CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence Progresses in Efforts to Increase Domestic Violence Screening by Health Professionals

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) released a report detailing its latest efforts to expand the number and type of healthcare providers being trained on, and screening patients for, intimate partner violence (IPV). CCADV also released a series of online training videos that will assist health professionals to build their understanding and capacity to support patients experiencing IPV.

CCADV provided 70 trainings to more than 1,000 healthcare providers in Connecticut through its Health Professional Outreach Project in fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017). Staff found that a large majority of health professionals were only screening patients for IPV when they observed signs of physical injuries. Training included discussing the various methods of control — emotional, psychological, technological, sexual, and physical — and the impact that all forms of abuse can take on a victim’s health such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, increased risk for hypertension, etc. This both broadened health professionals’ understanding of IPV and the importance of screening all patients regardless of the presence of physical injuries.

“We are pleased that we were able to solidify a number of partnerships with key health providers across the state and establish strong policy across medical practices,”

(continued on page 2)
Susan B. Anthony Project promotes safety, healing and growth for all survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and advocates for the autonomy of women and the end of interpersonal violence.

CT Coalition (continued from page 1)

said Karen Jarmoc, CCADV chief executive officer. “These partnerships have increased the number of patients being screened and referred for services at CCADV’s 18 domestic violence member organizations. Eliminating barriers to getting victims help is critical and this project continues to do just that.”

Key partnerships in year two of the project included work with Women’s Health Connecticut, The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI), and Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). CCADV provided 24 in-person trainings and two webinars to more than 125 providers within the Women’s Health Connecticut network, which also created a practice-wide policy of screening patients for IPV and making referrals to the local domestic violence organization.

“We’ve felt strongly for a while that we needed a better way to help women who are facing these difficult situations. This training, and our partnership with CCADV, has greatly increased our ability to identify and refer women safely and we find that our patients are responding well to the screening,” said Dr. Matthew Saidel, Chief Medical Officer and a practicing physician for Women’s Health Connecticut.

Following a recommendation made during the first year of the project, CCADV staff worked to establish relationships with local colleges and universities that offer health profession degrees. Many professors noted that the student curriculum never mentions IPV, highlighting an important opportunity to educate future health professionals via the higher education system. CCADV provided training to 11 classes and more than 200 students. Post-training surveys with college and university students revealed that:

- Pre-training, only 59% of students identified victims as being at greater risk when leaving a relationship, versus 93% post-training (leaving is the most dangerous time for a victim)
- Pre-training, only 47% of students believed that healthcare providers should not pressure victims to acknowledge IPV when they may not be ready to, compared to 76% post-training (best practices call for taking the victim’s lead, allowing her or him to acknowledge and accept the circumstances in their own time, as they know their situation best).

“These training opportunities resulted in significant improvement in students’ understanding of IPV and perceptions of how best to help patients when they identify IPV,” said Jillian Gilchrest, Director of the Health Professional Outreach Project. “Working with students as they train to become future health professionals is essential to creating a sustainable culture of addressing IPV within healthcare practices.”

TRAINING INCLUDED DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS METHODS OF CONTROL — EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, SEXUAL, AND PHYSICAL — AND THE IMPACT THAT ALL FORMS OF ABUSE CAN TAKE ON A VICTIM’S HEALTH SUCH AS DEPRESSION, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, INCREASED RISK FOR HYPERTENSION, ETC.
Making a Difference!

Maya Kumar, a student at Westover School in Middlebury, Gina Devaux, SBAP Director of Development and Maya’s advisor, Marla Truini. They delivered items collected during a drive organized by Maya. Thank you so much!

In addition to conducting in-person trainings, CCADV will now make a series of online training videos targeted for health professionals available via www.ctcadv.org. Video topics include:

- Why health professionals should screen for domestic violence
- A toolbox for domestic violence screenings and referrals
- Talking to Women: screening & referral for OBGYN health professionals
- Impact of domestic violence on children
- Talking to Caregivers: screening & referral for pediatric health professionals
- Culturally-specific issues, mental health, and trauma

“Health professionals have limited time and these training videos will allow them to receive the content they need at their own pace and within their own timeframe,” said Gilchrest.

