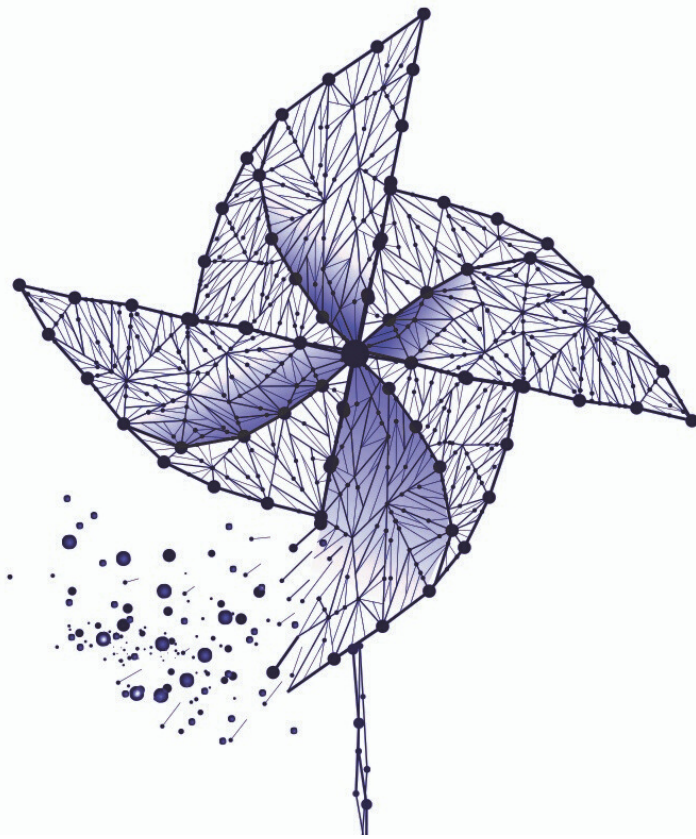


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



SHINING LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Stamford Office &
Mailing Address**

1111 Summer Street
Suite 203
Stamford, CT 06905

Norwalk Office

16 River Street
1st Floor
Norwalk, CT 06850

www.dvccct.org
Office: 203-588-9100
Hotline: 888-774-2900

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present DVCC's Annual Report for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. As we welcome in 2020, DVCC is proud to celebrate our 40th year.

Looking at our past and future, there are some things that have been and will continue to be part of the fabric of DVCC. First and foremost, our mission remains the same, DVCC is committed to providing effective services, support and education for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence in the Connecticut communities of Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton. Our agency is dedicated to providing the best possible service to our clients and our community. We value the partnerships we have forged with local organizations and community task forces – they are instrumental in helping us achieve our goals. Finally, we are grateful for the passionate friends, donors, volunteers and sponsors who have supported DVCC for years. Without you, none of this would be possible.



Taking a look toward the future at DVCC, this new year and beyond, I see promise, hope and positive change as we work toward our goals. Here are just a few of them...

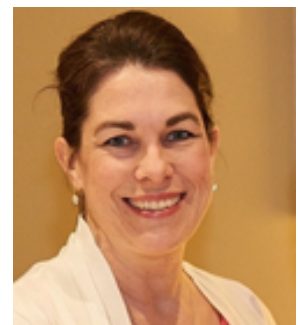
- To develop a more trauma informed community through staff training, community outreach and preventive education.
- To create an environment and culture where DVCC employees and volunteers can thrive and grow.
- To strengthen our partnerships across the community as part of our effort to help create safe homes and build healthy communities.
- To increase public awareness about our agency, the many direct services we offer and send the clear and powerful message that DVCC is here to help clients where they are, both physically and emotionally, as each person has their own unique experience and needs.
- As thought leaders and experts in domestic violence, DVCC will further establish itself as “the voice” for victims in shaping public policy and legislation.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy 2020!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne E. Adam".

Suzanne E. Adam
Executive Director



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER

Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) is here to support individuals on their journey to safety. DVCC advocates for individuals who are experiencing abuse in personal relationships. Our multiple services and professional staff help those experiencing any level of domestic violence and assist them in building a safer environment for the well-being of themselves and their families. All direct services are free and confidential and all services offered are multicultural/multilingual.

Mission

DVCC's mission is to provide effective services, support and education for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence across the Connecticut communities of Stamford, Norwalk, Darien, New Canaan, Weston, Westport, Wilton and beyond.

