the network
reaching out for a violence free society

Annual Report 2020

January 1, 2020— December 31, 2020

Dear Friends,

2020 was a transformative and unprecedented year for The Network. The Board of Directors continued its search for a new leader after CEO Kathy Barron's retirement in 2019. After a comprehensive search effort, Karen Foley O'Connor was named as the new Executive Director of The Network in February 2020. Karen served as a Connecticut State Trooper for 25 years. Throughout her career, she had a passion for training law enforcement officers about the dynamics of domestic abuse and a trauma informed response to these incidents. Karen has done a phenomenal job leading the agency through the pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, The Network collaborated with our sister agencies and the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) to support victims of domestic violence and their children. Due to the fact that schools were closed during quarantine, our Community Youth Educator created a new podcast called "Reaching out with the Network" so that we could provide messages about teen dating violence, healthy relationships, pandemic related anxieties and an array of other topics.

The Network continues to partner with CCADV and the CT Department of Housing to administer a new federal grant aimed at diverting homelessness specifically among domestic violence and human trafficking survivors. The Network had continued success with this partnership in 2020, successfully housing 12 families. The Network has seen an increased need for basic human needs and household items for the newly rehoused families and launched a new program called the "Home Safe Home Initiative". This is a confidential program which allows our supporters to donate gently used furniture and basic human needs, as well as food, to newly rehoused families using the power of social media.

The Network navigated the COVID-19 pandemic by prioritizing client and staff safety. Precautions were taken to ensure that both The Network office and Julie's Safe House were a safe place for all. Due to social distancing, the Safe House capacity was cut in half. However, the need for services was just as great and continued climbing as we neared the end of 2020. The Network spent 500 times more money in 2020 than in previous years providing safe shelter for survivors in hotel. The Network incurred unprecedented expenses for PPE, cleaning supplies, increased transportation costs and increased client basic human needs due to loss of work. Even more concerning, domestic violence service providers, across the state, observed an increase of the severity in violence in incidents during the pandemic.

In 2020, The Board of Directors developed a 2-year Strategic Plan. This plan focuses on marketing and education and is geared toward partners in our community to help identify domestic abuse and guide underserved survivors to our services.

After 6 years of service to The Network, Debra Gish stepped down as Board Chair and new officers were named for 2021. We would like to thank Deb for her leadership, support, countless hours of hard work and her unwavering commitment to the mission of The Network. She will be missed by all. We wish her the best.

We are so appreciative of the support we receive from all our funders, donors, sponsors, volunteers and the community who have made significant monetary and in-kind contributions in 2020. Your support is vital now more than ever as it allows us to continue to provide free and safe services to survivors in north central Connecticut.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and safe 2021!

Maureen Sampl, Board President

Board of Directors

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Maureen Sampl
Vice President
Donna Jones-Searle
Secretary
Yogini Majmudar
Treasurer
Steve Mercik
Jeff Beiler
Iris De Oleo-Edwin
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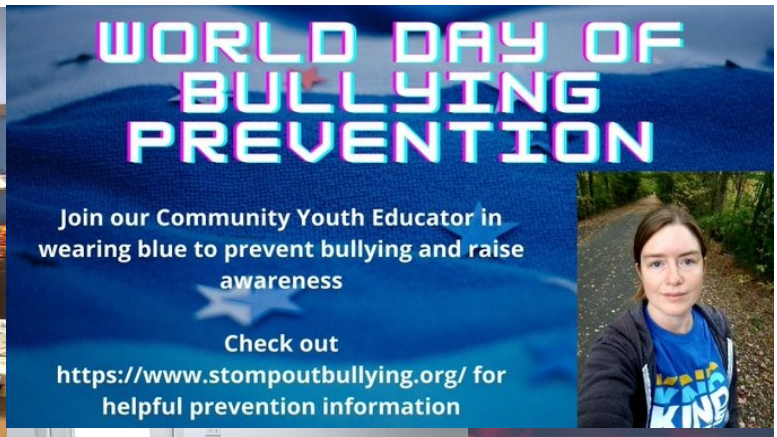