As the Health Professional Outreach Project moves into year three, several next steps have been identified including:

- Expand the number of healthcare entities that make screening for IPV a policy of their practice. We know that pregnant and parenting women are at higher risk for IPV, so ideally, all OBGYN and pediatric offices in Connecticut will incorporate the screen into their practice.
- Develop a preventative screening tool for health professionals that can be utilized with adolescents and that aims to prevent individuals from perpetrating IPV. It is critical to define the underlying causes that prompt and perpetuate IPV and to implement strategies that impact those underlying causes.
- Support the work of the Healthy Youth coalition, a group of advocacy organizations working to require comprehensive health education in grades K-12 in Connecticut, and continue to solidify relationships with and training opportunities at institutions of higher education.

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is a membership organization made up of the state’s 18 domestic violence agencies, including Susan B. Anthony Project (SBAP). SBAP offers help to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, free of charge, including hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups, and by assisting in securing a restraining order.

If you or someone you know needs support, call Susan B. Anthony Project hotline at 860-482-7133 or the statewide free and confidential hotlines at 888-774-2900 (English) or 844-831-9200 (Español) to be connected to your local domestic violence agency.

Due to the closing of Beth El Synagogue, SBAP was the recipient of a very generous donation. Accepting this gift is Gina Devaux, SBAP Director of Development, along with Joyce Peck and Sally Bergad, members of Beth El Synagogue and Jeanne Fusco, SBAP Executive Director.

Deirdre Houlihan DiCara, Executive Director, Margaret Franzi, Food Pantry Manager both of FISH along with Gina Devaux, Director of Development at SBAP were recipients of monetary and food items contributed at the Raiders Rally held at Torrington High School in June.
2017 Sexual Violence Awareness Month

Each April, we hold our Sexual Violence Awareness Month Vigil to show community support for sexual assault survivors. This year, the following community members were recognized for collaborating and supporting our work throughout the year:

Susan Berg, professor at Northwestern CT Community College
Christina Borel, clinical director at NAFI Touchstone in Litchfield
Cheryl Ferris, victim advocate at Litchfield Court
Robert Hazen, State Police Officer from Troop B
Jennifer Helt, registered nurse at Planned Parenthood
Rachel Loveland, clinician at NAFI Touchstone in Litchfield
Christine McGrath, Susan B. Anthony Project volunteer

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month

• More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. (The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 Summary Report)

• Susan B. Anthony Project helped 1,848 victims of domestic violence last year.

• From July 2016 to June 2017, SBAP sheltered 74 women and 56 children.

• Education prevention programs were presented to 4,531 school-aged children and to 2,072 adult community members.

Torrington owner/Campus Director, Danielle Maida, accepted an award for the Academy of Medical Training, Inc. which has trained our clients for work in the medical field. Shown with Danielle is Cheryl Wallace, Director of Finance & Operations at SBAP.

The annual Candlelight Vigil was held on Wednesday, October 25th at 6:30 pm at Coe Park in Torrington to remember victims and celebrate survivors of domestic violence. A ceremony is held to honor community members who have collaborated and supported our work throughout the year.
Wish List

For questions about an item listed, please call Denise at 860-489-3798 or visit www.sbaproject.org

OUR CLIENTS’ MOST PRESSING NEEDS — GIFT CARDS
Stop & Shop, Price Rite, Gas Cards, McDonald’s, Burger King, Target, Wal-Mart, MasterCard or Visa
Movies or Haircuts

CASH DONATIONS
For client assistance

NEW BED & BATH
Twin, full & Pack-n-Play sheets
Pillows
Bath towels & wash cloths
Dish towels & pot holders

PERSONAL HYGIENE
Shampoo & conditioner
Razors & shaving cream
Tampons & pads
Deodorant — male & female
Toothpaste & toothbrushes
Soaps & body wash
Lotions & hand sanitizer
Diapers (all sizes) & diaper cream
Baby wipes
Tissues & Q-tips
Baby shampoo
Sunscreen
Shower caddies
Hair dye

SHELTER SUPPLIES
Bathroom & kitchen cleaners
HE laundry detergent — unscented (HE = Energy Efficient)
Dryer sheets — unscented
Bleach
Fabric softener — unscented
Ziploc bags, foil, plastic wrap
Toilet paper, paper towels
Food containers

FOOD ITEMS
Coffee, creamer & coffee filters
Canned, boxed or dry food items
Spices, sugar, salt, pepper
Flour, oil, tuna, cereal, rice, beans
Mayo, catsup, mustard
Sazon seasoning
Cookies, Pop Tarts, fruit snacks
Juice boxes, bottled water

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINE
TYLENOL / ADVIL / MOTRIN
BABY / CHILDREN’S TYLENOL
Cold medicine — adult & children
TUMS / PEPTO BISMOL
Allergy medicines
Thermometers
Anti-bacterial cream
Band-Aid’s