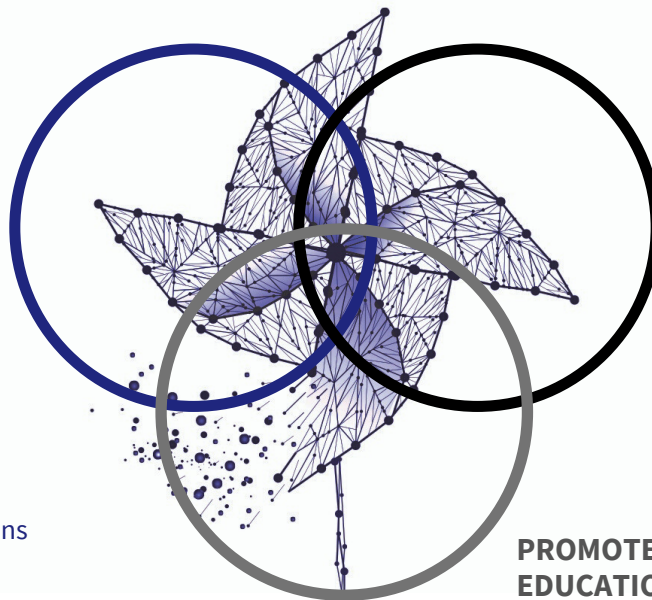
Where We Provide Services

- At our Stamford office & mailing address:
1111 Summer Street, Suite 203
Stamford CT, 06905
- At our Norwalk office:
16 River Street, 1st Floor
Norwalk, CT 06850
- At our two confidentially located safe houses in Stamford and Norwalk.
- At satellite locations in Stamford Superior Court and Norwalk Superior Court

OUR SERVICES

RAISE AWARENESS

- Shaping Legislative Advocacy
- Town Task Forces
- Awareness Month Programming
 - Domestic Violence
 - Teen Dating Violence
- Media Outreach
- Corporate Partnerships
- Health Fairs
- Community Panel Discussions
- Outreach to Faith-based Organizations



PROVIDE VICTIM SERVICES

- 24/7 Hotline
- Crisis Intervention
- Lethality Assessment Program
- Safe Houses
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Counseling & Advocacy
 - Medical
 - Legal
 - Housing
 - Employment/Career
 - Financial

PROMOTE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION & TRAINING

- PeaceWorks Youth Preventive Education Programs
- Trainings for Professionals
- Adult Education

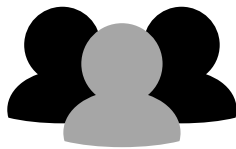
DVCC 2019 STATISTICS

We are proud to provide comprehensive, victim-centered, and trauma-informed services to individuals in our communities.



HOTLINE CALLS

We answered **3,297 hotline calls** in fiscal year 2019.



YOUTH PREVENTIVE EDUCATION

We reached **17,037** youth through PeaceWorks, our youth preventive education program.



VOLUNTEERS

50 active volunteers completed **13,588** hours of service.



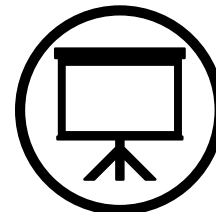
VICTIM SERVICES

We provided services to **4,968** clients in fiscal year 2019. These services include counseling and advocacy, our Lethality Assessment Program, and crisis intervention.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

We provided emergency shelter to **349** individuals in our safe houses, **142** of whom were children.



PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS & ADULT EDUCATION

1,594 adults received our professional training and adult education programs.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



Below is a 2019 legislative session summary of changes related to domestic violence. DVCC continues to advocate for laws that will strengthen Connecticut's response to domestic violence victims.

Public Act 19-43, An Act Concerning the Confidentiality of Law Enforcement Records Concerning Victims of Sexual Assault and Family Violence

This bill amends Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act to extend existing protections for victims of sexual assault to victims of family violence. This bill protects victim confidentiality and extends confidentiality protections to arrest records. While dealing with the aftermath of trauma, domestic violence victims will no longer have to make a decision to seek assistance from the police based on a fear that the dynamics of their relationship will be shared with everyone in their local community.

Public Act 19-25, An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave

Paid Family and Medical leave is critical for victims of domestic violence who need time to recover and heal from their trauma. This bill establishes Paid Family & Medical Leave in Connecticut and includes wage replacement and an inclusive definition of family.

Public Act 19-189, An Act Concerning Parity Between Sexual Assault in the Case of a Spousal or Cohabiting Relationship and Other Crimes of Sexual Assault and Concerning the Investigation of a Family Violence Crime.

