

PRUDENCE CRANDALL CENTER, INC.

NEW BEGINNINGS

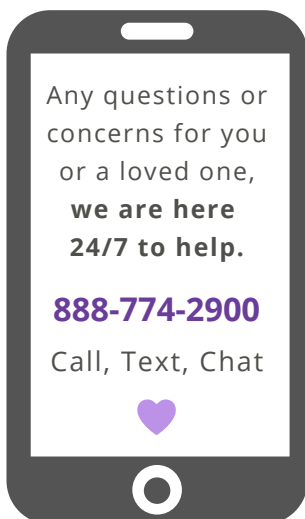
EMPOWERING HEALING & HOPE SINCE 1973



DURING A TIME LIKE NO OTHER...

*This past year has challenged us all and shown us the **strength of community**. In these times especially, **YOUR** caring partnership has never been more important to our families and our work! **YOU** carry us through times of crisis and make us stronger, more responsive & more resilient as a result.*

#inittogether



FROM CRISIS TO HOPE: THE STRENGTH OF COMMUNITY

Life with an abuser is often full of anxiety, fear, and isolation. Add to that a global pandemic, with orders to “stay safe, stay home.” This toxic mix led to a breaking point for many victims of domestic abuse over the past year, filling our shelter far beyond its capacity (up to 250%), a challenge which continues to this day.

Mirna is one of the hundreds of survivors who found refuge, comfort, and renewed hope through the strength of our community.

Mirna had lived in this country for six years. During that time, her husband moved the family from state to state, never allowing them to establish roots. His emotional abuse, explosive temper, and controlling behavior escalated over time, focusing on Mirna and her oldest son, age 11, from a previous relationship.

The night the police were called, Mirna was too terrified to speak. Born in Poland, she was a legal resident based solely on her marriage. Knowing that, her abuser used constant threats of deportation and the loss of her children as a means of control – as well as threats to her older son’s life.

For years, Mirna’s every move was dictated by her abuser: what she wore, who she spoke to, when she ate. Food cabinets were locked, and only he had the key.

As shelter was over-capacity, PCC staff secured a hotel room for Mirna and her children, greeting them with bags of new clothing and toiletries to help them feel welcome and safe. But on the ride back, our staff were silent and shaken.

Since the pandemic, reports of increased severity of abuse were widespread. Even with that, this family stood out: they were all so withdrawn, silent, and frightened. The trauma was so deep.

As always, our staff channeled compassion and concern into action. Knowing the oldest son’s birthday was a few days away, they wrapped a stack of gifts from our donation room for the birthday boy and a grocery gift card for Mirna, so she could choose a cake and other treats for her family.

From that moment on, Mirna regained the power of choice. This time, her tears were those of relief -- for the hope and promise of a new life for her and her family.

The need for safe shelter this year has been staggering, far exceeding any we’ve experienced in nearly a half century of service. With so many in crisis, we faced a crisis as well. YOU made the difference: standing beside us during this time like no other, making the impossible, possible.

COMMUNITY LEADER SPOTLIGHT



Virginia Nowakowski

Virginia's years of service, compassion & dedication to our families is truly an inspiration to us all! Even without our annual Celebrating Hope fundraising breakfast, her incredible **2020 Leadership Gift of \$50,000**, provided through the Virginia & Andrew Nowakowski Charitable Trust, inspired **nearly \$200,000** in major gifts to fund our life-saving services through the darkest, early days of the pandemic. Virginia's hands-on leadership & generosity provides the foundation we stand upon every day to continue our work!

"It's so rewarding to see and hear the success stories of the individuals who have deservedly gotten their lives back and regained their voices."



MONTHLY GIFTS MAKE BIG IMPACT!

We're so grateful to have dozens of monthly donors dedicated to providing a foundation of support for our work! A recurring, monthly donation in ANY amount allows us to provide the services needed to empower healing & hope for survivors & their families every day! **Join our PCC G.E.M.S. today to ensure that survivors have the support & resources needed to live a life free from violence.**

To set up your monthly gift, visit www.prudencecrandall.org/donate or call 860-259-3817

YOU MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE!

