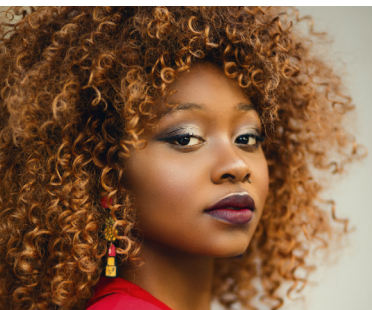




HOPE IS

Believing in yourself
Believing in others
Believing in your dreams



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING THE FACES OF HOPE

Serving Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, and Trumbull
centerforfamilyjustice.org



The Center for
Family Justice



OUR MISSION

The Center for Family Justice breaks the cycle of abuse and violence—domestic, sexual and child—by providing services that create hope, restore lives and drive social change through education and community collaboration.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Martha Owens
Destiny Sammut
Antoinette S. Stephens

PRESIDENT, CEO:

Debra A. Greenwood



Debra A. Greenwood



Matthew C. Reale, Esq.

Greetings to Friends and Supporters,

I am excited to share some wonderful things that are happening here at The Center for Family Justice, while remaining laser-focused on our mission to provide life-saving services to all those impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence and child abuse.

We saw a 32 percent increase in services provided to clients over the previous year. We served more than 5,500 people. We continue to see the consequences of abuse in families and individuals, who often feel scared, isolated and shame.

But there is hope.

The State Bond Commission approved a \$1.2 million grant-in-aid to make much-needed renovations and improvements to our main building so we can only enhance our programs and services in an even more safe and secure environment.

We unveiled the name of our new safe house, "Patti's Place," in honor of our beloved volunteer, donor and friend Patti Masarek. This safe house, which we hope to open by the end of the year, will help us serve more families seeking immediate safety with their pets.

We are seeing an increase in the number of people enrolling in programs offered by our Training Institute and Prevention and Education programs. We recently held a very successful training series, "Engaging Men in Prevention" in April, and we held a free webinar for parents helping children through trauma.

We are engaging in schools with students, staff and parents.

Services through our Training Institute and Prevention and Education programs have increased by an amazing 65 percent as we work to stop the cycle of abuse in our families and inform members of the community who want to help!

We hosted amazing and inspirational people – author Rachel Louise Snyder at Speaking of Women in September and motivational speaker Emeka Nnaka at our Speaking with Men breakfast in November. We took time to remember the lives of the 32 victims lost last year at a beautiful multi-town vigil we had this past October at the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater.

We honored 10 "Hope Heroines," women in our communities who have improved lives through their work, at our first-ever "Women Rock!" benefit concert, presented by our friend Rob Fried and Band Central.

As you read this report recounting the past year, you will be amazed by all that we have accomplished together!

Just know that your support, so vital to our operation, is seen, and we are very grateful.

With our profound gratitude and appreciation,



Debra A. Greenwood
President & CEO

Matthew C. Reale, Esq.
Chairperson



THE YEAR IN REVIEW
HOPE
BY THE NUMBERS

Clients Served
5,517

Civil Court Cases
241
18% Increase

Total Clients Served
32%
Increase

Domestic Violence Clients
1,581

Sexual Violence Advocacy Clients
610
39% Increase

Emergency Shelter & Hotel Bed Nights
5,447

Criminal Court Services
39%
Increase

Pro Bono Legal Center provides an average
220 hours
per month of free legal services.

Criminal Court Clients:
3,681

Child Advocacy Center Clients: **210**
Training Institute Participants: **6,896**



YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 AUGUST

55 campers return from their week away at Elizabeth M. Pfriem Camp HOPE America-Bridgeport

SEPTEMBER

Award-winning journalist Rachel Louis Snyder headlines the 25th Anniversary of Speaking of Women.



OCTOBER

CFJ hosted its first regional domestic violence vigil at the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater in Bridgeport.



Boo Bash is enjoyed by our youngest clients and their families.



NOVEMBER

Emeka Nnaka was the inspirational keynote speaker at CFJ's 4th Annual Speaking with Men event.



DECEMBER

Awarded \$1.2 million from the State Bond Commission to support expansion efforts – our agency continues to grow!

CFJ was a beneficiary of the annual 99.1 PLR Chaz & AJ McDermott Chevrolet & Lexus Toy Drive.



