

NEW BEGINNINGS



YOU PAVE THE PATH TOWARDS "HOME"

Emma's story illustrates the **impossible barriers** survivors face when they flee abusive homes – and why DV is one of the **leading causes of homelessness** among women and children in our state.

From July 2023 to June 2024, PCC served **over 330 survivors** with our shelter & housing programs:

- **170** survivors & children **safely sheltered**
- **166** adults & children placed in **apartments of their own**
- The total number served in our **housing programs** **increased 22%** over the previous year

With **YOUR support**, we continue to be leaders in our field by investing in **groundbreaking & innovative housing services** to address this crisis of need.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: A SURVIVOR'S SEARCH FOR HOME

The night I fled with my children, I felt relief for the first time in years. But I quickly learned that escaping the violence was just the beginning. My name is Emma, and this is my story.

In one sense, I was one of the "lucky" ones. My sister was able to take us in temporarily, but we needed a real home. We all know how impossible it is to find an affordable place to live these days, but I soon realized the extra challenges I would face.

My abuser had controlled everything – our money, our bills, our rent. I was raising children and had no credit history of my own. Throughout years of struggle, we faced eviction more than once. Every landlord saw that history and turned me away.

Knowing it would take time to get on my feet, I researched all options. I left no stone unturned. I went to the affordable housing office, but the staff told me the wait list was years long. In that moment, I broke down. Through my tears, I explained that it felt like his abuse was following me. I felt hopeless. They suggested I call Prudence Crandall Center.

“When survivors can't find housing, the results can be devastating. Some may return to their abuser, others face homelessness. It's a true crisis. That's why we're here – to be that lifeline, to offer understanding, resources, and options that address this crisis and their unique needs.”

- Barbara Damon, CEO

It was there that I met my housing case manager, and my life started to change. She reassured me that I wasn't alone. That it wasn't my fault. The shame and hopelessness began to ease as she explained these roadblocks are, unfortunately, far too common. That they are part of the pattern of abuse and control.

At Prudence Crandall Center, the staff know the obstacles and how to overcome them. First, we replaced essential documents I had left behind when I fled. Next, we applied for security deposit assistance, and a program that allowed for my rent to be adjusted over time. Small but incredibly important steps.

With that guidance, my children and I finally have a safe, stable place to call home. It hasn't been easy, and my work rebuilding our lives, planning for our future, has just begun. For the first time in a long time, I feel hopeful.



“One of the reasons we partnered with Prudence Crandall Center is their unique ability to provide housing for shelter, apartments on-site, as well as in the community for its residents. And that continuum to be able to support survivors where they are, and what they need at the time they need it, is really, really magical.”

- Jill Hutensky, Senior VP, Hartford Market, Bank of America
An Evening of Celebrating Hope Video

Milk or diapers? Bananas or medications? Cereal or rent? These are the **tough choices** that too many of us, including DV survivors striving to rebuild their lives, face every week at the grocery store with the **spiraling costs of food**.



A recent study found that 1 in 8 CT residents struggle with hunger, and more than 112,000 children in our state are food insecure.

Many families served by PCC face these difficulties. Our dedicated case managers connect them with community resources such as food banks and SNAP benefits – but they only go so far. Our **incredible community** steps up to fill the gap.

Thanks to YOU, our caring community, we regularly receive donations of pantry staples and grocery store gift cards - our MOST requested need! Gift cards give survivors the **dignity of choice**, empowering them to buy the groceries they and their children want and need most. **TOGETHER, we strive to ensure no family we serve ever goes hungry again.**



First Church New Britain Supper Club



Bank of America Farmington

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ryan Griswold has been an extraordinary friend & PCC volunteer for over 9 years, generously giving his time to brighten our days. Each Wednesday before work, Ryan picked up donated baked goods – breads, bagels & sweet treats – and delivered them for our residents and families to enjoy.



