



A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It's hard to believe that Center for Safety & Change is celebrating **40 years** of making a difference in the lives of thousands of children and families. On Saturday, October 5, 1979, we opened the doors to our Emergency Shelter and waited for the rotary phone to ring. The first day, we filled 11 beds and on the second day we filled the remaining four. Since then, the phones have not stopped ringing. Our Agency has grown to be the only victim-centered non-profit organization in Rockland, offering free and confidential life-changing programs and services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and all crimes.

As you may know, this year has not been easy. Our doors were in jeopardy of closing. In fact, we were thrust into the most challenging financial crisis in the Agency's history. We met this adversity head on and our Board supported me and the staff every step of the way. Our employees remained loyal to our mission and persevered through this dire time - all in the name of keeping victims and survivors safe. This was truly a teachable moment. Our current focus is to ensure the sustainability of our Center.

Today, I am proud to share that our beloved Center remains as focused as the day we opened our doors 40 years ago - and we are stronger. No doubt, we will continue to endure obstacles, but I am confident in our resilience - and, most importantly, in your commitment and support. Together, we can and must drive forward to ensure that no one endures abuse and violence alone. I am comforted in having experienced the incredible and unwavering generosity of friends and neighbors, both near and far, old and new, even in our darkest hour. It is only with that support that we can be certain our beloved Center remains, continuing to provide vital programs and services that our community so desperately needs.

Thank you for standing by our side always, but especially now more than ever.

Together, we can end gender-based violence and other forms of oppression.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Santiago".

Elizabeth Santiago



For several years, Stephanie had been repeatedly threatened and harassed by her ex-boyfriend, who was also the father of her child. Her ex-boyfriend called her upwards of 40 times a day at work, despite her order of protection against him, and he frequently contacted her employer to disparage the client. Stephanie was in constant fear of being fired. Further, even though he had visitation with their child, he rarely followed the visitation order and repeatedly told her that he wanted nothing to do with their child. During his last visitation with their child, he bleached all of the child's clothes and threw them on her front lawn. Stephanie wanted to travel with her child to visit her ailing father overseas, but her ex-boyfriend refused to permit her to travel with the child as a way to control her. A Center for Safety & Change attorney filed several violation petitions and a modification of the prior order of visitation, and successfully terminated her ex-boyfriend's visitation and enlarged the scope of her permanent order of protection. Stephanie was ecstatic and greatly relieved that her abuser was no longer able to use their child to control her.

**Names have been changed to protect the survivors' identities.*

“

Between 21-60% of victims of intimate partner violence lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse.*

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: YOUTH MENTORING

Center for Safety & Change's Youth Mentoring program is designed to help youth who have experienced human trafficking or are deemed "high risk" for trafficking. Through connection with a caring mentor, youth will be provided with support and guidance. The objective is to reduce risk factors and build protective factors. We want to continue to expand their support network and demonstrate what healthy relationships look like.

Benefits to youth:

- Builds protective factors
- Models a healthy relationship
- Expands support network
- Increases self-esteem and self-efficiency
- Offers new experiences and skills

Mentor training classes are scheduled for July 11th through August 22nd. It will be a 7-week training course, once a week on Thursdays, from 6pm to 8:30pm. Once mentors complete the training, they will need to meet with their mentee for two hours biweekly, for a year.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or learning more about the program, please call **Dariela Vazquez**, Program Manager of Human Trafficking Services or **Rachel Carrillo**, Bilingual Coordinator of Youth Mentoring at (845) 634-3344 or email info@centersc.org.



Dariela Vazquez
Program Manager

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: S. LISA HAYES

S. Lisa Hayes says she is a sharer by nature and that numbers and financial concepts come naturally to her. Center for Safety & Change has greatly benefited from Lisa's generosity and skills over the past three decades. Lisa was looking for a way to give back to the community when she was invited to join the Center's Board of Directors by then-Executive Director Carolyn Fish. She quickly found that the Board of Directors is "comprised of some of the most gentle, loving people I've ever met," said Lisa.