2023 JANUARY

CFJ was recognized by DCF with a Human Trafficking Awareness Award.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Month January 2023

The winner is... The Center for Family Justice! Social media campaigns on Human Trafficking through multiple platforms. Thank You, and Congratulations, Team CFJ!



FEBRUARY

CFJ staff observes Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.



MARCH

Chanel Miller announced as 2023 Speaking of Women Keynote Speaker.



Band Central presents first "Women Rock!" concert to benefit CFJ.



APRIL

Art for Advocacy hosts speaker Salamishah Tillet, a feminist activist, scholar, writer, and survivor.



MAY

The family-friendly Festival of Hope returns to Trumbull Mall, featuring many of Trumbull's first responders.



JUNE

CFJ CEO Deb Greenwood and Board Chair Matt Reale host our annual Fairways to HOPE golf outing.



11th Annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.



Rebecca Kushel and Aly Oleyar named CFJ's first Youth Volunteers of the Year.

ADVANCING OUR MISSION: PROVIDING HOPE, SAFETY & EMPOWERMENT

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GROW



Fairfield Ludlow High School's leadership group Raising Abuse Awareness for Teens (RAAFT) Club visited CFJ in April 2022 when they came for a tour and to attend a workshop on healthy relationships and boundaries.

At The Center for Family Justice, our **Prevention and Education** program staff work hard to engage students K-12 and college with effective age-appropriate education and training focused on the prevention of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child abuse and human sex trafficking to children, youth, parents, faculty, and staff.

We focus on several areas including body safety, consent, bullying prevention, conflict resolution, dating violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence and how we can mobilize bystanders to speak up and act when they see violence and abuse in their families, schools, campuses, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Elizabeth M. Pfriem's Pathways to HOPE and Camp HOPE America-Bridgeport programs

Through our Elizabeth M. Pfriem's Pathways to HOPE and Camp HOPE America-Bridgeport programs, CFJ has increased its ability to support children and youth ages 7-17 impacted by abuse by providing year-long engagement and mentoring programs including overnight summer camp.

WELCOME TO PATTI'S PLACE!

"If you can't be safe in your own home, then where can you be?"

This is the question posed to visitors to the EmpowerHouseProject.org website, a page set up to inform the public about this vital work to build another safe house for our clients seeking shelter from immediate, life-threatening situations.

No one is more passionate about making this project come to fruition than Patti Masarek, who co-chairs The Empower House project along with her husband Alan.

With her compassionate and friendly approach to everything she does, Patti was the perfect name to adorn this safe house, so we at The Center for Family Justice proudly announced that The Empower House will now be known as Patti's Place.

When she isn't busy helping us raise funds for our programs or co-chairing our Speaking of Women event in September, Patti can be found playing with the children whose parents attend support groups here at the center.

Patti's husband Alan also showed his dedication to the project with his months-long cross-country Empower Ride, which raised vital funding.

Patti and Alan remain as committed as ever as we move toward the building's completion, and as we raise funds to keep the building running after it opens.

Patti's Place will be a state-of-the-art facility that will be secure for individuals and families and will include a kennel for pets. The building will also house vital services including free legal support, wellness, social counseling, housing and job-seeking assistance.

We expect the safe house to open its doors by the end of the 2023 calendar year.

