

## For Immediate Release September 21, 2012

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## **Member Agencies**

Center for Domestic Violence Services at BHcare Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center Danbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program United Services Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse Enfield, CT

Domestic Abuse Services Greenwich YWCA Greenwich, CT

Interval House Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis Meriden, CT

New Horizons Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center New Britain, CT

Center for Domestic Violence Services at BHcare
New Haven, CT

Women's Center of SE CT New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project Torrington, CT

Safe Haven Waterbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program United Services Willimantic, CT First 100 Plus Honorees Proud to Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence

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-CCADV honored more than 100 men who have shown leadership in efforts to educate the public and assist the victims of domestic violence -

**HARTFORD** – The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) recognized its second class of male leaders who make a difference in the cause of domestic violence. The First 100 Plus were recognized at a breakfast in Cromwell this morning. Honorees include a cross section of men from around the state who in their own way have helped to champion the cause for victims of domestic violence.

CCADV created the First 100 as part of an effort to get greater involvement from men. Even though 100 is a relatively large number, it is not nearly enough. CCADV and its member agencies assist more than 54,000 victims of domestic violence each year. The domestic violence hotline receives on average 217 calls each day from potential victims. More than 1/3 of all criminal court cases in Connecticut are domestic violence related. Additionally, domestic violence is the number one cause for women being admitted to the emergency room in the state of Connecticut.

"It is vital that system-wide collaborations continue to strive for the reduction of domestic violence within Connecticut's communities," said Bill Carbone of the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division and First 100 Plus honoree. "This includes intervention efforts that hold offenders accountable and enhance the safety of victims. Efforts to support victims impacted by violence should be a primary goal for all criminal justice partners."

"It's been my privilege to work with Interval House on the "Men Make a Difference" awareness campaign," said Brad Drazen, NBC 30 news anchor and First 100 Plus honoree. "I'm pleased to be in a position to help to shine a bright light on the issue of domestic violence. I'm particularly proud of standing shoulder to shoulder with other men in our community to send a clear message that domestic violence is never the answer. I hope that message will be heard by Connecticut teens who are the next generation of young men, and we can break the cycle of domestic violence."

CCADV works with law enforcement and state legislators to create and strengthen laws and policies that improve conditions for victims of domestic violence. Many of the honorees this year are from the law enforcement community. That includes many police chiefs from throughout the state

whose departments have no shortage of men that champion the cause for victims of domestic violence. In fact the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) says their priority in domestic abuse cases is to protect the victims.

State Representative Tony Hwang is also an honoree this year. Hwang works closely with his local domestic violence agency, one of the 18 CCADV member agencies.

"I am thrilled and honored to be recognized as a partner in the ongoing efforts to end the horrors of domestic violence" said Rep. Hwang, who represents the 134th District (Fairfield/Trumbull). "I am proud to be part of a team of advocates at The Center for Women and Families that work to eliminate violence and bullying in our communities. We can make a difference; We need to make a difference; We WILL make a difference," he added.

In conjunction with its recognition of the First 100 Plus, CCADV also recognized an individual and an organization for their efforts on behalf of victims of domestic violence. This year's recipients are State Representative Mae Flexer, (D-Killingly) who was recognized as the *Coalition Crusader*, and the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) who received the *Pillars for Change* award. Representative Flexer and the CPCA have been vital allies to CCADV and its mission to help victims of domestic violence.

The First 100 Plus recognizes male leaders from across the state for their leadership in raising awareness of the availability and access to domestic violence services in Connecticut. You can find the full list of names here.

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The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is a membership organization made up of the state's 18 domestic violence agencies. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each agency offers free services to victims including a toll-free hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups, and by assisting in securing a restraining order. If you or someone you know needs support, call the statewide free and confidential hotline at 888-774-2900. For more information about CCADV visit us online at www.ctcadv.org