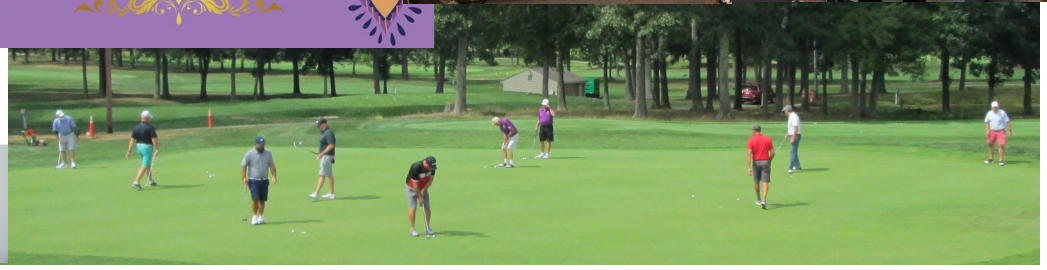

Thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, advocates and committee members who support our mission. Your generosity allows us to continue to provide free services to victims of domestic violence and their children right in our community. Your contributions whether in goods, services, time or money means so much to the individuals we serve. We look forward to your continued support.

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24/7 HOTLINE
(860)763-4542

The Network Staff

Executive Director
Karen Foley O'Connor
Marketing Administrator
Luci Lawson
Community Youth Educator
Annalisa Deal
Adult & Family Advocate
Brianna Montoya
Family Violence Victim Advocates
Taylor Demerski
Gina McDonnell
Safe House Staff
Jaime Ingaran—Manager
Valerie Barrett
Barb Calcasola
Tisha Carey
Tracey Champagne
Nicole Felician
Kelly Gomez
Rhonda Little
Jervimi Scott
LAP & Internship Coordinator
Alexandra Dash
Rapid Re-housing Advocates
Cynthia Craft
Amy Marvin
Child Advocates
Emma Piaseczynski
Jaime Savage

Our Services

We operate a 15 bed confidential safe home for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and sheltering services for male victims.

We offer free counseling services to domestic violence victims and their children.

We provide free court advocacy services to victims of family violence.

We educate communities, children and teens about healthy relationships.

We offer training to healthcare and professional groups who require domestic violence certification.

Mission

The Network is north central Connecticut's leader in preventing family violence by providing services to victims of domestic abuse and promoting healthy relationships through education.

Strategic (Vision) Statement

The Network is a non-profit organization which provides free counseling services to domestic abuse victims and their children; free court advocacy services to victims of domestic violence; operates a 15-bed confidential safe home for women and children who are victims of domestic violence, as well as sheltering services for male victims; and provides training to healthcare and professional groups who require domestic violence certification.

Towns served by The Network are East Windsor, Enfield, Somers, Stafford, Suffield and Windsor Locks. In addition, The Network provides support services to the other domestic violence agencies within Connecticut and including surrounding regions of Massachusetts.

The Network provided free services to 3,963 individuals

- 48 women, 2 men and 34 children were sheltered in a confidential location
- 3,753 total bed nights (including 2,846 at Julie's Safe House and 907 in hotels)
- 2,105 individuals received prevention education in schools and the community and 269 people tuned into our podcast
- 307 adults received counseling one on one or in a group and 10 children received counseling in a group
- 197 hotline calls were received
- 723 individuals received court advocacy services in Enfield Court
- 525 individuals received court advocacy services in Rockville Court
- 12 families were successfully placed in housing (12 adults and 18 children)
- Backpacks and clothing were provided for 37 children through the Back to School program
- Holiday program provided gifts to 84 children, 11 moms and 1 dad

