First 100 Plus Class of 2013 Recognized

On November 19, 2013, CCADV held the 3rd Annual First 100 Plus Breakfast and Awards Ceremony. The First 100 Plus awards ceremony was established in 2011 to recognize 100 male leaders who work to improve the lives of domestic violence victims either statewide or in their local community. These men demonstrate their dedication to raising awareness about the availability of services.

“Even though most men are not part of the problem, they must be part of the solution to prevent domestic violence,” said Karen Jarmoc, CCADV Executive Director. “It is our privilege to recognize these men, who in large and small ways, have had a positive impact on the lives of domestic violence victims throughout the state.”

We were honored to be joined by Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Attorney General George Jepsen and State Comptroller Kevin Lembo to recognize this year’s class of 100 men, another exceptional group of dedicated men, including doctors, police officers, volunteers, journalists and more.

It was our privilege to recognize the dedicated work of the Verizon Foundation as our Lawrence & Shirley Bostrom Pillars of Change. Verizon has made domestic violence one of its priority causes through its HopeLine program and the Verizon Foundation, providing invaluable support not only to CCADV, but to domestic violence coalitions and agencies across the country.

Garry Lapidus, Director of the Injury Prevention Center at CT Children’s Medical Center/Hartford Hospital was recognized as our Coalition Crusader. Mr. Lapidus has been a leading force working towards comprehensive screening and prevention efforts among healthcare professionals in Connecticut.

Continued on page 5...
Through a unique new partnership with the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC) in collaboration with parole and adult probation, victims of domestic violence in Hartford and New Haven whose abusive partners are incarcerated or recently released are receiving intensive case management services. CCADV member agencies Interval House in Hartford and The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services in New Haven are serving this high-risk population of survivors, many of whom are in historically underserved communities. These two pilot sites are working with CCADV to enhance the safety of survivors and their families at the critical time when offenders return to the community.

Safe Connections will provide comprehensive, supportive services for victims who do not want contact with the offender as well as for those who want to reunite and those who must have contact due to having a child in common with the offender. Recognizing that many victims will reunite with their abusive partner, it is important to help them identify and address their safety needs and those of their children during the re-entry period. While maintaining a focus on safety, project advocates use a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to help survivors navigate the criminal justice system and learn self-advocacy skills. Areas of system advocacy undertaken by pilot site staff include:

- applying for the Address Confidentiality Program
- registering for DOC’s Request for the Inmate Status Notification Program
- filing Victim Impact Statements with the DOC Victim Services Office
- applying for restraining orders
- requesting Violence Against Women Act Certification for housing assistance through the local housing authority.

On-going safety planning and referrals for shelter/housing, legal and medical services, and resources to meet basic needs are also part of the case management. In development by one pilot site are plans for a support group specifically for survivors facing the challenges presented by offenders returning to the community. The group is intended to create a network of support, understanding, and strength among survivors.

In addition to on-going outreach efforts to encourage referrals from community service agencies (faith, medical, self-help, recreational, employment), the Safe Connections project staff at both pilot sites are engaged in the creation of cross-systems collaborations. The Parole and Probation Offices in the two pilot cities support the project goals of victim safety and offender accountability. For example, when the probation officers assigned to the high-risk domestic violence offenders mail the standard informational letter to crime victims, they are including the Safe Connections brochure to connect survivors with available services.

Another system collaboration underway is with the DOC Re-Entry Counselors assigned to each of the sixteen correctional facilities. They have agreed to refer inmates with domestic violence offenses or histories returning to Hartford or New Haven to Families in Crisis for batterer intervention programming, especially those offenders released “end of sentence” without any reporting or oversight requirements. Families in Crisis, a nonprofit working to strengthen communities by helping offenders successfully re-enter society, has partnered on this initiative to provide services for domestic violence offenders to reduce recidivism and teach violence-free living.

By expanding system and community-level collaborations, designing innovative strategies to reach underserved communities, and providing intensive case management services, the Safe Connections pilot sites will develop best practices for assisting domestic violence victims at the time of offender re-entry for implementation by domestic violence service providers across Connecticut.

