

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



About Us

For 50 years, The Center for Empowerment and Education (CEE) has provided confidential, no cost, comprehensive support services to victims of interpersonal violence (IPV)—including short-term crisis counseling and advocacy, crisis intervention, and residential services, including emergency shelter. We empower individuals to find their voice and choose their path toward healing as they rebuild their lives. We are preventing and reducing IPV in the community through prevention education and awareness, and are reducing trauma by stopping violence from manifesting in the first place. Everyone deserves to live a life free from violence. We are here to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Our mission is to break the cycle of interpersonal violence through empowerment, education, and support



CEE staff at the organization's 50th Anniversary Dinner.

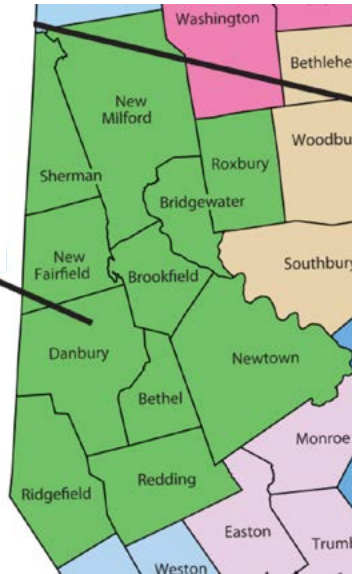
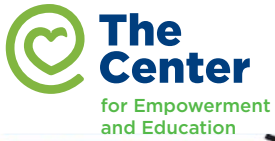
services utilizing inclusive, trauma-informed, and client-centered practices for all individuals in the community.

Our vision is to create safer communities free from interpersonal violence for all individuals in Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield Counties.

What is Interpersonal Violence?

Interpersonal violence (IPV) refers to any abusive act by a person or persons against another, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and human trafficking. IPV is rooted in power and control. IPV affects people of all identities and backgrounds, but people in marginalized communities face unique barriers to accessing and receiving support.

Where We Help



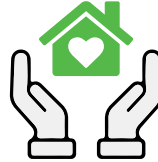
The 11 towns shaded ■ are CEE's catchment area.



Purple Thursday 2025



The Center for Empowerment
& Education Main Office



Patricia House
Shelter



Campus of
Western Connecticut
State University
(WCSU)



Danbury
Superior Court



Danbury &
New Milford Hospitals



Area Police
Departments

From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for every person who has stood beside us—our staff, Board of Directors, Ambassadors Council, volunteers, donors, community partners, and every individual who has raised their voice to say that interpersonal violence has no place in our community. Together, you have strengthened The Center for Empowerment and Education, and together, you have carried forward a vision that began 50 years ago this year.

This has been an intense and remarkable year. We walked alongside more survivors than ever before, meeting people where they are—whether that meant responding in the middle of the night to the hospital, advocating with someone in the courtroom, or providing safety, shelter, and care during their healing journey. We expanded our prevention and education programs, reaching thousands of students, parents, and community members with the message that violence is not inevitable, and that together we can change the future. Our outreach efforts grew stronger, breaking down barriers so that services are accessible to all, in every language and setting.

We also undertook the significant and rigorous process of securing state licensure for our Extended Therapy Program—an effort that will expand access to long-term healing for survivors in our community. This process demanded countless hours of preparation and collaboration, and we are now in the final stages of approval. It represents not just a new



program, but a new horizon for how we walk with survivors beyond crisis and into recovery.

Along the way, our work was recognized by the New American Dream Foundation, which honored CEE as a Community Hero for our partnership and commitment to immigrant families. This recognition affirmed what we know to be true: our mission must include everyone in our community, with services rooted in cultural humility, respect, and accessibility.

As we mark our 50th Anniversary, we pause to honor those who came before us—the founders who started with nothing but determination and a kitchen table, and the survivors who showed us, day after day, what resilience and courage look like. Their spirit continues to fuel our mission. But we also look forward, because our work is far from done. Interpersonal violence continues to impact too many lives. Our responsibility—as advocates, as educators, as neighbors—is to stay vigilant, to listen, and to act.