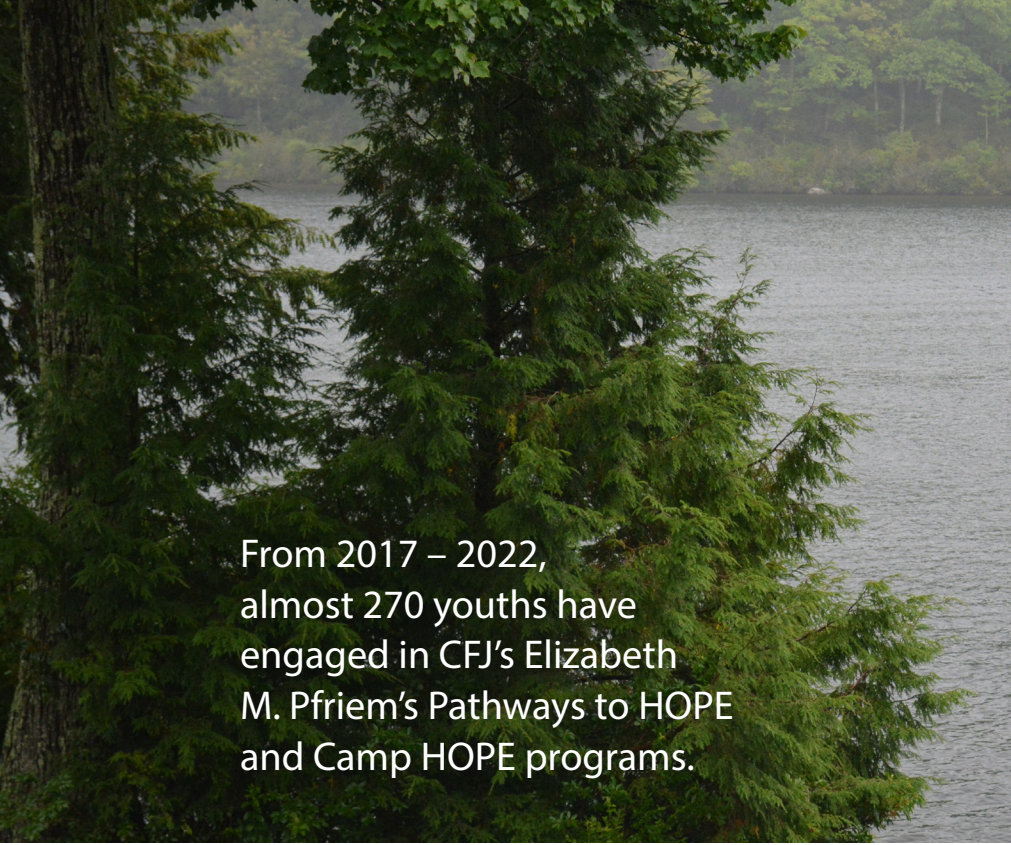


WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

We still need many items for the new safehouse, including appliances, beds, and essential home décor. Please call us for more information at (203) 334-6154.

Ask for our Development office or email Marissa Donnelly at mdonnelly@centerforfamilyjustice.org.





From 2017 – 2022, almost 270 youths have engaged in CFJ’s Elizabeth M. Pfriem’s Pathways to HOPE and Camp HOPE programs.

OUR MISSION

is to give youth a brighter future by creating pathways to hope and healing for children and teens, ages 7-17, who have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse and other forms of trauma.

The year-long Pathways to HOPE mentoring and engagement program includes:

- Overnight summer camp
- Art Heals Creative Expression
- Community activism
- HOPE circles - support groups
- Outdoor explorer activities
- STEMgineer projects
- Post-secondary readiness

PROVEN BY NUMBERS: CFJ HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

You often see and hear us talk about the impact we have on our clients’ lives through interviews in the media, during speeches before community groups and through our social media posts and reports like this one.

We often talk about our services being geared toward helping people become self-sufficient as they leave the abuse behind. But we are sure you have often wondered how exactly the client thinks. What do the people who receive our services feel about the way The Center for Family Justice handles their cases?

We wondered the same thing, so in 2022 we initiated a survey that would help us evaluate what the client has to say about what we do.

More than 90 percent of clients who participated in the evaluation said they would return to CFJ, while 91 percent said they would recommend our services to someone else.

More importantly, 92 percent of clients feel CFJ is supportive of them making their own decisions, and 91 percent feel confident that CFJ is here to help them on their journey.

People who come to The Center for Family Justice are doing so because they are in fear of their personal safety.

Leaving an abusive situation means survivors must start over, with little in terms of money, or a safe place to live. In some cases, they have been brought here from another country, which, for those whose first language is not English, can be another barrier to leaving the abuse.



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We have helped people by providing them with free legal assistance in family court—an expense not many can afford. We have helped people take English-as-A-Second-Language classes to increase their ability to get a job. We have provided support groups and counseling services to those struggling with trauma.

We help children through our Camp HOPE-Bridgeport and Pathway to HOPE programs.

“ALL OF THIS HAPPENS RIGHT HERE!”

HONORING OUR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS AND LEADERS

BEATRICE BOUCHER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:



MICHAELA ZAFFINO

Michaela Zaffino – 2023's Beatrice Boucher Volunteer of the Year – considers her time as a domestic violence advocacy intern a privilege that allowed her the opportunity to meet clients from all walks of life.