Safe Connections is funded by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management through the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies program awarded by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

For more information about Safe Connections, please contact Nancy Turner, CCADV Offender Risk Reduction Coordinator, at nturner@ctcadv.org.
CCADV and CCMC/Hartford Hospital Partner on College Campus IPV Needs Assessment as CT General Assembly Takes On the Issue

At a January 30th press conference, a bi-partisan group of female members of the CT General Assembly announced plans to introduce a bill addressing sexual assault and intimate partner violence on campuses in Connecticut. The proposal will codify federal law that requires college campuses to report incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, and intimate partner violence, as well as establish related policies and provide support services to victims.

Recognizing the importance of this issue, last fall CCADV partnered with the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center/Hartford Hospital to conduct a statewide needs assessment of college and university policies and procedures in regards to intimate partner violence. The assessment aims to describe current campus policies and procedures, awareness and prevention activities, and services available for victims of intimate partner violence.

CCADV and its project partner will issue a report later this spring with key findings and recommendations for a model campus policy on intimate partner violence to help promote safer campus environments. Additionally, stronger reporting requirements in federal law will enable Connecticut to more fully assess the level of intimate partner violence on college campuses.

The federal Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013 (VAWA) extended the Jeanne Clery Act to include acts of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking to a list of major crimes that all U.S. colleges and universities participating in Title IV financial aid programs are required to report. It also requires these colleges and universities to create plans to prevent domestic violence and educate victims on their rights and resources. These requirements are effective as of March 7, 2014.

CCADV Training Institute
Upcoming Trainings

Don’t miss out on these exciting opportunities through CCADV’s Training Institute! Click on the training opportunities below for a description and registration information.

All Welcome

Dynamic Safety Planning: Keeping it Vital and Going the Extra Mile
February 4 I 6:00pm - 9:00pm I CCADV

The Intersection of Domestic Violence and HIV/AIDS
February 7 I 10:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

Managing Risk for Children at Visitation
February 8 I 10:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

Mental Health First Aid
March 15 I 9:00am - 5:00pm I CCADV

Bloodbourne Pathogens, Bed Bugs and Beyond
March 19 I 9:30am - 1:00pm I CCADV

Talking with Men About Preventing Intimate Partner Violence
April 3 I 2:00pm - 4:00pm I CCADV

Mental Health First Aid
April 4 & 11 I 10:00am - 4:30pm I CCADV

Members Only

Domestic Violence POST Recertification
February 26 I 10:00am - 12:00pm (law enforcement only)

New Staff & Volunteer Orientation
2/28, 3/1, 3/7, 3/8 I 9:30am - 4:00pm I CCADV

Understanding the Restraining Order Process
March 25 I 9:00am - 4:00pm I CCADV

Resolving Conflict
March 28 I 9:30am - 4:30pm I CCADV

Day of Advocacy Staples for Adults
April 10 I 9:30am - 4:30pm I CCADV

Day of Advocacy Staples for Children & Families
April 15 I 9:30am - 3:30pm I CCADV

Facilitating Effective Support Groups
April 18 I 9:00am - 1:00pm I CCADV

LAP Train-the-Trainer
April 22 I 9:30am - 4:30pm I CCADV (members, law enforcement)
Member Spotlight On...

CHERISH Program for Elderly Victims

Kay saw an opportunity, grabbed her coat and cane and made her way down the front steps. She knew there was only a thirty minute window before her daughter would be back at the house. It was a short walk to her lawyer’s office, but Kay is 85 years old and struggles to keep her balance, so any walk can be a challenge. But, she knew it was the only place she felt safe so she decided to venture out. She arrived at her attorney’s office only to find the office was closed and the door locked.

Now what? She remembered a friend who lives close by and headed towards her home. But this walk required her to negotiate a slight embankment, which she was unable to do. As she tried, a Good Samaritan saw her from his back porch and yelled out to see if she needed help. Kay accepted, and he and his wife brought their car around to assist. As Kay was getting into the car, she saw her daughter driving by. Her daughter stopped, and screamed at Kay to get into her car. Kay refused. Her daughter threatened her, but Kay stood her ground. The two good Samaritans took her to the local senior center who contacted the CHERISH Program.

