

NEW BEGINNINGS



A PLACE TO "LIVE WITHOUT FEAR"

Our founders recognized the critical need for safe shelter for DV victims and their children. Sadly, as Connecticut grapples with the shortage of affordable housing and homelessness, DV victims are often caught in the crosshairs. During a 2022 annual count of homelessness in our state:

- 603 people experiencing homelessness were victims of domestic violence
- DV shelters statewide were operating at 56% over capacity
- 41 DV survivors are unable to access housing on typical day
- Only 45 units of affordable housing were prioritized for DV survivors

Read more about PCC's ground-breaking programs & response to this crisis inside.

Source: Thomas J.R. & Johnston, T. (August 3, 2023). CT domestic abuse victims often wind up homeless – and the problem is getting worse. CTInsider.

OUR COMMUNITY: BLAZING THE TRAIL OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND INTO THE LIGHT

Fifty years ago, the community volunteers who started Prudence Crandall Center (PCC) knew only one thing for certain: women were suffering at the hands of abusers and there was no place for them to go.

What they didn't know was daunting: How many were impacted? What type of support do survivors need? What community partners can help?

"There were no resources to guide us, and we didn't want to make assumptions. We needed to hear from the victims themselves," said Davida Foy Crabtree, founder. "And there were threats – death threats – against us personally and the center."

With no roadmap, our founders blazed their own path forward. They surveyed the community and used the media to raise awareness. Soon, those needing help began to reach out.

One day, there was a quiet knocking on the door. A well-dressed woman stood silently, shaking, in tears. Her request, simply, was for others to bear witness: bruises covered her body, painting a story of ongoing, brutal abuse. Chillingly strategic beatings, as the evidence would always be covered by her clothes.

In that moment, PCC's founders knew they needed to do more. In less than a year, they opened the first 24/7 DV shelter – in a 3-bedroom apartment connected to Crabtree's own, providing a "back door" escape in case of emergencies.

Mothers with children shared bedrooms, meaning up to 6 victims and children housed together. Food, clothing, and essentials were donated. Stalking by abusers was a constant concern. One attempted to set fire to the lobby, hoping to burn them all out.

Today, the bravery, boldness, and vision of these trailblazers continue to inspire us.

Fifty years later, we continue to listen to survivors – to guide us in developing strategies, programs, and partnerships to meet their needs – and, with YOUR support, to move hope and healing forward, out of the shadows and into the light.



My family is proof of the importance of PCC – 5 years later I have a career, my children are happy, healthy, and safe, and we're working towards a bright, beautiful future. PCC has given me the strength to move forward.

- Sarah, Celebrating Hope Client Speaker

ALL WE NEED IS HOPE, AND FOR THAT WE HAVE EACH OTHER

Once again, we were moved by the **passion and power of our community** at our 2023 Celebrating Hope breakfast! Heartfelt thanks go to our incredible partners and Presenting Sponsor, the **Petit Family Foundation**, as well as our other generous sponsors including **Paulson Training Programs, Stanley Black & Decker, Tokio Marine HCC, Hartford HealthCare**, and the **Caroline Aston Fund** of the First Church of Christ New Britain.

“Celebrating Hope was once again a testament to the dedication of our caring community. The passion displayed by everyone transcended throughout the room. We know our support is having a direct and positive impact in so many ways. We are proud to support PCC.”
- Lynn & Gary Lefler, Bright Futures Giving Society

We deeply appreciate **Debra and Sarah** for so courageously sharing their **powerful, personal stories** with our capacity crowd. Many were moved to give generously, and many to tears, by their stories of **courage, strength, empowerment, and HOPE**.

“Our stories release the angst of silence and give a voice where there once was none.”
- Debra, Client Testimonial Speaker

*For the full list of caring event sponsors, visit prudencecrandall.org/hopeheroes



OUR INNOVATIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS LEAD THE WAY



Stay at home with an abuser or face homelessness - too often that is the impossible decision DV victims face, especially those with children. A lack of affordable housing in Connecticut often traps DV victims in a dangerous cycle.

In CT nearly 25% of people who are homeless are DV victims, making DV the largest contributor to homelessness in our state.

In 2009, PCC's leaders and our donor community once again blazed the path forward, opening our **groundbreaking supportive housing programs** at Rose Hill. Recognizing that emergency shelter is only a temporary solution, and that survivors need time to heal and regain control of their lives, the goal is to provide survivors and their children with stable, affordable homes of their own, to **forever break cycles of homelessness and abuse**. Since opening, however, our housing has been consistently full, while our emergency shelter remains over-capacity. Just this August, we needed 10 hotel rooms for shelter overflow - straining our dedicated staff and financial resources to the limit.

With your support, we've **implemented innovative solutions** to address this crisis. We've added **housing placement services** and are expanding our **transitional living program**. While we're proud to have secured highly competitive government grants for these services, such funding requires **private donor "matching" funds**. As always, it's **YOUR support that makes the difference** - making healing and hope possible!