CFJ staff describe Michaela as a hard worker who is a tireless advocate for her clients. "When presented with an issue affecting one of her clients, Michaela worked

doggedly to find a solution, went out of her way to explain issues that were affecting her clients, came up with resources and solutions for every issue her clients had," wrote one colleague in her nomination. Michaela carried a caseload of clients, performed crisis intervention with walk-in clients and answered calls to the 24-hour crisis hotline.

Michaela recently completed a master's degree in social work from Southern Connecticut State University. She will move on to Wellmore Behavioral Health in Waterbury where she will work under its Child First program.

Michaela said she gained vital experience during her time at CFJ. "I was constantly reminded that domestic and sexual violence do not discriminate against any gender, race, or social class," Michaela explained. "I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to help survivors during some of their most difficult days."

CAROL ROBERTO EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:



SILVIA PAYTAS

Whenever a department organizes an event or a photo at The Center for Family Justice, Silvia Paytas is the first one to gather folks and show up to support her colleagues. Silvia is the Bilingual Direct Services Intake Assistant at CFJ, and many who nominated Silvia noted her positive attitude.

A hard worker with a passion for CFJ's mission, Silvia also firmly established herself as a team player, helping as a Spanish translator when needed and assisting with difficult cases. Silvia "shows empathy for her clients as they express their needs while in crisis," wrote one co-worker in her nomination. "She has knowledge and appreciation for the job, and it shows in her day-to-day work."

Silvia always makes a point of remembering staff birthdays, and usually is the first person to greet new employees and wish good luck to those moving on.

Silvia also created the Advocacy calendar, sending an email out to staff every month to get the latest information about events such as support groups and ESL classes. Her work on the calendar is just another example of how well Silvia collaborates with staff across all departments at CFJ.

"She makes it a point to let you know you are valued, heard and seen," another colleague said.

ANNOUNCING CFJ'S FIRST YOUTH VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!



REBECCA KUSHEL



ALY OLEYAR

The Center for Family Justice is thrilled to announce two area students as our first Youth Volunteers of the Year— Rebecca Kushel and Aly Oleyar.

Becca and Aly have been dedicated volunteers for CFJ—helping out at events and working on advocacy campaigns. Their compassion for others and hard work are an inspiration.

Becca, a senior at Fairfield Warde, has spent many an afternoon after school at CFJ helping with a variety of tasks including mailings, organizing donations for our client food pantry, and volunteering at events.

Becca is also captain of Fairfield Warde's swim team, and is involved in many other extracurricular activities, including Model UN, Principal's Council, and five National Honor Societies

Becca will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, where she will major in History and minor in Legal Studies on a prelaw track.

Aly, a senior at Masuk High School in Monroe, would come to CFJ as part of her Capstone project. She participated in specific advocacy campaigns, all focused on raising awareness about healthy relationships in her age group. Aly helped at events, including the preparation of and volunteering at CFJ's Women's History Month event—"Women Rock!", a benefit concert in March.

A captain for the Masuk High School Dance Team, Aly also is a member of the National Honor Society, is the Senior Class Historian at Masuk, and has attended multiple mission trips through Monroe Congregational Church. She has also danced with CT Dance in Monroe for 13 years. Aly will attend Florida State University where she plans on studying human development.

PARTNER OF THE YEAR: BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT



Because of the team's successful collaboration with The Center for Family Justice and its dedication to responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse cases, the Bridgeport Police Department's Special Victims Unit is the 2023 Partner of the Year!

We also want to thank Bridgeport Police Chief Roderick Porter for his leadership and his willingness to work with our staff.

The list of ways the Bridgeport PD SVU has aided CFJ in its mission is impressive, including significant arrests thanks to the hard work and dedication of current and past sexual violence detectives. Det. Lynn Henschel continues to show commitment to domestic violence cases, while Domestic Violence Officer Lori Nieves holds weekly office hours at CFJ's Fairfield Avenue office.

Members of the SVU team have also been supportive of CFJ's Multidisciplinary Team, as seen through Capt. Kevin Gillera's participation in the Greater Bridgeport MDT Executive Committee.

And despite the number of cases facing those who work in the Domestic Violence Unit and the Sexual Assault Unit, the detectives are always accessible and remain collaborative.

The award celebrates the work of the current Special Victims Unit as well as past members including Det. Palatiello, Det. Kelly, Det. Neal, Det. Coyne and Det. Acevedo.

Thank you and congratulations to the Bridgeport Police Department Special Victims Unit! We look forward to continuing our important work and partnership.