MISCELLANEOUS
School supplies
Flashlights & batteries, all sizes
Craft supplies — beads, paint, and canvas
Sleeping bags, air mattresses
Movies — family DVDs
Wii Games — family oriented
Play-Doh
Daily calendars
Colored pencils, crayons
Washable markers
Coloring books, stickers
New toys, crafts
Trac phones & minute cards
Flip flops, beach towels
Umbrellas
Card games — Uno, Old Maid
Playing cards
Board games — Monopoly, Clue, Bingo, checkers, Candyland
Socks, underwear, pajamas, sweats & yoga pants for children & women — all sizes

You can help Susan B. Anthony Project every time you shop on Amazon!
Visit smile.amazon.com and designate Susan B. Anthony Project as your charitable organization and we will receive 0.5% of your purchase.

Stephanie Saucier from the Manchester Victoria’s Secret store and Gina Devaux, SBAP Director of Development with the “Adopt a Mom” bags for our clients. Store employees collected items from our wish list and also included a gift card for each mom to The Spa at Litchfield Hills. Our moms were so appreciative!

Amber & Dylan Garrow stopped in with proceeds raised from the sale of LulaRoe clothing, basket raffles and donations at an event held at Thomaston Lanes. Shown accepting the donation is Siobhain Craemer, Administrative Assistant at SBAP.
THANK YOU
MOSES PENDLETON & CYNTHIA QUINN
GRACE & DJAN YAGTUG

Generously sponsored by:
Dymax Corporation – Agency Sponsor
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Nancy & Patrick Boland
Connecticut Community Foundation
Nancy & Mark Famiglietti
Federman, Lally & Remis LLC
Rosalie & Richard Furniss
Susan Jordan & James Youngling
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La Cupola Ristorante
Litchfield Bancorp
National Iron Bank
NM Lawn Care LLC
Petit Family Foundation
RAR Excavating & Building, LLC
Kathy & Curtis Robb
Lindsey & Jonathan Rotolo
Phil Samponaro
Lois & Marc Shafir
Marlene & Chris Smith
Thomaston Savings Bank
Torrington Savings Bank
The Workshop

Special thanks to John Johnson of John Johnson Art Direction & Design for designing our MOMIX in the Garden program and to Jill Davenport of Litchfield Hills Photography for capturing the event.
Making a Difference!

The 14th Annual Authors’ Luncheon
BENEFITING SUSAN B. ANTHONY PROJECT
Saturday, April 14, 2018 • 12:00 noon
Fairview Farm Golf Course, Harwinton

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 13th annual Authors’ Luncheon such a success! Shown are Nanette Falkenberg, President SBAP Board of Directors, Jeanne Fusco, SBAP Executive Director along with our authors, Bob Paff and Sarah Darer Littman.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
Sunday, May 20, 2018 • 9:00 a.m.

We’re excited to announce that Susan B. Anthony Project will be holding a Walk A Mile in Her Shoes® event on May 20, 2018!

Walk A Mile in Her Shoes® is an international men’s march where men and boys lead the way on the road to end sexual and domestic violence. Created by men, the Walk gives participants the opportunity to get their communities talking about a difficult subject while increasing awareness of the problem, offering opportunities for healing and demonstrating men’s willingness to walk with women and children as allies, advocates and survivors.

Walk participants will literally walk a mile in women’s shoes. There are several ways to participate in this one-of-a-kind event:

• Walker – Individual or team participation
• Sponsor
• Event attendee
• Volunteer

For event information or to register for SBAP’s Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®, please visit www.sbabproject.org/walkmile or contact Gina Devaux at gdevaux@sbaproject.org or 860-489-3798.

For more information about the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® movement, visit www.walkamileinhershoes.org.

Save the Dates!

The 14th Annual Authors’ Luncheon
BENEFITING SUSAN B. ANTHONY PROJECT
Saturday, April 14, 2018 • 12:00 noon
Fairview Farm Golf Course, Harwinton

Tarun Canfield and Alecka Camp, members of PsiChi held a collection for SBAP on the Westfield State University campus. Gina Devaux, Director of Development was thrilled to accept the collection of children’s activity books, toiletries, diapers, wipes and baby food.

