



Quarterly Newsletter - Spring/Summer Edition - May 2019

Save the Dates!



SAFEWALK
Sunday, October 6th
 Danbury Fair Mall



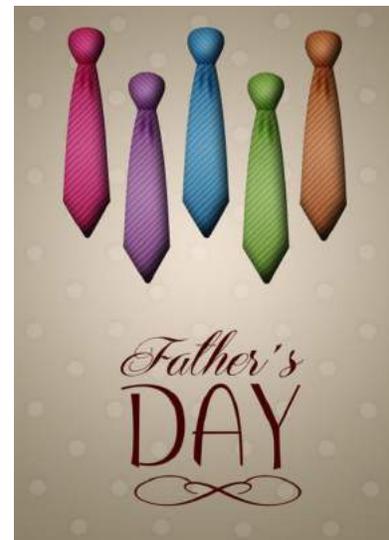
ANNUAL MEETING
Wed, November 20th

Details to come.
 All members of the Women's Center are invited to attend.

Will You Stand With Us This Father's Day?

In the words of Dr. Jackson Katz, Anti-Gender Violence Activist & Author, and Guest Speaker at our Annual Dinner on April 5th, *"We need more men with guts, with the courage, with the strength, with the moral integrity to break our complicit silence and challenge each other to stand with women and not against them."*

We are asking men who live and/or work in our 13-town service area to add their names to our annual ad in the News-Times. In this public statement, men are taking a stand to serve as positive role models to men and boys in our community. Men who understand that violence does not equal strength. We appreciate that most men are supportive fathers, husbands, brothers and sons who value the women and children in their lives by treating them with respect, dignity and loving concern.



While donations are not required to add your name, every dollar helps to provide our critical and comprehensive services to anyone who turns to us for help. Our services remain in demand (see last year's statistics below - By the Numbers). Fundraising is a critical part of our budget, covering half our annual costs.

Visit us here to add your name to our ad and make a donation today! Please specify "Father's Day" in the comments field of our online form. To add only your name, email Samantha Conetta-Flynn, Development Director, at samantha.f@wcogd.org.

Upcoming Events

Bethel Businesses
Throwing Royal Baby
Shower



UK Gourmet and Prime Pub are throwing a royal baby shower the entire month of

The deadline for your name to be included in the ad is Monday, June 10th!

shower the entire month of May. But the presents aren't going to Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. They are going to women and children in need.

UK Gourmet is collecting baby items (wipes, diapers, coloring books) for the Women's Center. They have teamed up with Prime Pub, serving up pink and blue cocktails, donating \$1 from every Royal Drink to the Women's Center.



Pink cocktail at Prime Pub

Guest Bartending Event

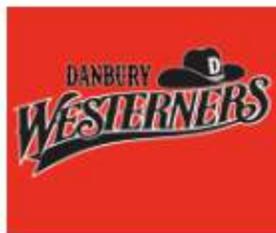


Local State Representative Raghiv Allie-Brennan will be guest bartender along with State Senator Julie Kushner.

10% of all food and drink purchased from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. will be donated to the Women's Center!

Wed, June 12, 2019
Dolce Restaurant
39 B Mill Plain Road
Danbury, CT

Danbury Westerners Charity Game



Attend the Danbury

From the Board Chair's Desk

The world today can feel chaotic. Unpredictable. Aggressive. Many of our clients can feel triggered by newspaper headlines, Facebook posts, or simply comments from people on the street. We are here to listen.



Individuals need to know that we counsel anyone and everyone who struggles with a broad range of issues -- self-esteem, bullying, domestic violence including financial control, emotional control and more, and the full spectrum of sexual assault. We are here to talk about it, 24 hours a day.

Every year we need to generate 50% of our operating income in order to keep the lights on and be here for all those that turn to us for help. Please donate if you can, and/or talk to us about volunteering!

With gratitude and peace,

Glori Norwitt
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Education Department Participates in #WorldAutismAwareness Day

On April 2nd, our Department of Education, Training & Outreach wore blue for #WorldAutismAwarenessDay at Sherman School where they discussed topics of bullying, empathy, and healthy friendships as they relate to people with disabilities, including having empathy over sympathy.



Attend the Danbury
Westerners baseball game on
Thursday, July 18, 2019.

Come watch as a
representative from the
Women's Center throws the
first pitch.