Lisa studied Journalism at the University of Florida and law at Emory Law School before beginning her career in business. She became interested in financial planning after investing the profits from a cleaning service she started. Lisa founded Creative Financial Planning, Inc. in 1985, which allowed her to merge her two passions: helping people and working with numbers. Lisa has shared her talent for finances by serving as Co-Treasurer of the Center for Safety & Change Board of Directors. As Lisa's business took off, she continued to share generously with those in need, including victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and all crimes served by the Center. Over the years, Lisa has shared information about the Center, invited people to join the Board of Directors, and even provided a physical space to support the Center's work. Lisa donated office space in Creative Financial Planning's



headquarters, named "Baxter Hall" after her beloved Havenese, so that Center staff can meet with clients in a convenient location in Nyack.

Lisa has worked hard to create a happy and healthy life for herself and she believes that her tendency to give back has helped her achieve success, which has allowed her to give even more generously of her time, talent and treasure. "When you feel lucky or abundant and you don't come from fear," she said, "you realize that money and energy is not a zero sum game."

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

PHILANTHROPY CORNER

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Center for Safety & Change is celebrating 40 years of supporting victims and survivors in Rockland. In recognition of this momentous occasion, we are inducting 40 honorees into the first ever Rockland Women Leaders Hall of Fame, curated and hosted at our home office in New City. We officially opened the doors to our Emergency Shelter on October 5, 1979 and turned on a rotary phone. The first day 11 beds were filled out of 15. The second day the house was filled to capacity and the phones have not stopped ringing. Today, our shelter remains a safe haven for thousands of children and families. This ruby celebration of service is guaranteed to be one to remember as we reflect on the rich history of our beloved Center, our founders, and those that have made contributions in ending gender-based violence. Beginning on Friday, October 4 through Sunday, October 6, you are invited to attend the largest weekend celebration in Rockland and here are three ways to support:

- 1. Founder** - Becoming a Founder will carry high level legacy benefits for donors making a financial commitment over a five year period while sustaining the Center's life-changing programs and services for generations to come. Founder sponsorships can be paid over time a period works best for you.
- 2. Patron** - Celebrate and support 40 phenomenal women leaders by becoming a Patron Sponsor. From \$25 - \$10,000, your donation can support one or multiple honorees, securing long-lasting recognition on our Hall of Fame Wall.
- 3. Supporter** - For as little as \$1 dollar a day, donors can support the 40th Anniversary by making a monthly donation. Your monthly donation ensures that the Center remains strong serving thousands of children and families escaping violence and abuse. As well, monthly donors will receive special benefits if the commitment is for five years or more.

You are helping to give the gift of safety and comfort to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and all crimes like Maritza and her three children. Maritza and her family received support from the Center through counseling, support group, and safety planning to cope with trauma from years of experiencing emotional, verbal, physical and financial abuse.

Make your donation online at
www.centerforsafetyandchange.org/40th

For more information, please call Tracie McLee, Chief Development Officer at (845) 634-3391 or tmclee@centersc.org.



Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors to date:

The Kurz Family Foundation

Simona and Jerome A. Chazen



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ELIZABETH AND THE CENTER RECEIVE TWO HONORS!

Center for Safety & Change Chief Executive Officer **Elizabeth Santiago** was the recipient of the Liberty Bell Award offered by Rockland County Bar Association. The Liberty Bell Award is presented on Law Day to a non-lawyer, member of the community for outstanding service in promoting a better understanding or respect for the constitution, the Bill of Rights and our institutions of government. One 2 One Learning, Inc honored Center for Safety & Change at their Annual Hands of Hope Gala this past May. Presented by Sabrina Greco, the award was accepted by Elizabeth in front of close to 200 guests in celebration of the Agency's 40th year of service to the community. Led by Sister Cecilia La Pietra, One 2 One Learning provides English Classes and other supportive services for immigrants to empower them to reach their full potential and lead meaningful lives within their communities.



SPIN-IT-TEAL

Spin-it-Teal was another *whirling* success!

