



## **Honoring Survivors, Remembering Victims: CEE Launches Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Danbury**

**DANBURY, CT September 17, 2025** – The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE) will launch Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) with the raising of the purple flag at Danbury City Hall on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Observed every October since 1987, Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a national movement to shine a light on the devastating impact of domestic violence, honor the strength of survivors, and remember those who have been lost. It is also a call to action: to break the silence, confront stigma, and work together to build safer communities where domestic violence is no longer tolerated. It's a reminder that domestic violence is a crime and is a public health emergency that demands awareness and action. One in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime — a reality that underscores the urgency of CEE's mission.

"Every October, thousands of silent voices become visible. Every October, we shine a light on what too often remains hidden. This October 1, the purple flag will fly for every survivor and every life lost," says Ashley Dunn, President and CEO of CEE.

Before the flag is raised, CEE staff will carry the Silent Witness display — consisting of silhouettes memorializing victims of domestic violence that have lost their lives — in a solemn walk from CEE's office to City Hall. This moving tribute will also serve as the symbolic kickoff to SafeWalk 2025, CEE's annual fundraising and awareness event to end domestic violence, which takes place throughout the month of October. SafeWalk, now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, unites hundreds of community members, schools, organizations, and businesses in a visible demonstration of hope and solidarity. Funds raised through SafeWalk sustain CEE's life-changing, no cost programs and services, ensuring that everyone in Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield counties have access to safety, shelter, advocacy, and prevention education.

"As we raise the purple flag in October and celebrate 50 years of service this year, we are reminded why CEE exists," said Ashley Dunn, President & CEO of CEE. "We walk for those whose voices were silenced, for those still living in fear, and for the generations yet to come. We walk today so that tomorrow, no one will have to live in fear — and every community can be safe, empowered, and free from interpersonal violence."

CEE's work and mission is only possible because the community comes together — from elected officials and town leaders to law enforcement, emergency responders, educators, and local organizations — each playing a vital role in ensuring safety and hope for survivors. Together, this community can end the cycle of violence and create a future where all people can live in safety and dignity.

In addition to the flag raising, the Silent Witness exhibit will be on public display at The Danbury Museum October 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> and at Western Connecticut State University on November 4<sup>th</sup>. These exhibits provide additional opportunities for the community to reflect, learn, and stand in solidarity with victims and survivors. For more information about the exhibit and ways to get involved in DVAM events, please follow CEE on social media.

CEE invites all members of the community to join in the purple flag raising at City Hall and to participate in SafeWalk. "As CEE celebrates 50 years of impact, we look ahead with hope — honoring the past,



standing with survivors today, and building a tomorrow free from violence,” said Samantha Fynn, CEE’s Chief Development Officer.

### **Be Part of the Movement**

This October, you can:

- Attend the flag-raising ceremony on October 1, 2025.
- Help raise awareness and much-needed funds through peer-to-peer fundraising in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual SafeWalk.
- Reach out to CEE for Volunteer opportunities.
- Donate to ensure CEE’s life-changing services remain free and available.
- Engage in Purple Thursday, wear purple on October 23, 2025 and tag CEE on social media all day long to flood the internet with purple.
- If a loved one reaches out for support, listen to them and believe them.

For more information, please visit [www.thecenterct.org](http://www.thecenterct.org)

If you or someone you know needs support, CEE’s no-cost confidential hotlines are available 24/7. Please call, CEE is here, we believe you, and we support you.

Domestic Violence Hotline (203)731-5206

Sexual Assault Hotline (203)731-5204

### **About The Center for Empowerment and Education**

Since its 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 28,000 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 counseling and advocacy, crisis intervention, 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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