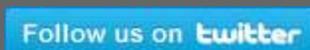
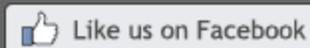
We're giving away **50 FREE
tickets** to the game. First
come, first served. Contact
Linda Cummins at
linda.c@wcogd.org

You Shop Amazon Gives



When you shop at
AmazonSmile, Amazon
donates 0.5% of the purchase
to the Women's Center.

[Bookmark this link](#)
and support us every time you
shop!



Quick Links...

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[Get Involved](#)
[More About Us](#)

Make a Donation

People with autism and other developmental disabilities are at higher risk for victimization of domestic and sexual violence. It is critical that the Women's Center provide educational programs and services that are integrative of people with differing abilities as we work toward building a community that is compassionate, empathetic, and inclusive of all.

"An Evening Together" - Oh What a Night!

Much fun was had by all who attended our annual dinner, our largest fundraising event each year. Comedian and auctioneer, Christine O'Leary worked the room creating a bidding frenzy for exciting live auction items such as the Kentucky Derby tickets with airfare!



US Senator Richard Blumenthal came out to show his support and spoke to our guests about the important work we do at the Women's Center. State Senator Julie Kushner was also among our guests, with husband Larry Morgan who was part of our Annual Dinner Committee this year.

Our 2019 Founder's award went to Danbury and New Milford Hospitals. CEO of Nuvance, Dr. John Murphy pictured below with CEO Pat Zachman and Board Chair Glori Norwitt, accepted the award and spoke to attendees about the importance of the collaboration between emergency department staff and Women's Center staff in serving domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

Every dollar counts!
Your generosity is crucial as we work to end the violence!

[DONATE NOW](#)

FREE Purple Bracelet

Donate \$1 or more at Hand & Stone Spa during the month of May to the Women's Center and receive a FREE purple bracelet to show your support!



Hand & Stone
Massage and Facial Spa
143 Federal Road
Brookfield, CT

Welcome New Board Members



Courtney McNevin

Meet Courtney McNevin who joined our Board of Directors in April. Courtney is a Strategic Manager with a specialty in organizational design and managing through data analytics in both the finance and healthcare sectors. She is



A special thanks to a small ensemble of members of the Ridgefield Chorale for opening up the evening with a beautiful, uplifting performance.



And an enormous thank you goes to our Annual Dinner Committee and to all of our Sponsors for helping to make the evening possible. Visit our website for a full list of [2019 supporters](#).



2019 Annual Dinner Committee Members

Underwriters

Kevin & Elaine Cox

Cocktail Sponsor

Praxair, Inc.

and healthcare sectors. She is currently a Manager at Cedar, Inc., a high growth New York based healthcare technology company aimed at re-imagining the healthcare billing experience. In her role, Courtney is responsible for the design and creation of the Sales Team.

Prior to joining Cedar, Courtney was a Management Associate in the Research Department at Bridgewater Associates, a Hedge Fund based in Westport, CT. While there, she managed three investor led research teams, and handled a variety of strategic initiatives, most notably designing and implementing the data analytics used to evaluate investor performance, which she regularly reported to the C-Suite. Courtney attended Boston College, where she majored in Economics. She and her fiance currently reside in Redding, CT.



Nancy Hamlen

Nancy Hamlen also joined our Board in April. Nancy enjoyed a 25 year career designing educational products for publishing companies like Scholastic, Weekly Reader, and Children's Press. As a Creative Director, Nancy specialized in creating children's educational titles and practical tools and websites which helped its readers become more productive and successful students.

Nancy's most notable accomplishments include leading a team from print

Presenting Sponsors

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Community Supports Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Each year, the Center gets busy with several programs designed to raise awareness of sexual assault and the services available to survivors of this violence. Here are some of this year's highlights:

Bingo & Brews Event

A new addition to SAAM activities was the Bingo & Brews event held at Charter Oak Brewing Company in Danbury. Each bingo round had its own theme and board relating to sexual assault; a fun way to engage and educate on this serious topic while sampling the brews. Thank you to

leading a team from print platform to online design with successful launch of many new series and award winning educational programs. Most recently a special media marketing consultant to LJ Edwards Furniture and Design Studio, Nancy worked to increase brand awareness and attract more customers designing display ads, email campaigns and authoring a company blog call *Details*.

Nancy lives by Candlewood Lake in New Milford with husband Ron and two pups Ulla and Milo.

Women's Center Awarded Critically Needed Funds

We want to thank **Ridgefield Thrift Shop** for the generous grant received in March of this year. We are so grateful for their continuous support.