Click on the image below to visit our website

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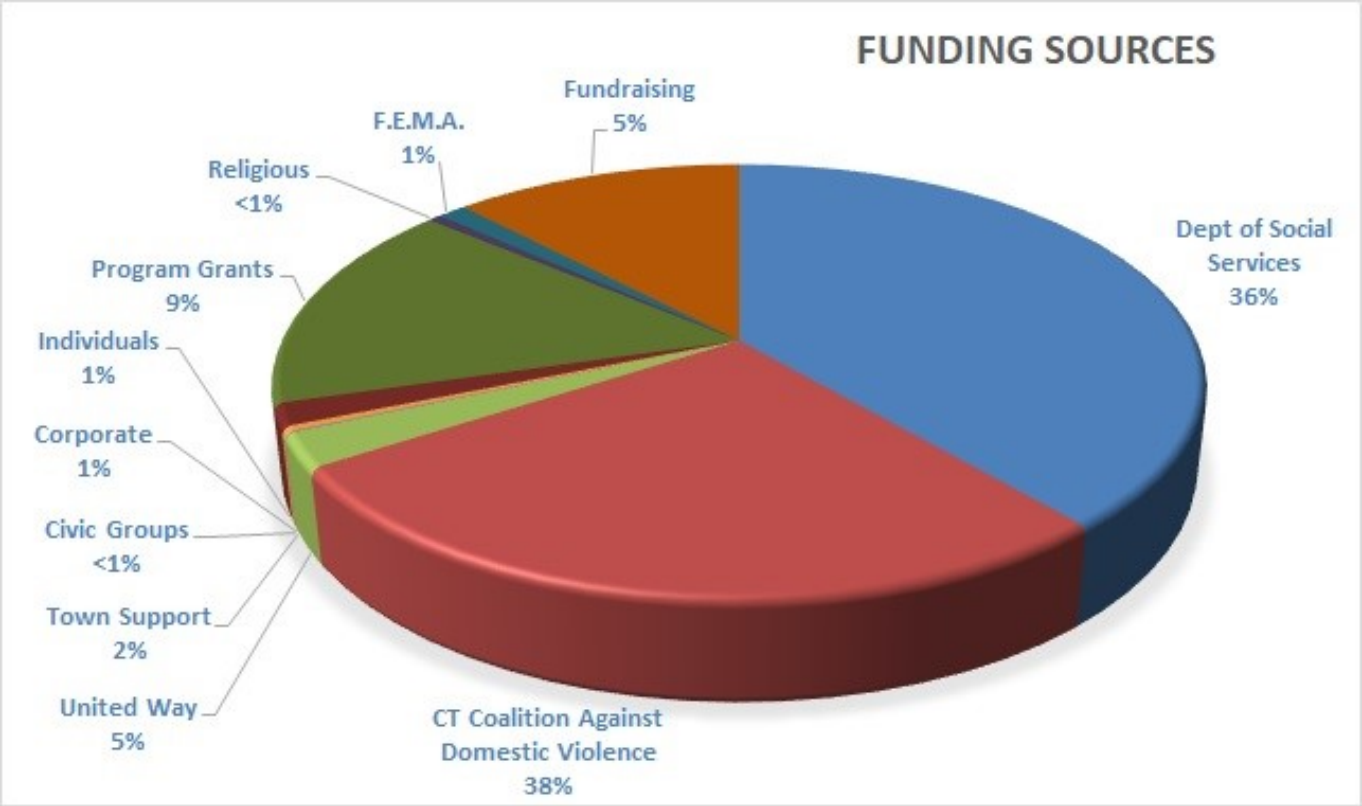

2020 Top Supporters

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence	391,758
Department of Social Services	372,030
United Way	53,002
Maximillian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, Inc.	25,000
Town of Enfield	21,937
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving	12,000
TJX Foundation	10,000
Beatrice Fox Auerbach & the Basic Human Needs Fund at HFPG	5,500
Virginia Brody	5,000
Charter Oak Foundation	5,000
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut	5,000
Mrs. James Sage Coburn Fund	5,000
J. Gladwin Cannon Trust	5,000
New Alliance Foundation	5,000
Town of East Windsor	5,000