We could always count on Ryan being there to help – through rain, sleet, snow & even a global pandemic! As his time with us comes to an end, we thank Ryan for his years of caring service & wish him all the best on his new chapter ahead!

FROM TEXTS TO TRACKING: ABUSE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Endless texts and calls demanding to know your every move. **Home security cameras** tracking you, even when you're alone. Young people "location sharing" on their phones to ease meet-ups. In today's high-tech world, **abusers extend their control** with the simple tap of a button, **using digital devices** to monitor and track survivors like Leila, who came to PCC for counseling services last year:



“One day on my way to a session, my phone rang. My boyfriend’s screams filled the air, demanding to know why I was in New Britain. A chill ran down my spine – how did he know? Had he followed me? I made up an excuse and rushed home, terrified. When I talked to my counselor about it, I was shocked to learn he could track my location through my phone. He was always there, watching my every move...”



Our community's contributions are vital to funding our **prevention and education services** to raise awareness of **the many forms DV takes**, including tech abuse. PCC's Community Educator works with youth that have grown up in a digital world. For many teens, it's eye opening to learn that their tech use could be unhealthy. For adults and youth alike, **it's important to understand the red flags of digital abuse** to set boundaries and **remain safe – both on and offline.**

DID YOU KNOW...?

97% of DV victims experience **harassment, monitoring & threats through technology**



Tech abusers most commonly misuse **phones, social media & messaging**



54% of tech abusers download stalking software onto partners' devices



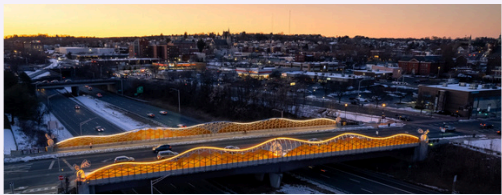
1 in 4 dating teens have experienced some form of digital abuse



Teen victims of tech abuse are **twice as likely to experience physical abuse**

Sources: Parsons, et al. (2019). *The Predator in Your Pocket: A Multidisciplinary Assessment of the Stalkerware Application Industry*. Safety Net Project. (2021). *Tech abuse in the pandemic & beyond: Reflections from the field*. National Network to End Domestic Violence.

The work we do requires **connections on every level** – it's you talking to your neighbor, it's counselors talking to support groups, it's our Community Educator talking to youth groups, it's our civic leaders taking a stand in their towns.



Mayor Stewart & the NBRecovers Youth Council lit the Beehive Bridge orange during February in recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

“
The City's partnership with Prudence Crandall Center allows us to do extremely important outreach work so that we can prevent our youth from harmful dating experiences, while also providing them with life saving resources should they find themselves in a dangerous situation.
- Erin E. Stewart, Mayor of New Britain

Sadly, we started the year with two DV-related homicides in New Britain. Mayor Erin E. Stewart immediately reached out to PCC, and we met to brainstorm solutions. We **created an action plan** that included DV trainings for city employees, increased community awareness efforts, and continued financial support to PCC.

Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano and Bristol's ARPA Task Force made an **incredible investment** with 3 years of grant funding through 2025 to open our Bristol satellite office, making PCC's counseling and case management services more accessible to area residents. With Mayor Caggiano's commitment, **we'll strengthen outreach and service collaborations** with Bristol partners to better serve those in need – making our communities safer for all.



Mayor Caggiano (center), PCC Board Member Whit Betts, Board Chair Dave Rackliffe, CEO Barbara Damon & Sr. Dir. Danielle DeRosier

