Learn more about what we’ve been up to...

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The staff and Board of CCADV would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy Thanksgiving!

CCADV Launches Safe Connect - CT's Domestic Violence Resource Hub!

CCADV's newest initiative, Safe Connect, seeks to streamline the many access points that currently exist for survivors of domestic violence seeking services into one comprehensive,
Safe Connect will serve as Connecticut’s domestic violence resource hub, providing information, safety planning, counseling, case management, and referrals to CCADV’s 18 member domestic violence organizations and other community-based resources.

Safe Connect is a unique platform that strengthens access to safety for victims and survivors by transforming the operation of Connecticut’s statewide domestic violence hotline. The statewide hotline has traditionally only been available by calling a toll-free telephone number, but the ways in which people communicate have evolved since its establishment. Now, under Safe Connect, access to certified domestic violence counselors will be available via PHONE, TEXT, CHAT and EMAIL. All services are confidential, safe, free, voluntary, and available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

Check out the Safe Connect PSA below:

Team Safe Connect

Safe Connect is led by a team of highly compassionate, bilingual, multicultural individuals who are reflective of the communities we serve. This includes:

- **Director of Safe Connect** who will oversee program implementation and development, facilitating grant management and systems collaboration
- **Clinical Director of Safe Connect** who will provide clinical oversight and support, offering expertise in assessing and managing client cases
- **Director of Quality Assurance** who will provide oversight of program goals, identifying trends and gaps in service, monitoring outcomes and system integration
- **Safe Connect Program Managers** (3) who will oversee the 24 hour daily operations and maintain the integrity of the program infrastructure including staffing and resource allocation
- **Safe Connect Advocacy Coordinators** (29) who will provide crisis intervention, information, referral, and ongoing advocacy to survivors
With a particular focus on increasing accessibility to services for underserved or underrepresented communities, 70% of Safe Connect advocates are bilingual in both English and Spanish. Several other languages are also spoken such as French, Haitian Creole, Patois, and Urdu, among others. Safe Connect advocates’ cultural backgrounds span over ten different countries and four continents.

Safe Connect Awareness Toolkit

As we work to raise awareness about this exciting new initiative, we hope that you will consider downloading our Safe Connect Awareness Toolkit and utilizing the talking points, images and other resources provided in this toolkit to help spread the word across your own networks. Some possible ways you might help us raise awareness about the availability of Safe Connect include:

- sharing the pre-formatted images on social media
- hanging the poster in your waiting area
- sharing the flyer with local organizations with which you are affiliated, such as faith-based organizations, healthcare professionals, or local human services organizations
- hanging the “tear-off tab” flyers in your restrooms or on bulletin boards at local organizations and stores
- using the sample article provided in a newsletter or eblast
- placing the Safe Connect logo on your website with a link to www.ctsafeconnect.org

Click here to download the Safe Connect Awareness Toolkit with a link to download a number of useful images and print materials!

The more individuals and organizations that participate in raising awareness about the availability of Safe Connect, the more victims and survivors who will know how to access potentially life-saving services. Thank you for helping us spread the word!

For questions about Safe Connect, please don’t hesitate to contact CCADV’s Director of Safe Connect, Michelle Marone-Pillsbury.

Congratulations to the 2019 Class of First 100 Plus!
Congratulations to the 2019 Class of First 100 Plus!
Click here to see a complete list of honorees.

Many thanks to those who were able to join us for our 9th Annual First 100 Plus Breakfast and Awards Ceremony!

We had another memorable morning, recognizing over 90 women and men leading efforts across the state to improve outcomes for survivors of domestic violence. Coalition Crusaders, Coach Joe Aresimowicz (Berlin High School Football) and Coach Harry Bellucci (Hartford Public High School Football) and Lawrence & Shirley Bostrom Pillars of Change Award recipient, Hartford Athletic, were all recognized for their leadership and commitment to promoting our new violence prevention initiative, Coaching Boys Into Men (see article below).

We have had many victories in our efforts over the past 41 years to strengthen the state’s response to domestic violence and money raised through the First 100 Plus Breakfast & Awards Ceremony will help to sustain that work. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who provide critical support for our work. You can check out more photos from the event on our Facebook page. Thank you to Sandy Aldieri at Perceptions Photography for once again donating your time and talent to help us capture the event!

Thank you to our presenting sponsor:

Coalition Crusader
Coach Joe Aresimowicz

Coalition Crusader
Coach Harry Bellucci

Lawrence & Shirley Bostrom Pillars of Change Award
Hartford Athletic
Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing Project Sees Strong Start

Safe and affordable housing is one of the primary barriers faced by survivors of domestic violence when choosing to leave an abusive partner. Survivors are often limited in the location and types of housing they can access because of their unique safety and confidentiality needs in addition to financial abuse that often leads to bad credit or insufficient income to secure a lease. Over fifty percent of all women experiencing homelessness report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of homelessness.

In Connecticut last year, the homeless service system served 1,531 unduplicated households reporting they were actively fleeing domestic violence. This is in addition to over 2,000 adults and children who stayed in domestic violence shelters that year. CCADV’s new Rapid Rehousing Program is providing families attempting to flee domestic violence with a unique, flexible resource to meet the unique needs of families served within CCADV’s member organizations.

Currently, thirty-two families across the state are enrolled in the program. Pause for a minute to think about this number. This is an astounding number for a program that received its funding less than two months ago. The commitment of our Domestic Violence Advocates and Housing Specialists to get training, refer families, and walk families through this process needs to be commended.

Traditionally, rapid rehousing has been made available to families currently living in shelter, but what is exciting about this program is the flexibility of funding to support families fleeing domestic violence in a survivor-centered way. Twenty-two percent of referrals have come from community settings so families can move seamlessly from one apartment to another without having to put their families in shelter first.