“The first day I moved into the apartment in transitional housing, it was such a great feeling – that finally I have a place, finally, I'm not homeless. I really don't have family here, but they are my family.”
- PCC Housing Client



1973

First DV agency in CT & one of the first nationally, founded by courageous volunteers

PCC opens the **first emergency shelter** in CT, offering **24/7 comfort & care**

1975



Counseling offices open in **two locations** to ease access for **survivors in need across our region**



1983

Counseling offices open in **two locations** to ease access for **survivors in need across our region**

PCC's family violence victim advocates open offices in regional courts - providing **expert support in times of crisis**

1987





2009

Newly-renovated, state-of-the-art **Rose Hill campus** opens, launching our groundbreaking **housing programs**

PCC pivots & expands in response to **COVID crisis**, adding **"remote" counseling, increasing shelter & housing services, & opening a new satellite office** in New Britain's YWCA

2020





PCC TODAY

Opening **Bristol satellite office** – improving access to counseling, children's services, housing, court advocacy & outreach for area residents. Launching **new housing program** and **expanding children's services**.

A LEGACY of HOPE

Every member of our community leaves a legacy, supporting survivors in their time of need.

Some, like our dear friend Bob Mugford, continue that legacy by planning a gift for Prudence Crandall Center in their will.

We lost Bob too soon, but his legacy of caring lives on.

We hope YOU will consider this simple act with such lasting impact. There are many options, and we can help. To discuss, please contact 860-259-3817

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

YOUR contributions make Rose Hill a very special place. A space that not only **empowers healing and hope**, but also a place to experience the **power of community**.

Caring staff and volunteers strive to create **bright, inviting spaces** that encourage our residents to come together, bond, and relax – **enjoying the warm summer sun** on the playground, watching our Community Garden grow, and **celebrating milestones** in our pavilion. We planned winter s'mores parties, Halloween Trunk-or-Treat fun, movie nights, a summer barbecue, and so much more! Our community at Rose Hill is vibrant – **thanks to YOU!**



Our beautifully renovated Children's Room provides a safe, fun place to heal & grow!




Our Community Room is a comfortable space for support groups, movie nights, and more!



Our playground keeps our youngest residents laughing and playing all summer long!

YOU MAKE BRIGHT FUTURES POSSIBLE

With our emergency shelter consistently over capacity, **YOUR support allows us to meet the increased needs of our community** and serve more children and youth than ever before. Donations of school and baby supplies, warm bedding, grocery gift cards, and new clothing help us welcome these families. **Last year, we served over 90 children in our residential programs alone.** Children like Connor, who came to PCC with his mother, Camila, after fleeing horrific and relentless abuse at home:



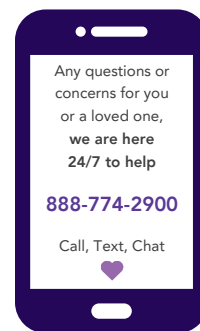
Our Children's Services Coordinator, Joanna, can see the nervousness in the young boy's eyes as he peers around his grip on his mother's leg. In his other hand, he tensely clutches a worn, well-loved teddy bear. The kindness in Joanna's voice encourages him to take a tentative step forward. The corners of his mouth gently form a small smile, as he sees the gift in Joanna's hands – a book and a new pair of pajamas – just for him. A young voice whispers, "I'm Connor," and Joanna's heart warms with the first hint of the connection she'll be able to make with him on his journey towards healing.

Connor's story is far too common - the story of children who have experienced violence and homelessness. **YOU make it possible** for children like Connor to know the comfort of a **caring counselor like Joanna** - helping **rebuild trust, security, and resilience**. With your support, we added to our Children's Services staff this year, **a vital investment** in children like Connor. We hope to continue with your help - to make the path toward **healing and bright futures** possible!

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 Hope Tour
- Dress Down & Go Purple
- Like & follow us on Facebook & Instagram
- Join our monthly giving program, 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



2023 SILENT NO MORE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



Join us in remembering those who lost their lives to domestic violence this past year & be inspired by the stories shared and the strength of our community.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Light refreshments at 6:00 PM | Program begins at 6:30 PM

594 Burritt Street, New Britain, CT



Generously Sponsored by the
Ryan T. Lee Memorial Foundation



SCAN FOR MORE INFO OR TO RSVP

Rain or shine – for updates visit www.prudencecrandall.org
Questions? Contact social@pccdv.org or 860-259-3820

VIRTUAL LIGHT THE WAY 4K

Raise awareness and critical support for our work during October by participating in our 4th Annual Light the Way 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. Teens & kids register free! For more info or to register, visit the link or scan:

WWW.RUNSIGNUP.COM/LTW4K

Questions? Contact social@pccdv.org or 860-259-3820.



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



(Giving Every Month Society)

MONTHLY GIFTS MAKE BIG IMPACT!

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

DONATE



cca|DV

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.

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