



Quarterly Newsletter - Fall Edition - September 2017

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**Upcoming Events**

**Eat and Drink for  
a Good Cause!**



The Village Tavern in downtown Ridgefield is donating 100% of sales to the Women's Center (not just proceeds - everything!) You can do lunch, dinner, drinks or buy gift certificates.

**Monday, September 18  
The Village Tavern  
378 Main Street  
Ridgefield, CT**

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**Are you ready? SafeWalk is almost here!**

On **Sunday, October 1st** at 8:30 a.m. at Danbury Fair Mall, hundreds of people throughout the community will join us as we walk together in support of our mission to end violence. Local organizations, businesses, faith groups, schools and families come out for this annual event to help build awareness of the work we do at the Women's Center and to raise critically needed funds to support our programs. Will you be among us this year?

Pre-registration costs are \$15 for Students; \$25 for individuals. You can register [HERE](#) now. We hope to see you!



We are still seeking sponsors for this event! Sponsors are invaluable to us -- there are many giving opportunities available.

For questions or additional information about becoming a Sponsor of SafeWalk, please contact Kelly Parker, Special Events Manager, at (203) 731-5200, ext. 232 or [kelly.p@wcogd.org](mailto:kelly.p@wcogd.org).

**Current Sponsors include:** Addressi Jewelers, Allstate Insurance - Peter Stockwell, Irv & Laura Becker, Elaine Cox

**Cheers to Charity!**



Cellar XV in Ridgefield is celebrating its 15th Anniversary with a wine tasting benefiting 5 local charities, including the Women's Center!

**Saturday, September 23  
Cellar XV Wine Market  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
86 Danbury Road  
Ridgefield, CT**

Tickets are \$40 in advance. Find more information about this event [HERE](#).

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**Cork & Canvas  
Fundraiser!**



Join us for a night of painting, wine, and fun! Register at [thepotteryfactory.com/events/](http://thepotteryfactory.com/events/) BYOB; wine glasses & corkscrew will be provided. For more information, contact [cara.m@wcoqd.org](mailto:cara.m@wcoqd.org)

**Thursday, October 26  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
The Pottery Factory  
265 Federal Road  
Brookfield, CT 06804**

& Lori Berisford, Mayor Mark D. Boughton, Crystal Rock, Danbury High School Athletics, Danbury High School Diamond Club, Danbury Surgical Center, Dental Associates of CT, Fairfield County Bank, Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, Lions Club of Ridgefield, Barbara Manners, Newtown Rotary Club, Newtown Savings Bank, North American Motor Car, OrthoConnecticut/Danbury Orthopedics, Pamby Motors, Praxair, Ridgefield High School Football, Ridgefield Police Union, Ridgefield Supply, Rotary Club of Danbury, Rotary Club of Ridgefield, Savings Bank of Danbury, Solimine Contracting, Stadium Systems, The Village Tavern, and the Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield.

**From our Board Chairperson!**

Every September, many of us are focused on the beginning of the school year. At the Women's Center, we are too!



Our educators are preparing for another busy fall when demand for our programs (preschool age through senior citizens) is highest. Our awareness and education programs help individuals understand what a healthy relationship looks like, how to identify "red flag" behaviors, and where to seek help; and much more. In our last fiscal year, the Women's Center reached a milestone -- over 28,000 people in the greater Danbury community were touched by our community education programs!

We are also busy preparing for Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October. We have many activities taking place throughout the month which you will read about in this newsletter. Everyone can support Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Invite our educators to speak at your school, office, sports practice or church. Support those around you who may need help. And join more than 1,000 people who will attend our SafeWalk on October 1. Walking with your children, friends and neighbors is a fun, easy way to support our mission. Our Committee is working to make it the best SafeWalk yet.

Thank you so much for your support,

Glori Norwitt  
Chair, Board of Directors

**Second Annual Dancing Stars Gala - You're Invited!**

The second Annual Brookfield's Dancing Stars Gala, hosted by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Brookfield, is a fundraising event full of all the fun, glitz and glamour of the hit TV show Dancing with the Stars! Local celebrities and

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### 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...

- [Our Website](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [More About Us](#)

#### Did You Know?

**1 in 5** women will experience sexual violence during their time in college.

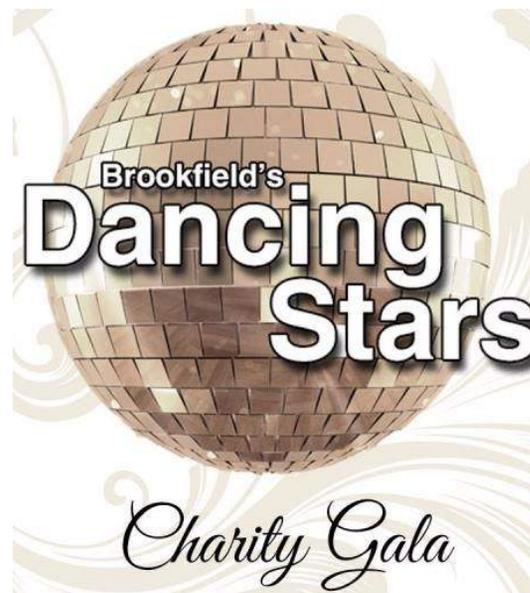
*(Source: Dupain and Lombardi 2014; Exner and Cummings 2011)*

#### Dr. Evan Hack Joins Board of Directors

community leaders will learn a polished choreographed routine and perform with a professional partner at the Gala in a competition mirroring the television show. The Women's Center is this year's designated charity to benefit from the proceeds!