Housing Specialists work diligently to build relationships and create a network of landlords that are understanding and are willing to provide opportunities to our families despite bad credit histories, lack of income, or other barriers that often prevent survivors of domestic violence from securing apartments. Our goal is to house families in 45 days or less from program entry and all families with keys so far have signed their leases in less than 45 days.

For questions or more information, please contact CCADV’s Director of Housing Advocacy, Annie Stockton Sabrowski.

Congratulations & Shout Outs!

CCADV thanks all of the Domestic Violence Advocates and Housing Specialists who have attended trainings, made referrals, and successfully housed families over the past two months. We are seeing success every day from all of our members. A few highlights include:

- **Women’s Center** and **Operation Hope** located an apartment and housed a family in less than 20 days.

- **Safe Futures** and **Homeless Hospitality Center** were able to not only house, but also furnish an apartment for a family and made special accommodation to make sure the family could keep their family dog with them in the new unit.

- As a survivor-centered program, this program will move families where they feel safest whether it is in the same community or on the other side of the state. Shout out to **The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services** and **Prudence Crandall Center** for working as a team to secure safe housing for a family transitioning from one community to another.

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CCADV Partners with CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence on Statewide Rollout of Coaching Boys Into Men
CCADV is proud to partner with the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence on the statewide rollout of Coaching Boys Into Men in Connecticut. Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) is a violence prevention program developed by Futures Without Violence for athletic coaches to inspire them to teach their young male athletes about the importance of respect for themselves, others, and particularly women and girls. The three pillars of CBIM are RESPECT, INTEGRITY, and NONVIOLENCE.

Athletic coaches play an extremely influential and unique role in the lives of young men. Because of these relationships, coaches are poised to positively influence how young men think and behave, both on and off the field. CBIM is the only evidence-based prevention program that trains and motivates high school coaches to teach their young male athletes healthy relationship skills and that violence never equals strength.

The program is specifically developed for coaches to be easily incorporated into regular coaching strategy and practice sessions. Over the course of a season, CBIM coaches lead their players through brief weekly activities that address themes such as personal responsibility, respectful behavior, and relationship abuse. Participating coaches receive a set of 12 training cards, each with a weekly topic and guidance for discussion.

Coaches interested in being trained on CBIM can reach out to CCADV’s Director of Training & Prevention, Linda Blozie, or Safe Connect Program Manager, Dylan Figueiredo, at CBIM@ctcadv.org or (860) 282-7899.

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**CCADV Task Force Member Publishes Memoir**

Monique Faison Ross, who is a domestic violence survivor and member of CCADV’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Task Force, recently published her memoir - *Playing Dead: A Memoir of Terror and Survival*. Having survived near-fatal IPV, she tells her story of a verbally and emotionally abusive relationship that escalated to stalking, kidnapping, rape and attempted murder. The book has been reviewed by Lundy Bancroft and Patricia Evans.

"Monique Faison Ross shares with us her engaging, powerful, and ultimately shocking story of brutal intimate violence. Her survival, her strength, and her wisdom are an inspiration and a lesson to us all. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear what the targets of domestic violence are trying to tell us, told in a way that will keep you turning the pages."-- Lundy Bancroft, author of Why Does He Do That? and The Joyous Recovery

"Playing Dead is a compelling book--a true page-turner. Smart, strong, and protective of her children, Monique was barraged with snide comments and criticism, yet had no idea that this was verbal abuse and never suspected its extreme escalation. Every chapter compels the reader forward to what's next."--Patricia Evans, author of The Verbally Abusive Relationship, Controlling People, and more.

[www.VerbalAbuse.com](http://www.VerbalAbuse.com)

Playing Dead is available on Amazon/Kindle.

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**CCADV Releases Toolkit for Employers to Address Domestic Violence in the Workplace**

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CCADV recently published a new toolkit for employers - *Responding to Domestic Violence in the Workplace: Best Policies and Practices*. Domestic violence can impact the workplace whether the violence actually takes place there or somewhere outside the place of employment. Economic security is a critical component of safety for victims of violence; the ability to maintain one's employment can greatly enhance a victim's ability to create safety. Studies indicate that one of the best predictors of whether individuals will leave their abusive relationship is their degree of economic independence. However, domestic violence can jeopardize a victim’s ability to keep a job. Every workplace is different, and there's no one-size fits all approach.

Understanding the significant impact that domestic violence can have on the workplace and the important role that employers can play in helping their employees to be safe, CCADV's new toolkit has a number of helpful resources. Employers will find information to better understand the issue of domestic violence and how it might impact their workplace, as well as tools to develop comprehensive policies and programs so that their workplace can both prevent and respond to domestic violence.

We encourage you to share the toolkit with your community partners. CCADV is happy to offer training or consultation to any interested employer and work with your organization. We also offer a [webinar](#) about the toolkit and how employers can create safe, supportive work environments.

For questions or training, please contact CCADV CEO, [Karen Jarmoc](mailto:), or our Director of Training & Prevention, [Linda Blozie](mailto:).

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**We've Moved! Please Update Your Records**

Just a quick reminder that CCADV's office has moved. We are now located at:

655 Winding Brook Drive, Suite 4050
Glastonbury, CT 06033

We are just off of Route 2 ([click here for directions](#)). For those attending trainings or meetings at our office, we have plenty of parking and a cafeteria in the building, and of course the new office is right near downtown Glastonbury with plenty of restaurant options.

Please update your records and of course don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.
We look forward to seeing you at the new office!

655 Winding Brook Drive, Suite 4050
Glastonbury, CT 06033
860.282.7899