I invite you to remain deeply involved in our mission. Whether by attending events, sharing our resources, making a gift, or simply being an ambassador in your daily life, your support transforms lives. Together, we are not just reflecting on 50 years of progress—we are building the future we believe in: one free from violence, full of empowerment, safety, and hope.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. The past, present, and future of The Center for Empowerment and Education is written with your partnership.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Dunn', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ashley Dunn, MS, MFT, NCC
President & CEO

Board of Directors



Chairperson

Erin Byrne

Vice Chairperson/ Development Chair

Vicki Taylor-Bloch

Secretary

Amanda Bristol

Treasurer

Kelcey Hoyt

From left to right: Elvis Novas, Susan Gessner, Kelcey Hoyt, Imranul Haque, Chelen Reyes, Vicki Taylor-Bloch, Amanda Bristol, Evan Hack, Reed Idriss, and Erin Byrne.

Courtney Elliott
Dr. Paul Fiedler
Kelly Garretson

Susan Gessner
Dr. Evan Hack
Imranul Haque

Dr. Reed Idriss
Elvis Novas
Greg Pepin

Chelen Reyes
Dayna Beylouni White

Ambassadors Council



From left to right: LouAnn Daprato, Elaine Cox, Kathy Graham, Pamela Chapman, and Stacy Singer.

Co-Chairs Elaine Cox & Dr. Paul Fiedler

Deborah Backes
Brenda Berta
David Cappiello
Dan Carter
Pamela Chapman
Rebecca Ciota, Esq.
LouAnn Daprato
Eric Eggan, Esq.
Kathy Graham
Barbara R. Manners
Rudy Marconi

Nancy Murphy
Mark J. Nolan
Glori Norwitt, Esq.
Kathleen Pape
Karen Ross
John Royce
Stacy Singer
Paul Steinmetz
Allison Stockel
Eileen Walker
Virginia Young

Paul P. Dinto - Honorary member

CEE Senior Leadership



Pictured from left to right:

Ashley Dunn

President & CEO

William Montero

Chief Finance & Administrative Officer

Cara During

Chief Program Officer

Samantha Flynn

Chief Development Officer

CEE Team Leads



Pictured from left to right:

Fatima Almeida

Finance Manager

Jenny Diaz

Manager of Crisis and Advocacy

Linda Cummins

Special Events Manager

Cristina Cabral

Manager of Community Impact

Carly Martin

Clinical Director

Ann Marie Moreira

Volunteer & Survivor Engagement Coordinator

Shayna Hopkins

Manager of Residential Services

Direct Service Impact

Client Support Services

Total Clients Served:

2,092

Type of Perpetration Known:

Domestic Violence: **77%**

Sexual Assault: **18%**

Total Client Interactions:

13,018

7,608 Hours

of Services Provided

Crisis Intervention

Hospital

Domestic Violence
Hospital Accompaniments: **3**

Sexual Assault
Hospital Accompaniments: **31**

Safety Planning **200** hours

- Hospital advocacy serves as a critical lifeline for victims of IPV, offering immediate emotional support, guidance through medical procedures, and protection of their rights. Advocates play a vital role in connecting victims to essential resources, reducing feelings of isolation, and empowering them to regain a sense of control. This compassionate service ensures that victims are treated with dignity and respect, laying the foundation for a comprehensive and supportive healing process.
- Our advocates are available 24/7 to respond to hospitals and provide support during forensic evidence collection (often referred to as a rape kit) for victims of sexual assault and support victims of domestic violence who sustain physical injuries requiring medical attention.

This evidence may be used if the victim chooses to report the assault to law enforcement.

Breaking the Cycle

A Spanish-speaking survivor came to CEE after experiencing severe physical violence, emotional manipulation, and financial control. Despite suffering serious injuries and ongoing health complications, she took courageous steps toward reclaiming her safety. With the support of her advocate, she developed a personalized safety plan, received education on healthy relationships, and began to rebuild a sense of autonomy. Her strength and determination continue to inspire others in similar situations.

Direct Service Impact

Court Advocacy

Access to court advocacy is essential for victims and survivors, offering immediate support and guidance during their most vulnerable moments. CEE advocates play a crucial role in helping survivors navigate the complex legal system, ensuring they understand their rights and available options. This support can significantly reduce the trauma and stress often associated with legal proceedings.

Advocacy ensures survivors' voices are heard, promotes fair treatment, and upholds justice.