Kay reported to the CHERISH advocate that she lived in fear of her 52-year-old alcoholic daughter. She said the abuse was verbal, emotional, and financial. She was afraid to go back to her home of more than fifty years. The police and PSE (Protective Services for the Elderly) were also called. Through a team effort, Kay was finally able to receive the help she so deserved. Kay moved into one of CHERISH’s virtual shelters, a partner assisted living facility that provides a safe place for victims of late life domestic violence. Kay’s primary goal was to sell her home and move permanently. That might seem easy enough; however, her abusive daughter lived in the home and that meant that Kay had to accept the fact that her daughter would have to leave. You see Kay’s daughter had Power of Attorney, access to her bank accounts, and had control of Kay’s social security checks.

First, with the help of her lawyer and her CHERISH advocate, her daughter’s POA was revoked. She then established financial independence by setting up a new bank account. Kay paid off all her outstanding bills but took a financial hit due to her daughter’s negligence. After three months in the assisted living residence and many challenges along the way, Kay with the help of her advocate was able to negotiate her stay permanently upon the sale of her home. Kay’s daughter attempted to prevent the sale, however, eventually an agreement was reached and the home sold. Kay is now living happily and abuse-free.

The CHERISH Program was created with people like Kay in mind. CHERISH is an innovative virtual safe house program designed to provide an array of services to those 60 years of age and older, experiencing late life domestic violence. The Program’s primary goal is to provide a safe place for victims of domestic violence who have been physically abused or financially exploited. The mission of the program is to provide care, respect, and dignity to those who are in need of services. Through CHERISH, an advocate is able to ensure that prompt and appropriate actions are taken to insure the safety of the senior victim. Other services include counseling and advocacy so that victims have access to supportive services. By partnering with assisted living organizations, CHERISH is able to provide a temporary safe anonymous environment.

Many of CHERISH’s clients have stories similar to Kay’s. While CHERISH has served victims of intimate partner violence, more often the cases involve adult children affected by addiction and or who have struggled with behavioral health issues. CHERISH offers a 24-hour hotline, one-on-one counseling, court advocacy, and facilitates access to resources which include but are not limited to medical assistance, housing, and financial options.

If you are a victims of family violence, 60 years of age or older, and in need of support, you may call The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services hotlines at (203) 736-9944 or (203) 789-8104. CHERISH is funded by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and is open to victims living anywhere in CT.
CCADV also launched our new 10x10 Campaign – where men and boys are critical to the prevention of intimate partner violence. The 10x10 Campaign is Connecticut’s first statewide speakers’ bureau of male leaders speaking on domestic violence. Learn more about this important initiative below.

We’d like to thank all of the generous organizations who sponsored the event, including Presenting Sponsor – Verizon Foundation and Breakfast Champion – Dominion. Funds raised from the 3rd Annual First 100 Plus will help support the development of a public service announcement (PSA) in 2014 about domestic violence and how to get help.

Many thanks to Sandy Aldieri, former CCADV Board President and owner of Perceptions Photography, for taking photos at this year’s First 100 Plus! Check out more photos from the event on our Facebook page. And stay tuned for nomination details for the First 100 Plus Class of 2014.

The campaign offers tools that men can use to raise their own awareness, take action within their local communities and increase accountability for promoting healthy relationships and treatment of women among their peers. All it takes is attending one 2-hour training where you’ll learn more about intimate partner violence, how to intervene when you see it and how to talk to others about it.

The campaign’s inaugural training was held in January with 40 participants in attendance. Central Connecticut State University associate professor Jason Sikorski, Ph.D. discussed hypermasculinity, how men are socialized to be this way and how society responds to it. Understanding hypermasculinity will help people with intervention techniques particularly with abusive men. While reviewing possible bystander intervention techniques, Dr. Sikorski emphasized that it is not only important for men to intervene when they witness a man is being disrespectful or abusive directly to a woman, but also when a group of men are using derogatory and disrespectful language about women in general.

Want to make a difference in your community? Sign up for the 10x10 Campaign today! Email Linda Blozie, CCADV’s Training and Prevention Coordinator, at training@ctcadv.org. Trainings will be held throughout the year based on the level interest.
This past summer and fall, CCADV hosted two community gatherings that were central to our work with underserved communities. Focusing on outreach and community partnerships, the gatherings provided valuable input from community organizations providing services to Latino communities in Connecticut. The gatherings are part of CCADV’s strategic plan to enhance access and services for all survivors regardless of their economic status, race, ethnicity, religion, language or sexual orientation. The information gathered has proven essential to these efforts.