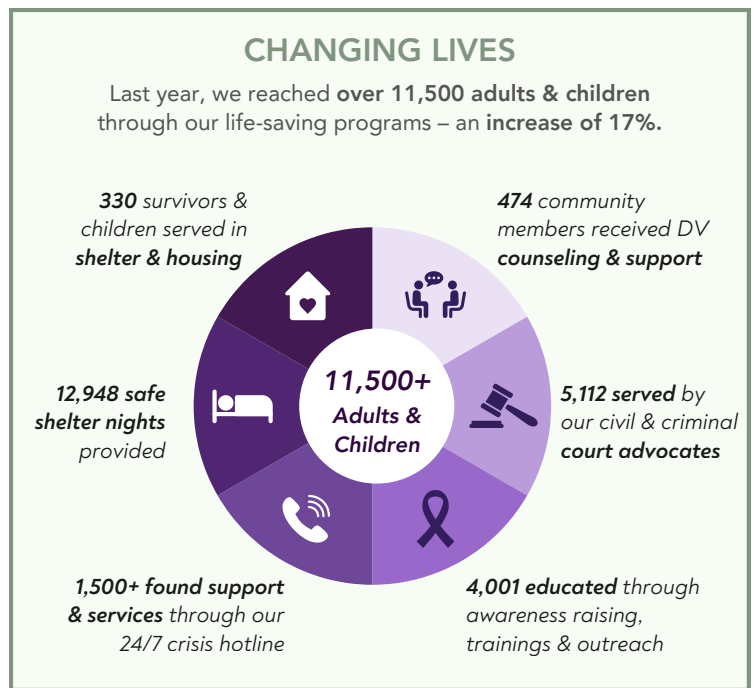
OUR COMMUNITY, OUR STRENGTH

We rely on about **two-thirds of our funding** for our essential services from government sources each year.

In 2025, **key sources of our federal funding are in jeopardy or scheduled to end**, including grant allocations through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and COVID-related relief.

These **vital funds** provide **critical support** for our emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, and education services, and will be a **significant loss**.

As we strategize to confront these challenges ahead, we remain hopeful. We know that **YOU, our community, remains by our side**. YOU are **our foundation and our future** – empowering safety, healing, and hope.



CELEBRATING YOUR IMPACT



PCC was honored and thrilled to be selected for Bank of America's prestigious 2023 Neighborhood Builders Award – **the first agency in the award's 20-year history to be chosen the first time we applied!** This \$200,000 multi-year grant will be used for **critical investments** in our agency and housing programs.

We thank YOU, our community, for your **unwavering support** of our **innovation, progress, and impact** – making this incredible recognition possible! And of course, our deepest gratitude to our friends at **Bank of America** for your **amazing partnership and long-standing commitment to our work!**

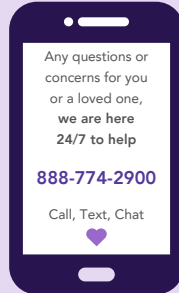
OCTOBER IS

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

HOPE BEGINS WITH YOU!

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

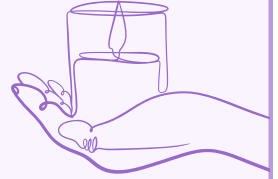
- Like & follow us on social media
- Donate by mail or online
- Host or join a Hope Tour
- Become a Sponsor
- Join our Bright Futures Giving Society
- Wear purple in October!
- Participate in our Light the Way 4K
- Join our G.E.M.S. monthly giving society
- Contact our Community Educator at 860-936-6965 to schedule trainings, presentations, and more!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 860-259-3824
OR VISIT US AT www.prudencecrandall.org

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.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

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](https://www.facebook.com/prudencecrandall.org) or www.prudencecrandall.org.
Questions? Contact social@pccdvt.org or 860-259-3824

VIRTUAL LIGHT THE WAY 4K

Raise awareness and critical support for our work during October by participating in our 5th 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, scan code or visit the link:



WWW.RUNSIGNUP.COM/LTW4K

Questions? Contact social@pccdvt.org or 860-259-3824

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 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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CONNECT



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



Over the past year, we honored 50 years of service as an organization, reflecting on the incredible community that supported Prudence Crandall Center through decades of challenges and growth and the survivors that inspire our work every day.

This year-long celebration culminated in a special 50th anniversary dinner, An Evening of Celebrating Hope. We gathered to celebrate the vision of our founders, the courage of survivors, and the commitment of YOU, our community!