Criminal Justice Support:

CEE provided support to **993 victims** as they sought justice through the criminal justice system. CEE advocates attended **900 arraignments** to help support survivors at the start of the legal process.

Civil Justice Support:

CEE's specialized Court Advocates dedicated **78 hours** to assisting **92 victims** involved in civil legal matters.

- Beyond courtroom support, CEE advocates connect survivors with essential resources that foster long-term recovery and empowerment. This comprehensive approach is vital to promoting healing, resilience, and independence.
- CEE is proud to collaborate with **Connecticut Legal Services (CLS)** and **Family Law Legal Consult (FLLC)** to ensure survivors receive the legal support they need during their journey toward justice and healing.

Empowerment Through Justice

After years of physical abuse, one survivor took the courageous step to seek help and press charges against her partner. With serious threats and safety concerns, CEE's Family Violence Victim Advocate provided ongoing support—helping her develop a safety plan, navigate the criminal justice system, and access a GPS alert program for protection.

The advocate also arranged a meeting with the prosecuting attorney, offering emotional support and empowering the survivor to speak up for herself. Through consistent advocacy and care, she reclaimed her voice and found strength amid a difficult process. CEE remains committed to supporting her journey toward safety and healing.



Alexandrina Lopes being recognized for her 35 years of continued advocacy at CEE.

Direct Service Impact

Campus Support



WCSU Students participating in Denim Day event.

- At our satellite office at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), we offer crisis intervention, individual counseling and advocacy, support groups, and educational programming. We collaborate closely with campus partners to ensure students are informed about their rights and the resources available to them if they experience IPV during their time at college.

CEE advocates served **37 campus clients** with short-term crisis counseling and provided **5 Title IX accompaniments/advocacy services** and **3 Judicial Hearing accompaniments/advocacy services**.

Campus Advocacy in Action

One student survivor who experienced a sexual assault on campus and was coping with childhood trauma and PTSD found consistent support through CEE's Campus Advocate. When she began seeing her perpetrator more frequently on campus and her symptoms worsened, the advocate helped her secure academic accommodations and summer housing. She described her experience with CEE as a turning point—where she finally felt seen, heard, and supported.

The Power of MITs: Protecting Our Children

- Imagine being a child who has endured the trauma of sexual abuse or domestic violence. The pain, confusion, and fear are profound. Now imagine having to relive that trauma by recounting it repeatedly to different strangers. This is where our **Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MITs)** make a vital difference.
- By bringing together law enforcement, child protection, medical professionals, prosecutors, and advocates in a coordinated response, MITs ensure that each child tells their story just once — in a safe, supportive environment. This compassionate, team-based approach reduces further trauma, streamlines investigations, and prioritizes the well-being of every child.

MIT Accompaniments

83

Type of Perpetrators

26%

family members

74%

were coaches, teachers, family friends, peers, neighbors, etc.

Direct Service Impact

Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

- The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) remains a critical component in identifying the level of danger victims face during domestic violence incidents. Through strong partnerships with local law enforcement, we ensure that victims are swiftly connected with a CEE advocate at the time they need support most.

378 LAP calls

73% scored as high danger

Of the **378 LAP** calls **186 clients** stated their partner has tried to strangle them. **184 clients** expressed that their partner threatened to kill them or that they think their partner might try to kill them. Of the clients who expressed that their partner threatened to kill them or thought their partner might try, **25% (47 clients)** stated their abuser has access to a firearm.

140 hours of law enforcement advocacy

Support Groups

Clients Participated in Support Groups	151
Hours Spent in Groups	400
Number of Support Group Sessions	318

- We offered support groups for all survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. These included groups for male survivors, female survivors, as well as groups conducted in Spanish and Portuguese.

Justice for a Trafficking Survivor

CEE advocates worked closely with a survivor of sex trafficking for nearly two years—through every step of the investigation and eventual arrest of the perpetrator. The survivor faced challenges recalling details due to trauma, but the advocate remained by her side, offering repeated explanations, updates, and consistent support. When the arrest was made, CEE continued to work with the survivor and eventually facilitated a warm handoff to long-term services, ensuring continued care.