Ann Ryan and Sandy Miller from Covenant Church of Thomaston delivered “Purses of Love” to SBAP. These were filled with small beauty items for moms in honor of Mother’s Day. Accepting the donation is Denise Torson, Development Associate at SBAP.
MAKING A PLAN TO GIVE

We are proud and thankful to introduce the Founders Society of Susan B. Anthony Project

Christian Arndt*
Mark DeCruccio
Mary (Polly) Doremus*
Regina Duffy*
Nanette Falkenberg
Valerie Friedman

Gillian Hanna*
Josephine Jones
David MacKenzie
Jackie & Phil Miller
Dorothy Neubauer*
Karen O’Connor
Susan Payne

Angelo Romaniello*
Marlene & Chris Smith
Barbara Spiegel & Thomas Hodgkin
Nancy Wadhams *deceased

The Founders Society of Susan B. Anthony Project celebrates our founders, Polly Doremus & Gillian Hanna, and recognizes all of our donors who have joined them in making a promise to help create a better tomorrow by providing a legacy gift. When you become a member of the Founders Society of Susan B. Anthony Project, you will help ensure the perpetuity of SBAP’s mission and role in our community. No matter the amount, you are making a gift of hope to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

“Through my volunteer and Board work for SBAP I became educated in the growing number of domestic violence and sexual assault victims, of all ages, in Litchfield County. A problem so often shrouded in secrecy and silence, I realized how vital SBAP’s mission and services are to helping women, men and children “rebuild their lives” and to creating awareness of this problem and educating our communities. I’ve included SBAP in my Will to help ensure that SBAP programs and services continue as long as needed.”

Susan Payne

Are you retired?
Are you age 70-1/2 or over? Do you have an annual IRA?

Did you know that the IRS mandates that individuals age 70-1/2 and older take a required minimum distribution (“RMD”) from their IRA each year, regardless of whether the income is needed? AND, that these annual withdrawals are subject to ordinary income taxes?

By making an annual charitable contribution directly from your IRA to Susan B. Anthony Project, you can satisfy your RMD amount without reporting additional income while knowing that you are giving victims of domestic and sexual violence hope for a safer future.

If you would like to know more about planned gifts, please call Gina Devaux at 860-489-3798.
Introducing our New Board Members

I am the Criminal Justice Program Coordinator/Associate Professor for Northwestern CT Community College (NCCC) in Winsted, CT. I worked as a police officer for the Torrington Police Department for 25 years, retiring in 2013 at the rank of Detective Lieutenant. During my years in the detective division and the patrol division, I routinely contacted Susan B. Anthony Project in order to assist victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. I have always believed in the mission of SBAP and look forward to promoting the message even further in this new position.

I have been a member of NCCC’s SART (Sexual Assault Resource Team) since its inception 5 years ago, working closely with SBAP to further assist students in training sessions or any type of assistance they may require. I look forward to contributing my time, passion and experience to SBAP in the hopes of one day ending domestic and sexual violence. —Mike Emanuel

In both my career as a journalist and local news publisher, and in my network of family and friends, I’ve seen the impact that domestic violence and sexual violence can have on individuals, families and communities.

I think that our duty is not only to defend, counsel and support survivors, but to work on preventing violence from happening in the first place, including showing men and boys healthy alternatives to the toxic masculinity that’s so deeply rooted in our culture. —Matt DeRienzo

Congratulations to Marlene and Chris Smith, members of the Susan B. Anthony Project Board of Directors and Advisory Council who recently received The Wisdom Award, given by the Daughters of Wisdom, from Wisdom House in Litchfield. The Wisdom Award recognizes the presence of Divine Wisdom in people in our community in acknowledgment of those whose lives are marked by generous service, and in efforts to create community in the outreach of those who are vulnerable. Marlene has been committed to the work of SBAP with a particular focus upon prevention projects in schools and in promoting communities that are free of violence. Chris and Marlene served on the SBAP Capital Campaign and Building Committees and Chris was instrumental in initiating SBAP’s endowment fund. Shown L to R: Barbara Spiegel, Marlene Smith, Chris Smith & Sister Rosemarie Greco.

Susan B. Anthony Project was one of the recipients of proceeds raised at the BLN Golf Tournament this past summer. Presenting our gift to Gina Devaux, SBAP Director of Development, is Paul McLaughlin, Sr. Vice President of Litchfield Bancorp. Along with Litchfield Bancorp, Brooks, Todd & McNeil and Northwest Community Bank organizes the tournament each year to benefit local non-profits.

