

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## THE PATH TO HOPE

When Carly arrived home from work, the look on her friend's face said it all. It happened again. He found her, his threats reaching yet another person she cared about, making them all unsafe. Telling her daughter it was time to move again was the hardest part. As she put down her debit card at a local motel, her heart sank. Fleeing from town to town had drained her. She could afford a few days, tops. Though miles apart, her boyfriend's control, manipulation, and abuse continued. Violent, threatening texts – blocked, yet popping up again under a new number. Pictures of her car, workplace, people she loved. Panic rose in her throat, telling her they would never be safe. As she slid her card back into her wallet, a sliver of paper stuck out. The number for a domestic violence hotline. It was her last and only hope.

At Prudence Crandall Center, our broad array of **coordinated, compassionate services** provide a lifeline to survivors like Carly when they need it most – and **YOUR support** makes this possible. We asked our team to share insights on Carly's journey, to show how the path can unfold for survivors – step by step – to a **new life and renewed hope**:

**Shelter Manager:** The physical abuse Carly suffered was severe and her courage beyond belief. She had a car, a plan, work experience, but needed a safe space to get a fresh start. She found that in our shelter. At first, we focused on counseling and support for their basic needs. She and her daughter had been uprooted so often and lived in chaos for too long. Our focus was healing – creating a space for them to rest, to breathe.

**Residential Director:** In shelter, Carly's primary goal was finding an apartment, but she also needed a job, so that was a struggle. It was incredibly lucky to have an opening in our transitional living program just a few months into her search – an apartment right here at Rose Hill. We all celebrated! New Britain is so different from where her daughter grew up, but she loves her new school. I'd guess it is the peace and stability that makes the difference.

**Case Manager:** Carly's job search began day one, but applying online is frustrating. Fortunately, we have community partners with openings and big hearts. Within a few months, Carly had a job she was really excited about! At the same time, she connected with our Court Advocate to apply for a restraining order. In Carly's words, PCC was the "life preserver" she needed, but we know *she* made it all happen – through her strength and love for her daughter.

The **path forward for survivors** is often overwhelming. PCC's team is here 24/7 to provide encouragement and resources each step of the way. We listen and respond to changing needs. As the funding landscape also shifts, it's **YOUR contributions that matter most** – the lifeline survivors need to regain independence and hope!

*Note: Story is based on real client experiences, with details changed for confidentiality.*

“

*Having all these resources right down the hall, it's more than just amazing. It's right at your fingertips... If you just need to talk. If you need a hug, if you need help with court, any of that, it's right there.”*

*- Carly,  
PCC Client*



“

*YOUR support isn't just a donation – it's a declaration. That survivors matter. That children deserve safe homes. That freedom is worth fighting for. If you wonder what your gift does... Look at me. I'm not just what survival looks like – I'm what hope becomes.*

- Celebrating Hope Client Speaker

## A WILL & A WAY

**Linda D. Rountree** poured her heart into her teaching, family, and friends, and her **legacy of kindness** lives on in the many lives she touched. After her passing last year, that kindness continues through **the gift Linda so thoughtfully left PCC in her will.**

Bequests like Linda's have tremendous impact, especially at this time of funding uncertainty.

**Protect the future of PCC and survivors by planning YOUR legacy gift today.**

Questions? Contact Carolyn Jasper at 860-259-3817 or [cjasper@prudencecrandall.org](mailto:cjasper@prudencecrandall.org)



Linda D. Rountree



their stories that create this deep connection, opening hearts and minds to the impacts of DV and our response as a community.

This year, survivor-artist Amanda Mendoza added her own personal and powerful message to our event through her spoken and visual works. At the podium, her **quiet, compelling presence** caused the room to fall silent – with every word spoken, each moment shared, incredibly moving and deeply felt.

Amanda's work seeks to foster **healing** and **connection**. Her poetry and paintings on display did exactly that – reflecting the **pain, resilience, and transformation** of survivors of abuse.