Direct Service Impact

Residential Services

We provide a safe and secure emergency shelter for individuals and families escaping domestic and sexual violence. While in our care, residents receive comprehensive support, including case management, advocacy, and assistance with securing stable housing.

Shelter Services

Children Served	27
Adults Served	27
Over Capacity Housing	15
Total Clients who Received Shelter Services	69

Rapid Re-Housing

Our Rapid Re-Housing Program continues to be a vital component of this support system, helping clients transition into permanent housing and work toward long-term stability and independence.

**Rapid Re-Housing
Individuals/Families Served: 83**

From Captivity to Courage

A survivor who had been trafficked and brought to the U.S. against her will came to CEE with a harrowing story of abuse, control, and captivity. With safety planning, housing support, legal advocacy, and trauma counseling, she and her young child began the process of rebuilding their lives. Despite threats from those involved in the trafficking ring, she persisted in her journey to safety and healing with support from the CEE team.

- CEE is proud to partner with **Community Action, Food Rescue US**, and **Connecticut Food Share** to organize food donations for our shelter pantry, including dozens of volunteers from each organization helping with deliveries weekly.

A Pathway to Permanent Housing

A survivor in our Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) program faced ongoing barriers to stability, including unsafe, unaffordable housing and limited employment opportunities due to a criminal record linked to past exploitation and trafficking. With support from our Housing Advocate the survivor successfully transitioned into permanent, income-based supportive housing.

CEE will continue to support the transition by helping with childcare resources, connecting the survivor to local support networks, and coordinating re-entry into an employment readiness program. Initially expecting to return to homelessness, the survivor now feels empowered and hopeful about providing a stable future for their family.

Community Impact

Prevention and Outreach: Building a Safer Community

Prevention and outreach are foundational to our mission of ending IPV before it begins. By raising awareness and providing education, we work to shift the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that sustain cycles of violence.

These efforts not only foster a culture of accountability but also create a supportive environment where survivors feel empowered to seek help. Through proactive community engagement, we aim to break the cycle of violence and promote lasting, positive change.

Breaking the Cycle Through Education

After attending one of CEE's Healthy Relationships programs, a student courageously shared that both of their siblings were in unhealthy relationships. Drawing on what they learned, the student offered guidance and planned to revisit the conversation with their siblings—using insights from the program to help start the conversation.

In another classroom, a student reflected on their own experience and realized that a past relationship had been unhealthy and abusive. They shared that the program helped them understand what healthy love should look like and gave them language to name what they had experienced.

Through Prevention Education programs, young people are gaining the knowledge and confidence to recognize abuse, support others, and break the cycle of IPV before it begins.

People Reached

Education & Training Participants (unduplicated)	20,716
People Reached Through Outreach	5,601
Total People Reached by Community Impact	26,317

Total Community Impact Activities/Programs

Education & Training Programs Provided	916
Outreach Activities	251
Community Impact Activities/Programs	1,167



Our Manager of Community Impact and Outreach Coordinator at a tabling event.

Community Impact

Every year, CEE tracks the number and types of disclosures made by individuals, including youth, after participating in our prevention education programs and outreach activities. Our educators are certified counselors trained to respond when anyone chooses to share concerns related to IPV or abuse. These disclosures show the safe, supportive environment our programs create and allow us to connect youth with appropriate help and resources.

Outreach Activities Disclosures

Dating Abuse	5
Domestic Violence	17
Sexual Assault	1
Sexual Abuse	2
Sexual Harassment	2
Stalking	2
Mental Health Issues/ Concerns	2
Total No. of Disclosures	31



Our Manager of Community Impact providing a program in Portuguese.

Breaking Intergenerational Trauma

During a Spanish-language Prevention Education session with parents, one participant shared how her own childhood abuse shaped her parenting. She expressed a deep desire to protect her children from similar harm. The facilitator from CEE validated her experience, provided resources for healing, and ensured she knew support was available through CEE's counseling services if she ever needed it.

Education Program Disclosures

Dating Abuse	12
Domestic Violence	12
Sexual Assault: Peer Perp	3
Sexual Abuse: Adult Perp	6
Stalking	5
Bullying	31
Mental Health Issues/ Concerns	18
Total No. of Disclosures	87

Legislative Impact

Advancing Protections for Survivors in Connecticut

This year, several important pieces of legislation were passed that strengthen protections and expand resources for survivors of IPV. These advances reflect the ongoing work of state coalitions and the member centers across the state to ensure safety, dignity, and justice for survivors.