More information about the event and to purchase tickets is available [HERE](#).

**Friday, September 15  
7:00 p.m. to Midnight  
The Amber Room Colonnade  
Danbury, CT**



Our dancers are busy practicing their dance moves, preparing for this exciting and fun event. Each dancer is individually raising funds.

Please consider [making a donation to your favorite dancer](#) to help them to reach their personal fundraising goals!



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Evan Hack has joined our Board of Directors.

Pediatrician Dr. Evan Hack received his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis and medical degree from Albany Medical College. He completed his pediatric residency at Boston Floating Hospital for Children. A board-certified pediatrician, Dr. Hack co-founded Candlewood Valley Pediatrics in 1988 and has been successfully sharing his knowledge and talent beyond the practice walls to the community ever since.

For many years, he has been New Milford and Sherman Public School's medical advisor, VNA's well child clinic physician volunteer, member of the United Way's Southern Litchfield Council, and part of Plow to Plate's community coalition. He is an active member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' CT Chapter's School of Health Committee. More recently he became an assistant clinical professor at University of Vermont and Quinnipiac University Medical Schools, mentoring medical students in the art of primary care. Over the past decade, frustrated with the lack of access to



Meet our Dancing Stars, including Nancy Hawley, Women's Center Advisory Council Member.

### Annual Membership Appeal

Many of you will have already received by mail our annual membership appeal letter. A Women's Center membership reflects community support and shows funders 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 return your membership by mail, or you can [Become a Member](#) on our website now.



You can help us make a difference in people's lives.

*\*Memberships are annual and run through June 30, 2018*

### October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

In the month of October, the Center will be busy with several programs designed to raise awareness of Domestic Violence and the services available to survivors of this violence. Here are some highlights:

#### Candlelight Vigil of Remembrance

Our inaugural vigil will feature the Silent Witness exhibit, a collection of statues that represent those who have lost their

pediatric mental health care, Dr. Hack was instrumental in partnering with mental health entities such as Family & Children's Aid, Greenwoods Counseling Services and CMHA, bringing and enhancing mental health services to the area's children. We are thrilled to have Dr. Hack serve on the Women's Center board.

### **Intimate Partner Violence - A Public Health Issue**

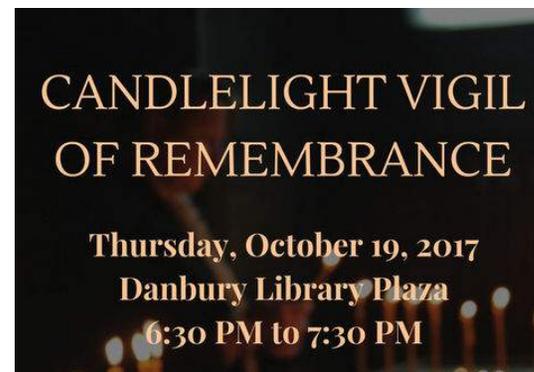
Studies show that intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major public health issue, and healthcare providers are often the point of entry for victims seeking assistance following physical injuries. For this reason, healthcare providers play a critical role in responding to such an epidemic.

This year we conducted outreach to local healthcare providers to provide trainings to give them the tools and knowledge to address domestic violence in their daily practice. A local pediatric healthcare practice participated in this training. Part of this training included, understanding the dynamics of intimate partner violence and conducting screening for IPV in a healthcare setting. After this program, one of the physicians was able to put these skills directly into practice.

### **How Our Training Helped**

A young female patient came in for her physical, and during the physical, she expressed some sadness and emotions about her parents'

lives to domestic violence. We will honor the victims in our 13 town area by reading their names. We invite you to attend this somber, yet powerful event.



### **Healthy Relationship Poster Contest**

This October, we want to engage youth in conversations about healthy relationships through a healthy relationships poster contest. Youth in kindergarten through eighth grade can participate. There are different prompts for each grade level, as outlined below. We encourage schools and youth organizations to participate, along with individual youth in the community. Prizes are available for the winners in each grade level. Please reach out to Ann Rodwell-Lawton, Director of Education, Training, and Outreach at [ann.rl@wcogd.org](mailto:ann.rl@wcogd.org) or (203) 731-5200, ext. 233 for more information about the guidelines for submissions and to receive a consent form that must be signed by a parent/guardian.

- K-2: "Who do you feel safe with and why?"
- 3-5: "What does respect look like to you?"
- 6-8: "What does a healthy relationship look like?"