Using the World Café methodology for group dialog, the structure provided attendees with a simple and effective format to converse about effective strategies to serve Latinos in CT. Our objectives in holding these meetings were to:

- Explore challenges and barriers faced by Latinos accessing services in CT;
- Discuss best practices and consider culture specific approaches for outreach to Spanish speaking individuals; and,
- Build partnerships with local and regional community providers servicing Latinos in CT.

What We Learned

In total, eleven agencies and organizations serving Latinos in CT attended the gatherings. The attendees represented regional, government, legal and local agencies that currently work with or are looking to work with Latino communities in the state. Participants answered questions related to outreach, barriers and community partnerships within underserved and Latino communities. Below is a snapshot of some of the common themes reported during the two gatherings.

Who do you collaborate with to enhance services for underserved communities?

- Spanish speaking psychologists or clinicians
- Court support service centers
- The local domestic violence program
- Consulates and cultural organizations
- Translation and interpreter services/ language line

Challenges and Barriers when serving Latinos:

- Language barriers
- Documentation/ immigration status
- Lack of knowledge regarding resources
- Lack of trust in system and authoritative entities
- General misinformation regarding resources
- Lack of transportation
- No medical insurance
- Confusion regarding different court processes

What would “change” look like in order to effectively serve Latinos in CT?

- Increased public awareness on relevant issues to Latinos in CT including publishing materials in Spanish
- Family oriented immigration reform for undocumented families
- Increased community collaborations with culture specific organizations in CT
- Increased medical, legal, and mental health referral resources
- Stronger hiring and retaining practices of bilingual, bi-cultural and Latino professionals
- Ongoing organizational needs assessments of communities served
- Increased transportation and child care to compliment services
- Stronger professional development/diversity programs
- Enhanced community education regarding issues within Latino communities

For additional information on the Community Conversations or CCADV’s work with underserved communities, please contact Wendy Mota Kasongo, Coordinator for Diversity and Accessibility, at wmotakasongo@ctcadv.org.

Sujata Warrier, Ph.D. leads a Community Conversation. Dr. Warrier is the Director of the New York City Program of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.
HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

In November, thanks to the generous support of the Verizon Foundation and all of the sponsors of the 2012 First 100 Plus Breakfast, CCADV was able to launch a completely re-designed website. Click on any image below to visit www.ctcadv.org!

The new website has increased functionality making it easier to navigate, including an interactive provider map that allows victims to simply type in their town to find their local domestic violence agency.

We packed the new site with victim-centered information to ensure relatable web content for victims who are concerned about their relationship and looking for help.

In order to increase access to information for underserved communities, we’ve created an entire section of our website in Spanish.

The website also highlights many of the great projects and initiatives currently being overseen by CCADV to improve the state’s response to domestic violence.

DON’T FORGET TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO CCADV ON OUR DONATION PAGE!

Financial contributions to CCADV support valuable activities that go above and beyond our traditional funding streams. Important initiatives such as public awareness campaigns and strategies, prevention work and victim advocacy would not be entirely possible without your support. Please help us continue to act strongly as Connecticut’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them.

DONATE TODAY
CCADV Announces 2014 Policy Priorities

CCADV has released its 2014 policy priorities in advance of the next session of the CT General Assembly, which begins on February 5th and ends on May 7th. We will concentrate our policy efforts on strengthening judicial protections for victims, enhancing victim support services and ensuring policies that keep victims safe at home. We will continue to monitor other issues that may impact victims such as child custody, divorce/alimony, health insurance, Family & Medical Leave Act, wage gap, etc.

Please see our specific priorities for this year below. You can also download a copy of the priorities and a brief synopsis of related background information HERE.

STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL PROTECTIONS

Enhancing Restraining Orders
Current state law governing civil restraining orders [§ 46b-15(b)] does not specifically address financial orders and should be strengthened to clearly allow the inclusion of financial remedies for victims (e.g., spousal and child support) where determined appropriate by a judge to ensure the continued safety of the victim.

Ensuring Quality Batterer Intervention Programs
We support the efforts of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC) to develop and implement uniform, accepted standards for Batterer Intervention Programs.

Advocating in Family Court
Funding should be allocated to support one fulltime Family Violence Victim Advocate at each of the 18 domestic violence agencies who is dedicated solely to civil matters, including assistance with applying for restraining orders and safety planning for those victims in the family court.