PA 25-139: An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Victims

This law extends vital protections in employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit transactions to victims of sexual assault and trafficking. It also requires:

- All state employees to complete online training on sexual assault and trafficking developed by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO).
- Employers with three or more employees to post information about resources available to victims of sexual assault and trafficking.

PA 25-29: An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Criminal Justice Statutes

This legislation creates a new, third-party pathway for survivors to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit completed without immediately requiring a police report. This important change empowers survivors to make informed decisions about engaging with the criminal legal system while still preserving evidence should they choose to report later.



CEE Hosted Legislative Breakfast



Alliance Legislative Breakfast

Protecting Survivor Services from Federal Funding Cuts

At the state budget level, both The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (The Alliance) secured dedicated line-item funding for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 to help fund member centers across the state. This critical support will help offset significant federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding reductions and ensure that services for survivors remain available across Connecticut.

Legislative Call to Action Breakfast

CEE held its annual Legislative Call to Action Breakfast with strong turnout from local elected officials and police chiefs. Key advocacy groups, including CCADV and The Alliance, presented coalition priorities—highlighting critical VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding issues and legislative needs to support survivors.

Key Program Highlights

Throughout the year, CEE advanced its mission through impactful programs, strong partnerships, and continued advocacy for survivors. Below are key highlights that reflect our commitment to safety, collaboration, and community engagement.

Keeping Victims Safe

Danbury Superior Court GPS/AN Monitoring Initiative

To enhance victim safety and accountability, the Danbury Superior Court launched a GPS/Active Notification (AN) Monitoring Initiative. This innovative program tracks the movements of individuals accused of domestic violence, providing real-time alerts to help prevent further harm to victims.

Strengthening Our Partnership with Law Enforcement

Role-Play Training at Connecticut Police Academy

CEE advocates participated in role-play sessions in-person at the Connecticut Police Academy, offering cadets hands-on experience in taking initial reports from survivors of sexual violence. These one-on-one training exercises allowed advocates to share their expertise, provide direct feedback, and foster a trauma-informed approach among new state police officers—building lasting impact in law enforcement responses.

Building Local Police Partnerships

Key leadership from CEE—including the CEO, Chief Program Officer, Manager of Crisis and Advocacy, and FVVA/LAP Coordinator—met with local police departments to continue to strengthen our collaborative efforts. To further support awareness, the Manager of Crisis and Advocacy joined Danbury Police Department roll calls to provide overviews of CEE's services and ensure new officers are equipped with knowledge of survivor-centered resources.

Community Collaborations

Ongoing Partnership with The Tribuna

CEE continues its partnership with *The Tribuna* newspaper, which generously publishes monthly articles at no cost—reaching approximately 15,000 readers in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. This ensures accessible, multilingual information about domestic and sexual violence for diverse communities.

“Empathy in Action” Panel Event

In collaboration with the healthcare community, CEE hosted *Empathy in Action: Healthcare's Vital Role in Sexual Assault Response*—a panel featuring medical experts and advocates. The event drew strong participation from nursing students, healthcare providers, and partner organizations, including the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Family & Children's Aid (FCA).



“Empathy in Action” Panel Event

Town by Town Data

Town	Community Impact	Community Services
Bethel	2,647	157
Bridgewater	73	2
Brookfield	1,787	85
Danbury	10,143	1,256
New Fairfield	1,519	59
New Milford	2,159	125
Newtown	3,450	102
Redding	380	30
Ridgefield	2,583	68
Roxbury	85	3
Sherman	220	12
Out of State/Unknown/Other CT	1,271	193