OUR BEGINNINGS

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, PCC Founder:

"When we started doing this work, we couldn't find any place else to learn from... so we had to just create from scratch whatever it was going to take to meet the need. And that in some ways is the spirit that has inhabited Prudence all these years. A willingness and readiness to do whatever it's going to take. I have such admiration for the staff of the Prudence Crandall Center. They are so giving, so loving, so determined, and so creative in the ways in which they have built this program and this place."

OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Barbara Damon, PCC President & CEO:

"When I think about where we are today, and where we're headed next, the path forward is clear. The only way that we're going to be able to truly make a difference in the lives of the people that we serve and in our communities is by being sustained, by continuing our services, by evolving and innovating when we need to in response to the needs of those who are coming forward... and it is our community of supporters that allow us to do that."



A FAMILY'S JOURNEY

A heartfelt thank you to the Walker Family for courageously sharing their family's story at the event. They tragically lost their sister, Sheniah, to domestic violence in 2013. Over the past decade, the Walker Family has honored Sheniah's memory by advocating for DV awareness, working every day to prevent other families from enduring this loss.

Tammie Walker & Taffie Walker-Dudley:

"Prudence Crandall Center is an extended family to us because from the first moment that they found out, they reached out to us and just covered us and showered us with so much love and just the support that they've shown us throughout the years. They're a part of our family. They are so warm and loving. When you come around, you feel the love that they give, and you know that the care that they have for people that are in the program, for my family, for other families is genuine."

"The victim stories were heartfelt and pure, demonstrating the pervasive devastation of domestic violence, and the hope and inspiration that results because of agencies like PCC."

"The highlight for me was learning about PCC and hearing inspiring, heartbreaking, and impactful stories of brave survivors of domestic violence."

"It was an incredibly joyful, emotional opportunity to witness and hear from the staff, volunteers, and supportive community that made the night possible."

OUR INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY

As we reflect on the past 50 years, we recognize that our growth and impact was made possible through the caring contributions of our community. At our event, we celebrated three special partners who have continuously demonstrated their commitment to our work by presenting them with our **50th Anniversary Impact Award**.

Petit Family Foundation



Stanley Black & Decker



Bank of America



THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

Leaders who demonstrate their commitment to creating meaningful change & brighter futures for all!

PRESENTING

Petit Family Foundation

TRAILBLAZER

Caroline Aston Fund First Church of Christ, Stanley Black & Decker

CHAMPION

Paulson Training Programs, Inc., SPARK IPS, Tokio Marine

AMBASSADOR

Barnes Group Foundation, Beacon Prescriptions New Britain, Hartford HealthCare, Town Fair Tire

ADVOCATE

AVNA, Bristol Housing Authority, Color Platform, William and Ellen E. Macristy Foundation, Main Street Community Foundation, Polamer Precision Inc., Root Center for Advanced Recovery, Thomaston Savings Bank, Weber, Carrier, Boiczky & Chace, LLP

FRIEND

AssuredPartners Northeast, Barbieri Law, LLC, Bob's Discount Furniture, Central Connecticut State University, CLA, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, Companion Industries, Connecticut Chapter of the CPCU Society, Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP, Mayor's Trophy Charitable Fund, Phyllis & Ed Kindelan, ROTH Contracting Company, Inc., Yarde Metals, Inc.

50TH ANNIVERSARY GOLDEN ADVOCATE AWARD

We were honored to present Virginia Nowakowski & the Nowakowski Family with this special recognition in appreciation of their extraordinary generosity, leadership, and commitment to inspiring others. Our deepest thanks to the Nowakowski Family for their incredible Leadership Gift for our event, pledging a total of \$100,000 over five years!

“

It's an honor for our family to celebrate Prudence Crandall Center's 50th anniversary with our leadership gift so the Center can continue to provide vital services and support to its clients, and to change the lives of those in need.

- Virginia Nowakowski

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