Holding Offenders Accountable Upon Release
C.G.S. § 29-144 should be updated to require professional bail bondsmen to adhere to the same premium financing arrangements required of surety bail bondsmen as outlined in C.G.S. § 38a-660.

ENHANCING VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

Meeting the Needs of Spanish-speaking Victims
Funding should be allocated to enhance the current statewide, toll-free domestic violence hotline to increase accessibility to culturally-specific information by bilingual, certified domestic violence counselors for victims in Spanish-speaking communities with no or limited English proficiency.

Funding the Rising Cost of Services
Allocate adequate funding that keeps pace with the rising cost of providing services that nonprofits, including domestic violence agencies, face as they contract with the state to provide health and human services on its behalf.

KEEPING VICTIMS SAFE AT HOME

Increasing Funding for Rapid Rehousing
As a member of the Reaching Home Campaign, we support increased funding for rapid rehousing while ensuring that victims living in domestic violence shelters have equal access to the funds similar to other homeless individuals in the mainstream system.

Maintaining Utility Services
We will work with the utility companies and the CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to develop a possible waiver for victims who are required to pay a security deposit to establish a utilities account.
In January, the Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council, of which CCADV Executive Director, Karen Jarmoc is a member, released its 2014 Annual Report. The Council makes several policy recommendations in the Annual Report related prevention and prosecution of trafficking, as well as protection of victims. Click HERE to read the full report.

Human trafficking describes a wide range of activities involving the exploitation of a person for profit using physical and psychological methods of power and control to force that person to perform commercial sex acts, work under illegal conditions, or both. Nationally, women are referenced as victims in 85% of sex trafficking cases and men in 40% of labor trafficking cases.

According to the 2014 Annual Report, the U.S. Department of Justice identified 40,000 human trafficking victims nationwide, however, it is estimated that 27 million people are trafficked at any giving time. Here in Connecticut, 183 calls reporting suspected human trafficking were made to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center between 1.1.12 and 6.30.13. Of those calls, 27 were identified as potential trafficking. This included:

- **Labor Trafficking**: 6
- **Sex Trafficking**: 20
- **Other Trafficking**: 1

   **Females**: 24  **Males**: 3  **Adults**: 17  **Minors**: 9

   **Towns**: Bridgeport, Bristol, Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, Naugatuck, New Canaan, Salem, Stamford, West Hartford

Victims of trafficking are often isolated and have limited places to turn for help. According to the 2012 National Domestic Violence Counts survey, 63% of domestic violence shelters in the U.S. provided services for victims of trafficking. CCADV currently holds a contract with the Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services (OVS) to provide temporary shelter and services to trafficking victims. Between 2008 and 2010, OVS identified 18 adult survivors who received these temporary services through CCADV member agencies. The state currently allocates $9,000 to OVS for shelter services and training.

NYC Let’s End Human Trafficking Campaign
The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services
Ansonia New Haven
(203) 736-9944 (203) 789-8104
www.bhcare.org

Women’s Center of Greater Danbury Danbury
(203) 731-5206
www.wcogd.org

Network Against Domestic Abuse Enfield
(860) 763-4542
www.networkagainstdomesticabuse.org

Interval House Hartford
(860) 527-0550
www.intervalhousect.org

New Horizons Middletown
(860) 347-3044
www.chc1.com

Safe Futures New London
(860) 701-6000
www.safefuturesct.org

Women’s Support Services Sharon
(860) 364-1900
www.wssdv.org

Safe Haven Waterbury
(203) 575-0036
www.safehaveingw.org

The Center for Family Justice Bridgeport
(203) 384-9559
www.cwfefc.org

Domestic Violence Program/United Services, Inc.
Dayville Willimantic
(860) 774-8648 (860) 456-9476
www.unitedservicesct.org

Domestic Abuse Service/Greenwich YWCA
Greenwich
(203) 622-0003
www.ywcagreenwich.org

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Meriden
(203) 238-1501
www.mwchrysalis.org

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain
(860) 225-6357
www.prudencecrandall.org

Domestic Violence Crisis Center Norwalk Stamford
(203) 852-1980 (203) 588-9096
www.dvccct.org

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington
(860) 482-7133
www.sbabproject.org

CCADV is the state’s leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those agencies that serve them.