28,409

Total Individuals
Served

Volunteers & Interns

Volunteer Hours

1,746

Non-Direct Service

2,384

Direct Service

42

Hours Spent at Hospital
Accompaniments

4,172

Total Hours



Volunteer Appreciation Event

27

Volunteers & Interns

15

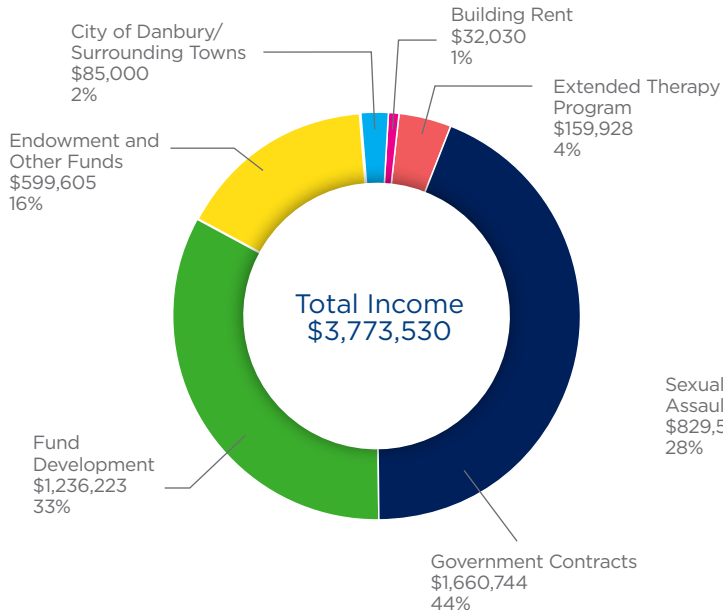
New Volunteers

*Not including Board Members or
Development Volunteers*

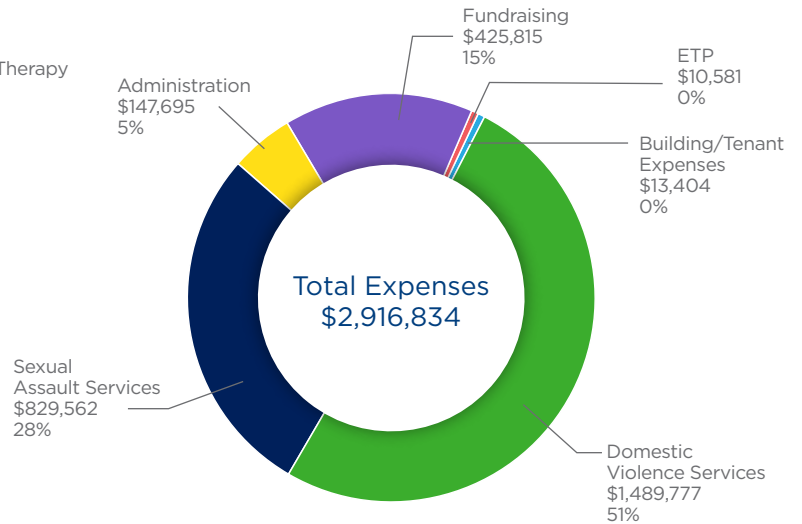
Volunteers assist with hotline shifts, hospital response, support group facilitation, child advocacy support, awareness month committees, fundraising, donation drives, community outreach, and more.

Finance

CEE FYE 2025 Income



CEE FYE 2025 Expenses



Figures above exclude Non Cash items of Depreciation/Amortization and Unrealized Gains/(Loss)

Save the Dates!

Hearts of Hope Breakfast
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Dinner
Friday, April 17, 2026

SafeWalk
October 2026



From left to right: Vicki Taylor-Bloch, Board Vice Chairperson/Development Chair; Erin Byrne, Board Chairperson; Ashley Dunn, CEE President & CEO toasting to 50 years at CEE's 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner

Our complete donor and member lists can be found in the online version of our Annual Report at www.thecenterct.org

Fundraising



Members of the Ridgefield Thrift Shop at our Hearts of Hope Breakfast where they were presented with CEE's Service Above Self Award.



Wendy Bernard, CEE's incredibly impactful Hearts of Hope fundraiser guest speaker.

Just a few of our many supporters caught on camera over the past year...



Charter Oak Third-party Fundraiser to benefit CEE.



Subaru Share the Love presentation with the Beylouni Family and Colonial Automobile Group team.

CEE is a proud recipient of a recent Union Savings Bank grant award to support our Community Impact programs!



Live Auction fun at CEE's 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner.

On average 50% of our budget is self-raised, and every gift from our donors fuels hope, healing, and safety for survivors. Their support makes our work possible and strengthens our impact in the community.