In April, Samantha Conetta Flynn, Director of Development, attended the **The Women's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield's Celebration of Community Giving**. We were honored to be one of their 2019 grant recipients.

serious topic while sampling the brews. Thank you to everyone who came out. The event was a great success!



Cork & Canvas Fundraiser

On April 25th, at the Pottery Factory in Brookfield, many attended the Cork & Canvas fundraiser for a night of painting, wine and fun. The featured painting was "Carolina Sea Oats." A portion of the proceeds from the event were donated to the Women's Center as part of SAAM.



In March, the Center was thrilled to be the winner of **Fairfield County Bank's Charity of the Month** award.



The Center is fortunate to be on the receiving end of this charitable giving. We are truly grateful for the community support. Without it, we would not be here for all those that turn to us for help.

Handcrafted Gifts for Elizabeth House

Several gorgeous handmade quilts were recently donated to the Women's Center Elizabeth House Residential Facility so our clients can feel safe, warm and loved.

The Quilt-A-Thon event was hosted by **Cotton Candy Fabrics** of Brookfield.



Denim Day

On April 25, staff, volunteers, Board members, and our community partners made a social statement by wearing jeans as part of Denim Day. We were so impressed and grateful for the show of support this year! Below are just a few photos. You can find dozens more on our Facebook page.



Denim Day was originally triggered by a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove them, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual assault.

Teal Ribbons Initiative

During the first few weeks of April, we hung teal ribbons around trees in 10 of the 13 towns that we serve. The teal ribbons had a small sign indicating their purpose and giving the public information about our services and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Ribbons were hung in the prominent

downtown areas of each town



A huge thank you to Erin and co-chairs Roni and Peggy. Here are a few pictures of these beautiful pieces of art that will be welcome by our residents.



Become a Member Today!

Membership reflects community support and shows funders that our Domestic



downtown areas of each town. These ribbons received a lot of publicity, and help create awareness of the Women's Center.

#IAsk Window Mural

The theme of this year's campaign was #IAsk focusing on the power of consent. Thank you to Immaculate High School student artist, Kennedy Muller for creating this mural in

the window at our Headquarters. Together we can prevent sexual assault by creating a culture of consent.



Round up and donate every month!

Your small change can make a BIG difference!

Introducing **Coin Up**.

An innovative mobile app that rounds up your everyday credit/debit card transactions and donates the "spare change" each month. An easy way to give to the Women's Center all year long!

unders that our Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Resource Services programs are important to the community and provide a lifeline to individuals within Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield Counties.

As a member of the Women's Center, you can take great pride in your affiliation with this respected organization and your support for the FREE services we provide to individuals and families in crisis or transition.

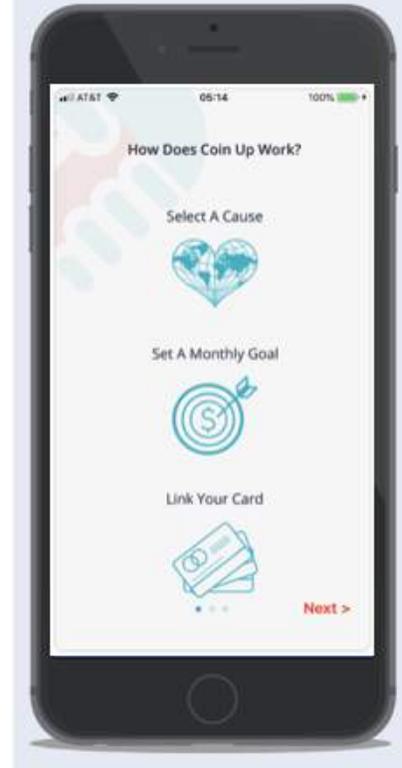
Show your support! Please help us to continue to make a difference in people's lives.

[**Become a Member**](#)

**Memberships are annual and run through June 30.*



[Download the Coin Up app](#) or [Sign Up](#) online today!



BY THE NUMBERS

From **January through March 2019**, we served thousands in our Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Resource Services programs.

Hotline Calls



Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault
894

Education, Training and Outreach Programs



Total Programs
327

Adults
592

Children
6,942

Court Advocacy



Civil and Criminal
Justice Advocacy
688

Counseling & Support



Safety Planning
1,952

Counseling Sessions
2,166

Group Counseling
424

Resource Services



Information / Referral
1,287

Advocacy
1,568

Elizabeth House



Total Residents
Sheltered
17

**10 Adults and
7 Children**

New Clients **1,407**