This bill repeals Connecticut's separate spousal rape statute to ensure that all victims of sexual assault have equal protections under the law regardless of their relationship to the person who assaulted them. It also fixes the family violence arrest/dominant aggressor "carve out".

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Part of our mission is to provide effective education for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence. We achieve this through multiple means, including PeaceWorks, our youth preventive education program. During fiscal year 2019, PeaceWorks shared tools and knowledge with 17,037 youth. Additionally, we reached 1,594 adults through our trainings for community professionals, adult education programs, and awareness events.

Youth Preventive Education

PeaceWorks preventive education programs strive to arm young people with awareness, knowledge and strategies for recognizing and encountering abusive behaviors. These programs do not just focus on recognizing negative, unhealthy behaviors, but they also focus on positive behaviors and healthy relationship skills that we want young people to engage in and utilize throughout their entire life. We are working to change behaviors and norms to make violence, particularly domestic violence, less likely in the current generation. All of our programs are strength-based and skills building, teaching participants skills for conflict resolution, media literacy, assertive communication, feelings management, giving/getting consent and bystander intervention.



Weston Teen PeaceWorks recognizing Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Professional Trainings

We also provide trainings to community professionals to ensure that systems and institutions are adequately addressing the problem of domestic violence. These trainings aim to give professionals the skills to combat these issues in their daily practice, including recognizing and responding appropriately to instances of domestic violence. Trainings can be tailored to any audience, including healthcare professionals, law enforcement, social service professionals, human resources managers, and employers.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES con't

Awareness Building

DVCC raises awareness in the community through a wide variety of community based events. The goal of these programs is to raise awareness of the free and confidential services that DVCC provides and raise awareness that domestic violence happens in every community.



DVCC's Task Force Summit at Grace Farms



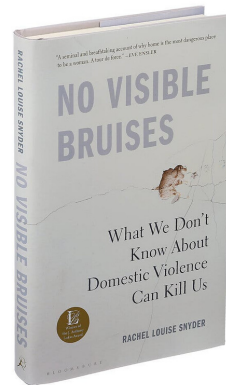
Voices of COURAGE Spring Luncheon

We are thrilled to announce author, **Rachel Louise Snyder**, as DVCC's 2020 **Voices of Courage** Spring Luncheon Keynote Speaker, **Thursday, May 21, 2020**

There is nothing more relevant in our own communities today than the "human price tag" of domestic violence. And nothing more timely than the United Nations report in 2018 that put it starkly:

"The most dangerous place for a woman is HER OWN HOME."

Don't miss out!
Order your VOICES OF COURAGE **TICKETS** online today!
www.VOC2020.eventbrite.com
www.DVCCCT.org



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New swing set generously donated for our Stamford Safe House by Hillsong Connecticut. Pictured are Lead Pastors, Blaze and Desiree Robertson, with the church's community service team, CITYHOPE.

DVCC LEADERSHIP 2018-2019



Wendy Herrick, Board Chair Vice President Digital Supply Chain, Unilever

Wendy has 25+ years in Unilever and has held leadership roles across both Finance and Supply Chain. She started her career with Unilever in Bristol, England and has worked in numerous countries across Europe, Asia and the Americas. Wendy studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Lowell and holds a Chartered Institute of Management Accounting Professional Qualification.

In 2015, Wendy was appointed to the position of VP Supply Chain US responsible for end to end Supply Chain integration, Supply Chain Digital Strategy and in-market business results. Wendy was appointed VP Global Digital Supply Chain in July 2018.

Wendy is a member of various groups and organizations including: Achieving Women's Excellence in SC Operations, Management and Education (AWESOME), Global Supply Chain Institute Advisory Board, and Executive Sponsor of Veteran's Business Resource Group. Wendy currently resides in Rowayton, Connecticut with her husband David.

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We thank you for the financial contributions that enable DVCC to continue its important work. Every effort has been made to list names accurately. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions.

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Norwalk Police Department's toy drive for the Holiday Bazaar

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Brave Wings

Brave Wings is an emergency fund used on a case by case basis to provide assistance to DVCC clients who are in a financial crisis. A financial crisis is often a barrier to ending an abusive relationship. The emergency fund might be used for a one-time car payment, deposit for transitional housing, childcare services, court filing fees or a medical insurance bill before it goes to collections. This fund was created to help victims on their journey to self-sufficiency.

**“With brave wings they
can fly.”**