We're so grateful to Amanda, all survivors, and **YOU, our community**, for remaining connected, committed, and working together to create a future free from violence for ALL.

“Your speakers always add a new facet... It is a sobering lesson in one size does not fit all, and how creative and intuitive the PCC staff is to help each person find her/his worth and healing... - Mary Murphy, Giving Society”



## WHY IT ISN'T EASY TO “JUST LEAVE”

For Sheena, it wasn't only the fear. It was her credit score. Her name on **overdue utility bills**. Maxed out **credit cards**. Notices of **unpaid rent**. All controlled by her abuser. This isn't just a tough situation – it's **financial abuse**. Studies show financial concerns **impact 99%** of survivors, making them feel **trapped**. In too many cases, abusers will intentionally:

- Control all money and accounts
- Open credit cards or loans in their partner's name
- Sabotage jobs or prevent work
- Refuse to pay bills to cause financial damage

**Thanks to YOU**, PCC staff are here to offer survivors like Sheena the **tools they need** to recover from financial abuse. Things like: cash assistance for unpaid bills, security deposits, and rent; correcting and freezing credit reports; legal interventions; and counseling on money management – to give survivors a fresh start on their **path to financial independence!**

## JOYFUL MOMENTS BEGIN WITH YOU!



Paint night for creative expression

All year long, our Children's Services Coordinator leads meaningful activities and plans fun parties for our children and teens, creating a safe place for them to simply be kids, rebuild trust and confidence, and heal – **all thanks to YOU**, our incredible community!



Love & Kindness Day Party to strengthen bonds

## CELEBRATING HOPE Courage, Connection & Community

Every year, our Celebrating Hope breakfast brings **YOU, our community**, together – filling the room with a sense of purpose and compassion. And always, it's the **courage** and **strength** of survivors generously sharing



## OUR SHARED COMMITMENT

### Community Partners Respond to Crisis

DV is a **public health crisis** with devastating impacts for survivors, families, and communities. That's why we are incredibly grateful to announce a **vital new partnership with Bristol Health**, kicked-off with a press conference in June, to strengthen support for survivors and DV prevention in the greater Bristol area.

At the press event hosted by Bristol Health, the **courageous sons of Bristol resident Shenia Walker** spoke for the first time publicly – reading a heart-wrenching letter to the loving mother they lost far too soon.

*We just wish we had one more moment with you, one more chance to say how much we love you, one more hug and one more I love you.*

- Naseem Walker-Jenkins



L-R: Amari James, Naseem & Mario  
Not pictured: Nasir



**Kurt Barwis, Bristol Health CEO**, emphasized that partnerships like this create **"critical connection points"** to help identify, prevent, and overcome violence. We couldn't agree more! This collaboration expands PCC's healthcare partnerships in the region, which include Hartford HealthCare. We so appreciate Bristol Health for their commitment!

## INNOVATING FOR IMPACT

Imagine being in a courtroom, face to face with your abuser. The **countless threats** and **attempts to intimidate you** race through your mind as you struggle to be heard and get the protection you need.

PCC's court advocates empower survivors in critical ways – making sure they know their rights, options, and connecting them to services – but they are not lawyers, and have huge caseloads. Too often, the **power imbalance** in abusive relationships is repeated in court, especially when the abuser can afford an attorney and the survivor cannot.

PCC's innovative response was to forge a **new partnership with UConn School of Law**, providing survivors with free, expert **legal representation** to "level the playing field" and **protect their rights**. Through this legal clinic, PCC Court Advocate Daniela Bellows trains law students, professors, and attorneys on the **realities of DV** and the **legal obstacles**

many survivors face, providing these caring professionals with trauma-informed strategies to enhance their advocacy.