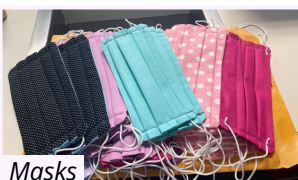
YOU help us rise to every new challenge in ways big and small. By hand-sewing masks, making hand-sanitizer, delivering meals & safely shipping new clothing, cleaning supplies, bedding, & beautiful holiday gifts for our families! **YOUR** caring contributions made it possible for us to meet the staggering rise in need for emergency shelter for victims and children in crisis, **totaling nearly \$500,000 in unbudgeted, pandemic-related costs** since last spring. **Thank you!**



Holiday Gifts



Cleaning Supplies



Masks



Hand Sanitizer



Dinner & Grocery Deliveries



OUR SERVICES

24-HOUR HELPLINE: 888-774-2900

Crisis Counseling,
Information & Referrals

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Emergency Shelter,
28 Apartments of Supportive
Housing, Community Housing
Placement &
Case Management

COUNSELING

Individuals & Groups,
Adults & Children

VICTIM ADVOCACY

Civil & Criminal Court

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Schools, Colleges, Service
Providers, Civic Groups,
& the Public

YOU HELP US ADAPT & GROW STRONGER...

The pandemic resulted in a perfect storm: increased need for safe shelter at a time when communal living poses health safety risks for all. PCC's shelter has been over-capacity since last summer, with as many as 55 adults & children in a program designed for 22. With YOUR generous support, we've increased our capacity & deepened our response by using hotel rooms, delivered meals & adding to our crisis counseling staff.

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It was the first time that we've seen so many children in shelter. It's been hard, especially working with our clients in more than one location. We continue to give them our all & help these families with every resource we have.

LILY, SHELTER MANAGER



In the past year, the number of community members seeking & receiving DV counseling from PCC increased by 40%. As a result of the health crisis, we pivoted by providing counseling by phone, text, and group & individual sessions via video. Video calls have been critical-- reducing isolation, enabling deeper connections & building trust. For our court advocates, the fact that legal proceedings were limited meant they had more time to work with clients on counseling & their family's essential, basic needs. As in-person services have returned, we now also have these "virtual" strategies in our tool chest.

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All in-person services abruptly had to stop, and overnight we had to pivot our services to remote sessions. Victims were trying to move forward in their lives. Thankfully, we managed to overcome barriers we had never experienced before.

DANIELLE, DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

... AND PROVIDE FOR BRIGHT FUTURES AHEAD!



The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose was there for us during the dark, early days of the pandemic-- bringing generous & vital **financial gifts, cleaning supplies, & Clorox wipes** when they were impossible to find! This summer, they stepped up again, after months of careful planning, with a service project at their 2021 international convention, **filling 60 backpacks** with grade-appropriate school supplies for our kids and teens! That's the power of caring!

With so many **children experiencing isolation & DV** at home this past year, supportive counseling will be critical to help them heal, rebuild trust & resilience for the future. With **YOUR** support, PCC plans to **expand our children's services** to reach more young people in need in our community. At the same time, our Prevention Coordinator strives every day to reach kids & teens with vital information about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships-- to give them the tools & resources they need to avoid becoming victims or perpetrators of DV in the future. To learn more, call 860-259-3818.



OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HOPE BEGINS WITH YOU! HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Participate in our Light the Way 4k
- Donate by mail or online
- Host or Join a Virtual Hope Tour
- Dress Down & Go Purple
- Like & follow us on Facebook & Instagram
- Join our PCC G.E.M.S.
- Become a Hope Heroes Sponsor
- Join our Bright Futures Giving Society

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 860-259-3820 OR VISIT WWW.PRUDENCECRANDALL.ORG

LIGHT THE WAY VIRTUAL 4K

Raise awareness & critical support for our work during October by participating in our 2nd Annual Light the Way Virtual 4k! Walk, Run, Bike or Move **YOUR** way on a day that works for you! Participate on your own, or invite family, friends or coworkers to form a team. Receive a PCC hat or mug with adult registration & teens & kids register free. For more info or to register, visit:



www.runsignup.com/lighttheway4k



SILENT NO MORE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Join us on **Wednesday, October 6** in remembering those who lost their lives to domestic violence this past year-- & be inspired by stories of survival and the strength of our community.

Light refreshments 6:00PM | Program begins 6:30PM
594 Burritt Street | New Britain, CT
Weather & Health Guidelines Permitting
Call or check the PCC Facebook page for updates



Generously Sponsored by the **Ryan T. Lee Memorial Foundation**

YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Help us raise awareness & learn more about PCC by joining a 35-minute virtual* Hope Tour on Zoom. On the tour, guests will hear powerful stories of courage and strength from survivors, and will leave with a better understanding of this complex issue and the services available to help those in need. Join a tour on your own or invite friends, family or colleagues to join you, picking a date and time that works for you.

TO JOIN, HOST OR LEARN MORE, CALL 860-259-3820

**In-person Hope Tours anticipated to resume later this fall.*



Prudence Crandall Center is a member of CCADV and a partner agency of the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, United Way of West Central Connecticut, and the United Way of Southington.