We are so thankful to be honored for a 4th year with a gift from the Stronger Women Stronger World 5K Obstacle Race. From Left to Right: Organizers Ed Patterson of Missfits Bootcamp, Mandy Hill of CHH Rehabilitation, and Mat Montgomery of Torrington YMCA with recipients Gina Devaux of Susan B. Anthony Project, Barbara Dughi of the Women and Girls Fund, and Damaris Sierra of CHH Pink Rose Fund.
WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR 2017-2018 AGENCY SPONSORS!

Our Agency Sponsors generously give their support to victims of abuse and to the mission of Susan B. Anthony Project with a minimum annual contribution of $5,000. These partnerships are a critical source of income that has tremendous impact on the continuity of SBAP’s service delivery and our ability to ensure that programs and resources remain available to victims during their most vulnerable times.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT.

Welcome to our latest class of volunteer graduates!

Having completed the required 40-hour training, all of our graduates are now certified domestic and sexual violence crisis responders. Congratulations and thank you!

Jennifer Abbott
Shellian Bennett
Gail Berglund

Pooja Crum
Debbie Czark
Katie Gainer

Megan Huddleston
Megan Murphy
Jennie Panchy
A New Courthouse in Torrington

As of August 28, 2017, a new courthouse has been open for business at 50 Field Street in Torrington. Court functions previously operating in various locations are now housed under one roof. The criminal, civil, and juvenile courts have been consolidated at the Field Street location.

Susan B. Anthony Project employs a Family Violence Victim Advocate for criminal matters and a Civil Court Advocate for civil matters. SBAP Court Advocates assist victims in navigating the often overwhelming legal process and accompany them to court proceedings.

Food Rescue US, which has been providing fresh and prepared food to local non-profits in our area including Susan B. Anthony Project, is based upon a model of the former Community Plates non-profit. Food Rescue is committed to ending American food insecurity by directly transferring fresh, usable food that would have otherwise been thrown away from restaurants, markets and other food industry sources to food-insecure families throughout the U.S.

In January 2017, Kathy Minck and her group of 55 plus volunteers began delivering a wide array of fresh produce, meats, prepared food, fruit and baked goods to our office for distribution to our shelter, transitional housing and offsite clients. We receive two to three deliveries a week! These food donations help our clients stretch their dollars a little further and everyone is so appreciative!

We would like to thank the following establishments for participating in this wonderful program:

- Bantam Bread
- Camp Washington
- Chandra Guerard Farm
- Market CT — Northville
- Meraki
- Stop & Shop — Litchfield
- The Smithy
- Tops Market
- Truelove Farms
- Watertown Meat Market

If you would like to become a Food Rescue volunteer, please email Kathy at minckkathy@gmail.com.

Making a Difference!

Cathy Connole of the Daughters of the American Revolution — Brooks–Green Woods Chapter delivers a variety of books for children and adults to help replenish our library. Thank you!

Canton Girl Scout Troop #61140, along with their leader, Nicole Lashgari, donated “Birthday Bags” to us recently. These included cake mix, frosting, candles, crepe paper and plates. Everything needed to celebrate! Shown from left to right are scouts Reagan, Emma, Sophia and Ava.

Samantha O’Connor, hair stylist, shown with Laura Beeman, SBAP Shelter Manager. Samantha has been generously donating her services and products to our clients by treating them to haircuts right here in our Advocacy & Counseling Center.
I was attending college at the University of Connecticut Tri-Campus in Torrington knowing I wanted to help those in need. There were many experiences in my life that made me decide that I wanted to specifically help those who experienced domestic violence.

During one of my classes, a Community Educator from Susan B. Anthony Project spoke about the agency and its mission. I learned there were job openings, I immediately called to inquire and was so thankful to be hired for an overnight position in February, 2010. From there, I transitioned to a day-time Advocate position working mainly at our emergency shelter.

I enjoy interacting with the clients at shelter on a daily basis. You begin to really know each other and form strong working relationships. It is a wonderful experience to see clients move into stable housing and begin the process of healing in a safe environment.

Those who experience abuse can feel very alone in their situation. When clients come to shelter, they begin to interact with the other shelter residents and to understand that they are not alone. Many abusers’ behaviors follow the cycle of abuse. As staff, we are able to speak to the residents about what that cycle looks like, and where they may be in that cycle.

Coming into shelter is a courageous step. Often many residents have no choice but to start their lives all over again. Some leave everything they have behind to live a life free of abuse and have to rebuild their lives from the beginning. At shelter, we help residents with this process, from obtaining basic needs for themselves, to giving information and referrals for income, to employment and housing.

Recently, many of our clients were able to get housing through available funding that provides short-term housing for homeless families and individuals, including those homeless due to domestic violence.