



Record-breaking 19th Annual SafeWalk Raised funds for The Center for Empowerment and Education

DANBURY, October 22, 2025 – This October, The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE) held its 19th annual SafeWalk, uniting communities across Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield Counties during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. SafeWalk is more than a walk—it's a movement, a powerful demonstration of solidarity against interpersonal violence, as communities raise awareness, honor survivors, and fund CEE's life-changing, no-cost, and confidential services.

This year's SafeWalk was especially meaningful as it took place during CEE's 50th anniversary year. For five decades, CEE has walked alongside survivors and communities to build safety, healing, and hope.

After several years of limited in-person gatherings due to COVID-19, being face to face this year brought a renewed sense of energy and visibility to the cause. Participants experienced firsthand the power of physically coming together to spark conversations, raise awareness, and show public support for survivors—reminding everyone that ending interpersonal violence is a shared responsibility.

Ridgefield pioneered the town-based walk, and this year CEE expanded the concept to five additional towns—Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Milford, and Newtown—alongside a virtual option that allowed supporters to participate all month long. Over 500 participants across 40+ teams ran, strolled, danced, and even reached for the stars to collectively cover a 4K distance—from the Greater Danbury area to Nantucket, Rhode Island, and beyond.

CEE's Ridgefield Town Chair, Kathy Graham who led Safewalk in her town was elated that it was a record-breaking fundraising year and said this *"A very grateful thank you to everyone who helped us achieve a record breaking over \$100,000 raised in support of SafeWalk. More importantly, what that represents is acknowledgment of the importance of the critical, as well as life changing services, that CEE provides to its clients. When we all work together, we can do great things—well done everyone!"*

Nearly 50% of CEE's budget is funded through private donations, and this event plays a critical role in ensuring the organization can continue providing crisis intervention, shelter, prevention education, and advocacy for thousands of individuals each year.

Ashley Dunn, CEE President and CEO, shared her gratitude: *"I am deeply grateful to every participant, volunteer, and town chair who brought these walks to life. Feeling the energy and seeing our communities come together in support of survivors was truly inspiring. SafeWalk is more than an event—it's a movement, and each of you made it unforgettable. Thank you for standing with us and being part of our ongoing effort to end interpersonal violence."*

CEE extends heartfelt thanks to the communities that walked, volunteered, and donated—helping make this the most successful SafeWalk in its 19-year history.

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 20,000 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

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