2025 CEE Annual Report Donors

We thank you for your financial contributions that enable CEE to continue its important work to “create safer communities free from interpersonal violence.” Every effort has been made to list names accurately. Please contact the Development Office T (203) 731-5200, EXT. 237 if there are any errors or omissions and please accept our apologies. Again, we thank you for your continued support of CEE’s programs and services.

Founder \$25,000+

Anonymous*
Bessemer Trust
Betty and Leo Balzereit Foundation
City of Danbury
Colonial Automobile Group of Danbury
Elaine and Kevin Cox*
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
The Gralnick Foundation at the
Community Foundation Tampa Bay
Linde
Leona Renee Melamed Estate
Mithun Family Foundation
Amy and Brendan Naughton*

Ambassador \$15,000+

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Ives Bank
Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation
The Ridgefield Thrift Shop
The Robert G. and Marguerite M. Derx
Foundation Of New Fairfield, Connecticut
Thomas C Bishop Charitable Trust*

Leader \$10,000+

Almira Family Charity Foundation*
The Ayco Charitable Foundation
The Albert Wadsworth & Helen Clark
Meserve Memorial Fund
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Lori & John Berisford*
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The Burch-Safford Charitable Fund
Emerson Charitable Trust
Fairfield County Bank
Impact Fairfield County
Josephine Luicci*
Near and Far Aid
Anne Roby*
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
Town of Newtown
Virginia and Roy Young*

Benefactor \$5,000+

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Danbury Office of Adult Probation
Clarene and Brian DeRosier*
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Northern Trust Charitable Giving Program
Allison and Jon Stockel*
Steve and Patti Ross*
ThinkSisu
Town of New Milford
Town of Ridgefield
Union Savings Bank
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Danbury
United Way of Coastal and
Western Connecticut
Eileen and Jay Walker*
Monica Woo and Daniel Wilson*

Advocate \$2,500+

William Allen*
AT&T
Don Bacigalupi*
Carl Bailey, Jr. and Lauren Bailey*
The Barker Welfare Foundation
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Candlewood Valley Pediatrics
Alexandra Carrow and Greg Pepin*
Pamela Chapman*
Charities Aid Foundation America
Rebecca Ciota*
Cotton Candy Fabrics
Augusto DaSilva Enterprises, LLC*

Diane D'Isidori and Evan Hack*
Eric and Jean Eggan*
Annmarie and Michael Gilligan*
New Fairfield Community Thrift Shop Inc.
The New York Community Trust
Chelen Reyes*
Reynolds and Rowella
Pamela Robey*
Edward Steinmetz*
TIAA Trust Company
Town Fair Tire Foundation
Town of New Fairfield
Margaret and Larry Wiener*
Dianne and Robert Yamin*
YourCause, LLC

Patron \$1,000+

Kim and Kenneth Adams*
Alexander Family Foundation, Inc.
Gail E Anderson*
Anonymous
At Home Design
Annis Bedoukian*
Melanie Schnoll Begun*
Brenda and Dan Berta*
Bonnie Beylouni*
Dayna Beylouni White*
Kristin and Darren Beylouni*
Melissa Beylouni*



Patron \$1,000+

Anne Boyd*
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Liz Caico*
Mary Campbell*
Canterbury School
Gregory Chapman*
Arthur Ciccolo*
CironeFriedberg LLP
Congregation Shir Shalom
The Congregational Church Of Brookfield
Alice and Matt Corso*
Gregory Corso*
Mark and Patty Corso*
Danbury Auto Partnership /
Honda of Danbury
Paul Dinto*
Susan Dorenbosch*
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E-Trade Financial
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Susan Gessner and Charles Robbins*
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Linda and Charles Gliedman*
Liz and Steven Goldstone*
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Sara Haims*
David and Nancy Hawley*
Lynn Holley*
Havva Idriss*
Reed Idriss and Meredith Renda*
J. McLaughlin
JW Leahy Foundation
The Jean Widmark and
Richard Widmark Foundation, Inc.
Jesse Lee Church
Joe's Salon & Spa
King Street United Church of Christ
Mary Kiniry*
Jefferson Kolle*
Jessica and Brent Koning*
Virginia Konopka*