COMMUNITY HERO OF THE YEAR: CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

They may not feel this way about themselves, but when it comes to being a community hero, Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport fits the bill!

Whether they are supporting Camp HOPE America-Bridgeport or supporting families during our Adopt-a-Family program over the holiday season, Congregation B'nai Israel has demonstrated a passion and dedication to CFJ's mission and the Camp HOPE program.

Rabbi Sarah Marion and her family—along with two of the congregation's youth groups for 7th and 8th grade girls—have also adopted a CFJ client family over the 2021 holiday season.

The synagogue started supporting Camp HOPE back in 2019. In 2021, the youth of the synagogue held a collection for Camp HOPE America-Bridgeport program as a mitzvah project, and in 2022, the B'nai Israel community again helped get the kids' camp trunks packed for summer and pitched in to gather the supplies.



This year, B'nai Israel continued the tradition by collecting more Camp HOPE supplies, starting with a call to action during a Women's Seder in March.

We at CFJ are proud of our long-standing relationship with B'nai Israel and look forward to many more years of working together as we continue to find ways to have a meaningful impact on our community. Together, we build pathways to hope.

CORPORATE HERO OF THE YEAR: AQUARIUM WATER COMPANY



The men and women of Aquarion Water Company have been present for so many events and initiatives for The Center for Family Justice over

the years, including their commitment to sponsoring CFJ's Walk A Mile in Her Shoes® in April, that we wanted to honor them as the 2023 Corporate Hero of the Year.

For the past few years, Aquarion has been the title sponsor of our Walk A Mile event, during which we raise awareness about how men and boys can play more of a role in preventing violence

against women and girls. Their employees have often walked that day, and President Donald J. Morrissey also recently posed in red heels for our Red Shoe Marketing Campaign!

Aquarion has also supported other fundraising and awareness events – including the Festival of Hope, which benefits The Center for Family Justice; our Annual Appeal and our Speaking of Women luncheon in September.

CFJ appreciates Aquarion's continued dedication to our mission of serving those impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse in the greater Bridgeport region. Their across-the-board support over several years is the very definition of a Corporate Hero!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year Ended June 30

	2022	2021
Revenues and Other Support		
Grants & Contracts (Federal & State)	2,148,740	2,431,401
Contributions	2,842,809	1,864,575
Professional Services and Other Fees	60,644	38,387
Fundraising Events	344,392	298,891
Investment Income	(60,627)	94,165
Rental Income	75,915	65,716
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	5,411,873	4,793,135
Expenses		
Program Services:		
Advocacy and MDT Services	1,769,476	1,446,354
Court Advocacy and Civil Legal Services	614,221	588,536
Crisis & Housing Services	610,753	682,445
Prevention Education & Training Institute	245,550	206,687
Total Program Services	3,240,000	2,924,022
Support Services and Rental Operations	947,322	854,331
Total Expenses	4,187,322	3,778,353
Change in Net Assets	1,224,551	1,014,782
Net Assets June 30	4,643,307	3,418,756

SENIOR STAFF

Debra A. Greenwood, President & CEO

Mark Antonini, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer

Paul Santos, Chief Information & Operations Officer

Kayte Cwikla-Masas, Director of Youth & Adult Services

Marissa Donnelly, Director of Philanthropy & Impact

Mary Ann Mencil, Executive Project Coordinator to Debra A. Greenwood, President & CEO

Amanda Posila, Director of Education & Community Engagement

Angela Schlingheyde, J.D., Director of Civil Legal & Court Advocacy Services

Editor: Julie Banks, Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator

Graphic Design: Tina Sommers

Contributed Photography: Julie Banks, Amanda Posila,
Regina Madwed for Capitol Photo Interactive

“You may say I’m a dreamer but I’m not the only one, I hope some day you’ll join us And the world will live as one.”

— John Lennon

“In the Family Justice Center, I have learned that my voice has a value and that there are people who are willing to listen to me. Whenever I come to the center I feel like family. The receptionist knows my name and all the people who work here are attentive. I have never felt like a victim here. On the contrary I feel empowered, and I know that now I am in control.”

— Angelica, Domestic Violence client



CELEBRATING
FACES
HOPE

“Our calling in our work is to stay kindhearted and hope centered.”

— Casey Gwinn, Alliance for HOPE International

cca|DV

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE** 
Support. Advocate. Prevent.