At PCC, we continue to expand our services for survivors and strengthen our impact through partnerships – **thanks to YOU, our community!**

*This clinic gives our clients more options, resources, and support. Since the spring, 19 clients (ages 18 to 60) have accessed the help they needed – to secure restraining orders, stay informed of the progress of their cases, safety plan – with dedicated attorneys and students often spending 2-3 hours with a survivor to learn about their unique needs.*

- Daniela Bellows, Lead Court Advocate



Student Sarah Dowling, Daniela Bellows, Prof. & Atty. Rachel Reeves

## BRISTOL 100 CAMPAIGN



Bristol counseling space

Over the past 3 years, survivors in the Bristol region have accessed PCC's services through our new satellite office, which features space for counseling, housing, outreach, and children's services.

As funding for our Bristol office comes to an end, PCC is committed to sustaining this vital resource for area residents.

**Our goal is to raise \$100,000 annually through our Bristol 100 Campaign, and YOU can help!**

To learn more, contact Carolyn Jasper at 860-259-3817 or [cjasper@prudencecrandall.org](mailto:cjasper@prudencecrandall.org)

## YOU CHANGE LIVES

In FY 24-25, we reached over **10,001 adults & children** through **YOUR** support!



**\$81,274** in cash assistance for rent, security deposits, food & other urgent needs



**\$29,329** in gift cards for groceries & necessities for survivors & families in need



**1,012** calls responded to by our 24/7 crisis hotline



**9,278** safe shelter nights for survivors & their children



**2,575** served & supported by our court advocates



**313** survivors & children provided shelter & housing



**5,911** reached through awareness-raising, education & prevention

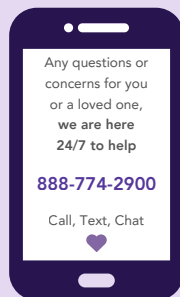
## OCTOBER IS

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**HOPE BEGINS WITH YOU!**

**HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP:**

- Like & follow us on social media
- Donate by mail or online
- Host or join a Hope Tour
- Become a Sponsor
- Join our Bright Futures Giving Society
- Wear purple in October!
- Join our G.E.M.S. monthly giving society
- Contact our Community Educator at 860-936-6965 to schedule trainings, presentations, and more!



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 860-259-3824  
OR VISIT US AT [www.prudencecrandall.org](http://www.prudencecrandall.org)**

## 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 & the strength of our community.*



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**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**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*Weather permitting*

For updates visit our Facebook or [www.prudencecrandall.org](http://www.prudencecrandall.org).  
Questions? Contact [social@pccdv.org](mailto:social@pccdv.org) or 860-259-3824



## Hope Tour

**Hear powerful stories of courage, resilience & hope - and be inspired!**



**In one impactful hour, you will:**

- ♥ Deepen your **understanding of domestic violence**
- ♥ Learn about our **groundbreaking, comprehensive services**
- ♥ Discover the **tools & resources** available to all

**For more information contact Sarah at  
860-259-3824 or [shawkes@prudencecrandall.org](mailto:shawkes@prudencecrandall.org)**

## 2025 CELEBRATING HOPE SPONSORS

### Presenting

Petit Family Foundation

### Trailblazer

Stanley Black & Decker

### Champion

SPARK IPS  
Tokio Marine HCC

### Ambassador

Barnes Group Foundation  
Beacon Prescriptions, New Britain  
Caroline Aston Fund, First Church of Christ  
Hartford HealthCare

### Advocate

AVNA, Bristol Housing Authority, The Color Platform,  
Polamer Precision Inc., Thomaston Savings Bank, Town Fair Tire,  
William & Ellen E. Macristy Foundation

### Friend

AssuredPartners Northeast, Barbieri Law, LLC, Bob's Discount  
Furniture, Central Connecticut State University, Companion Industries,  
Connecticut Chapter of the CPCU Society, D'Amato Construction Co.,  
Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP, Root Center for Advanced  
Recovery, ROTH Contracting Company, Inc., Tilcon CT, United  
HealthCare, Weber Carrier Chace LLP, Yarde Metals, Inc.

**DONATE**



**cca|DV**

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

PO BOX 895, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06050 | 860-225-5187 | [WWW.PRUDENCECRANDALL.ORG](http://WWW.PRUDENCECRANDALL.ORG)

**CONNECT**

