **Honorary Chairs Pamela Chapman and Carla (Corso) Pierce**, whose leadership helped shape a powerful evening of celebration and giving. The event also featured **Dave Price**, WNBC Weather Anchor, as the spirited auctioneer who rallied tremendous support for CEE's mission.

Proceeds support CEE's no-cost crisis intervention and prevention programs and services, including their education and awareness efforts to prevent and reduce interpersonal violence in our communities.

"Interpersonal violence isn't a thing of the past—it's an epidemic that continues to affect individuals and families right here in our own community. Every day, more survivors find the courage to come forward, asking for safety, support, and to be believed. And the truth is, we are in the fight of our lives. We're fighting for the resources and staffing it takes to respond quickly, effectively, and inclusively. We're fighting to ensure every survivor is met with compassion and care, and for the resources and staff needed to respond swiftly and inclusively. This work doesn't stop, because the need doesn't stop. And the future we're building—a future that's safe, survivor-centered, and free from violence—depends on the choices we make right now. It depends on each of us choosing not to look away, but to invest in services that are truly for everyone—because interpersonal violence doesn't discriminate, and neither can our response."—Ashley Dunn, President & CEO, The Center for Empowerment and Education.

CEE extends heartfelt thanks to all sponsors, supporters, and volunteers who made this milestone event possible. To view event photos or make a contribution, please visit 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

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