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## ***Women's Center Educates Community During Domestic Violence Awareness Month***

DANBURY, October 31 - On Friday, October 14, 2016, the Women's Center's Trainer/Adult Educator met with the staff of Joe's Salon & Spa in New Milford to conduct a community education training on how to respond to domestic violence disclosures. October is "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," which makes a training of this type all the more important and relevant. According to a 2011 "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey" conducted by the *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner at some point in their life, further emphasizing the importance of training all members of our community on how to respond to disclosures of domestic violence.

The stylists at Joe's Salon believe this training is imperative because they have unique, often intimate relationships with their committed clients. A 2012 *Psychology Today* article, "The Psychology of Hair Salons & Stylists: Therapy for Free," substantiates this idea, citing that hair salons are a place where some people go so far as to say that getting a haircut is like going to see a therapist.

This training details the dynamics of abuse and what forms it can take, for example physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, and technological abuse, as well as reproductive coercion. Domestic violence looks very different in different relationships, however it is always a pattern of actions to maintain power and control over an intimate partner. A role-playing exercise, pairing participants with a partner to brainstorm how they would empathetically respond to particular disclosure scenarios, is included in the program. Training culminates with the dissemination of critical contact information to connect individuals with key support and services through the Women's Center.

If you are interested in hosting a community education training at your business or organization, please contact Johanna DeBari at [johanna.d@wcogd.org](mailto:johanna.d@wcogd.org) for more information.

The Women's Center provides free and confidential services to prevent or lessen the trauma associated with domestic violence, sexual assault and other major life transitions to thousands of women, children and men annually. The programs of the Women's Center are supported by state and local government, area United Way agencies and the people and businesses in the communities we serve including Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, and Washington, CT.

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