### **Engaging Faith Communities**

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are inviting local faith organizations to raise awareness about domestic violence. One opportunity to raise awareness is to include prayers for domestic violence survivors at their place of worship during services in October. Connecticut averages 14 domestic violence related homicides annually, and we invite organizations to ring bells 14 times on the month's last day of worship to remember these victims. We also welcome the opportunity to come in to places of worship to speak about the variety of services offered by the Women's Center, as well as discussing dynamics of domestic violence. If you think your faith community would be interested in this initiative, or to receive our list of prayers, please contact

relationship and their fighting in the house. With this information, the physician was able to talk with the mother alone, screen her for IPV, and connect her to the Women's Center. Without our training, many of these steps would not have occurred, and this physician would not have known to screen for IPV, and how to connect the mother to our free services.

**By the Number:  
Clients Served**

From April through June 2017, we served thousands in our Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Resource Services programs:

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| New Clients.....          | 1,017 |
| Hotline Calls.....        | 1,195 |
| Counseling                |       |
| Sessions.....             | 2,801 |
| Advocacy.....             | 614   |
| Safety Planning.....      | 1,339 |
| Information/Referral..... | 1,058 |
| Group Counseling.....     | 233   |
| Civil/Criminal            |       |
| Justice Advocacy.....     | 442   |

In addition to the services provided above, the Women's Center delivered **244** education, training, and outreach programs to **1,839** area adults and **5,607** children.

Elizabeth House, our shelter for victims fleeing from violence in their homes, sheltered **23** new residents (9 adults and 14 children).

We are truly grateful that through the generosity and support of our sponsors, volunteers and donors, we are able to reach so many individuals and families that rely on our critically needed services month after month.

Johanna DeBari, Trainer/Adult Educator, at [johanna.d@wcogd.org](mailto:johanna.d@wcogd.org) or (203) 731-5200, ext. 251.

**Trainings for Hair Salons**

We are spearheading an education initiative by reaching out to local hair salons to host a training for their staff on responding to disclosures of domestic violence. Research emphasizes the valuable connection clients and hair stylists have, where this one-on-one relationship is parallel to seeing a therapist. With this, survivors may feel safe disclosing their experiences of domestic violence. If you think your hair salon would be interested in hosting this training, please contact Johanna DeBari, Trainer/Adult Educator at [johanna.d@wcogd.org](mailto:johanna.d@wcogd.org) or (203) 731-5200, ext. 251 to schedule a training.



**ProjectBe Support Group for Young Girls**

### Make a Donation



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

[DONATE NOW](#)



The Women's Center is offering a **FREE 8-week support group series for girls in Middle and High School.**

The Girls Circle evidence-based curriculum will be used to create a group that focuses on empowerment, healthy relationships, and helping youth to make safe choices when they encounter potentially exploitive situations.

Groups will begin meeting weekly at the Women's Center  
**Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
6:00-7:30PM  
2 West Street, Danbury, CT

Space is limited and registration is required. For English, please contact Melissa at 203-731-5200, EXT 240, or [melissa.o@wcogd.org](mailto:melissa.o@wcogd.org) to register or for more information.

Espacio es limitado. Registración es requerida. Para Espanola, por favor llama a Delta al 203-731-5200, EXT 207, or [delta.v@wcogd.org](mailto:delta.v@wcogd.org) para registraci3n 3 informaci3n.



### Giving Tree - What Your Gift Can Do



## The Giving Tree

Help us to serve the community in the most effective way possible! Your donation could support the following items:

- AED (Automated External Defibrillation) - in need of three - \$2,000
- Campus Awareness Giveaways (safety whistles, pens, small bags, etc.) - \$1,000

- iPad for Campus - \$750
- iPad for Court - \$750
- Emergency Epi Pen - \$600
- Vacuum for Elizabeth House - \$350
- Infant Car Seat - \$300
- Toddler Car Seat - \$300
- Elizabeth House Residents Activity Fund (bus passes, ice rink passes, museum passes, etc.) - \$250
- Baby Monitor for Elizabeth House - \$200
- Keurig / Bunn Burners for Clients - \$150
- Adult Therapy Items (journals, worry stones, adult coloring books) - \$100
- Puppet Making Supplies - \$100
- Child Therapy Activity Books/Board Games - \$100
- Office Supplies (flip chart pads, binders, binder dividers, etc.) - \$100
- Peanut Free Snacks for Elizabeth House and Community Clients - \$50
- White Noise Machine - \$50
- Roku Streaming Stick - \$50
- High Chair for Elizabeth House - \$50
- Booster Seat - \$50
- Safety Guards for Bedroom Windows at Elizabeth House - \$50
- Fitted sheets for Elizabeth House - \$50
- Track Phones - \$45
- Walmart gift card - \$25
- Stop & Shop gift card - \$25

To make a donation for a Giving Tree item, contact Samantha Conetta Flynn, Development Director at (203) 731-5200, ext. 237 or [donate now](#) on our website. Please be sure to indicate which item(s) your donation should be applied to in the "comments" field.

Women's Center of Greater Danbury, 2 West St., Danbury, CT 06810

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