Kathy and Robert Kornhaas*
Christine Louth and Dennis Daugherty*
Frank Malone*
Leona Renee Melamed Estate
Loretta and Lee McMaster*
Leona Renee Melamed Estate
Jeffrey Monroe*
Jolene Mullen*
Karla Murtaugh*
National Financial Services
Mark Nolan*
Nuvance Health
Daniel and Annette O'Brien*
Olde Crab Hockey Club, Inc.
Peale Foundation
PepsiCo Foundation
Carla Pierce*
Ridgefield Glass
Ridgefield PBA
Ridgefield Rotary Club
Catherine Riordan and Kurt Raschi*
Deborah Rizzo*
Rogers Park Middle School
June Rubin*
Joshua Salit*
Jennifer Schiff*
Brenda and Henry Schultz*
Shoes N More of Greenwich
Alexa and Gary Skalandunas*
Bruno Souza*
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Carol and John Stetson*
Vicki Taylor-Bloch*
Franklin Templeton*
Joel H. Third*
TIAA Trust Company
Town of Brookfield
Vanguard Charitable
Ventura Law
Warshaw Capital, LLC
Anna Winskill*
Woman's Club of Danbury & New Fairfield
Karen Zeilhofer*

Friend \$500+

Ability Beyond
Sandra Anderson-Howell
Anonymous
Brian Armstrong
Bank of America Employee Giving
Program
Bank Of America Merrill Lynch
Barnum Foundation for Life Inc
The Blazer Pub
Boehringer-Ingelheim
Bert Bowler
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Launching...

The Center for Empowerment and Education Legacy Society

Legacy gifts play a vital role in sustaining our mission for future generations. By including our organization in their estate plans, Legacy Society donors ensure that the values they believe in today will continue to make an impact tomorrow. Their foresight and generosity help strengthen our long-term stability and allow us to plan boldly for the future. A deep heartfelt thank you to our founding members.

**Kimberly & Kenneth Adams
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Leona Renee Melamed Estate**

From 50 To The Future

Igniting Change To End Interpersonal Violence

For 50 years, we've stood beside our community—adapting to changing needs, building safer environments through prevention and education, and helping thousands of survivors reclaim their strength and their stories. This milestone is not just a reflection of where we've been, but a foundation for where we're going. The next 50 years call on us to dream bigger, reach further, and continue evolving to meet emerging needs with the same courage and compassion that have defined us from the start. With the unwavering support of our community and the wisdom earned from decades of service, we are ready to shape a future free from violence—together.



1975
Alice Chapman, Mary Elizabeth Corso, and Bonnie Law founded The Women's Center around a kitchen table as a place to help people improve their lives.

1979
Battered Women's Services is established as a program of The Women's Center.

1982
A shelter for battered women opens in a rented house.

1989
The original Women's Center program becomes Women's Resource Services.

1999-2000
The Quarter Century Campaign is launched to expand and improve the organization as it celebrates 25 years of service.



2021
The Women's Center of Greater Danbury changes its name to The Center for Empowerment & Education (CEE) reflecting a commitment to helping change lives, preventing violence through education and building safer communities. It also reflects a commitment to supporting all members of the communities we serve.

1977
The Women's Center moves into rent-free city space on Main Street.

1981
Rape Crisis Services becomes a program of The Women's Center, offering a hotline, counseling, support groups, community education, and volunteer training.

1987-1993
Elizabeth House shelter is opened, renovated, and purchased by The Women's Center. By 1993, the shelter is fully paid off and owned by the Center.

1997
The Women's Center moves to 2-16 West Street, establishing a permanent main office.



2015-2021
The "Speaking Up Speaking Out" campaign is launched to empower, educate, and grow the organization. After the campaign, Elizabeth House shelter is sold, and Patricia House shelter, a state-of-the-art facility that can be scaled to other regions as a best practice, opens mortgage-free.

2025
The State of CT approved CEE's Certificate of Need (CON) proposal, paving the way for an Extended Therapy Program to launch in late 2025.

Sexual Assault Hotline: 203-731-5204 | Domestic Violence Hotline: 203-731-5206
www.TheCenterCT.org



Phone: 203-731-5200
Fax: 203-731-5207



thecenter@TheCenterCT.org



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