The Center raised much needed funds benefiting our life-changing, free and confidential programs and services. The event would not be possible without our gracious hosts **Nicole Barbato**, **Stephanie Barthold** and the entire Ride Cycling Studios Team. Thank you for hosting this event on our behalf. Now, in its 3rd Year, Spin-it-Teal recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.



A NIGHT FOR CHANGE

On Saturday, May 11th, a sold out crowd gathered to honor three champions of change at our Annual **A Night for Change** event, the agency's largest fundraising event. Honorees **Mark Jacobs**, **Anita Kopacz** and **Yvonna Kopacz-Wright** were recognized with the *2019 Carolyn Fish Human Rights Award*. Co-Chaired by Jen Laird White, Adam Lipson and Linie Rand along with their sensational committee, the event raised a record amount helping to fill the financial loss from the government shutdown. The event would not be possible without the incredible support of The Jacobs Family and all sponsors, journal supporters, auction winners, raffle supporters and attendees. Guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner and an entertaining live auction led by the incomparable Joe Rand and video presentation under the artistic direction of Jen Laird White, Laura Neil and Kerri Green. Adam Lipson led our successful Fund-The-Future Appeal, where guests pledged additional funds to sustain the Center's vital programs and services. Special thanks goes to our newest donors - Vanessa Ball & Luis Ruelas for their inspiring donation in matching all appeal donations up to \$50,000.



A NIGHT FOR CHANGE (cont.)



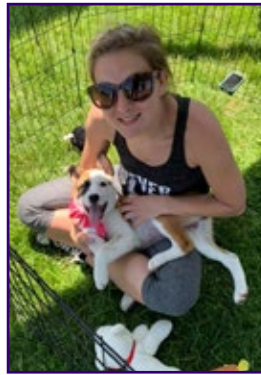
DENIM DAY

On April 24, Center for Safety & Change staff members wore denim in solidarity with victims and survivors of sexual assault for **#DenimDay #StartByBelieving #SexualAssaultAwarenessMonth #SAAM**



PAWS FOR SAFETY FAMILY FESTIVAL

There are few things more heartbreaking than a family having to part temporarily with their beloved pet to escape abuse and violence. On Saturday, May 18 at Kennedy Dells Park in New City, pet lovers from all over Rockland gathered with their furry friends to raise awareness about the link between domestic violence and pet abuse. Thank you to our sponsors, participants, volunteers, raffle prize donors, event vendors and our sensational planning committee, led by co-chairs **Lisa Falone** and **Kevin Francis**. Everyone's teamwork made this event a barking success raising more than **\$17,000** for children and families.





P WS FOR SAFETY

**We know your pets are family.
We can help keep them safe, so you can be too.**



Did you know:

-  71% of domestic violence victims reported their family pet had been threatened, harmed and/or killed by their intimate partner.
-  48% of domestic violence victims delayed leaving their intimate partner out of concern for their pets' safety.

Center for Safety & Change established the **Paws for Safety** program in 2011. This unique program is a collaboration with the Hudson Valley Humane Society in which animal victims of domestic violence are temporarily placed in a loving and confidential location while their owners make safe living arrangements and escape the abuse. Paws for Safety provides victims with the security of knowing their pets are safe and handled with care until they can be reunited. If you are in a relationship where you and/or your pets are being abused, harmed and/or threatened, please call the Center's 24-Hour Hotline at (845) 634-3344.

No one deserves to live in fear of violence or abuse.



24-Hour Hotline: (845) 634-3344

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info@centersc.org

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Fax: (845) 634-3396



FASHION SALE AND PREVIEW

Our Fashion Preview and Sale Committee hosted an incredible week of fun and shopping raising more than \$60,000 to sustain programs and services. From our guests, sponsors, tricky tray supporters to all volunteers who donated countless hours in making this event a resounding success, thank you is not enough. Special thanks to our co-chairs **Cynthia Diamond, Emily Dominguez, Helen Siegal, Diane Sussman** and **Roberta Zahl** along with their incredible committee for planning an amazing series of events! Huge thanks goes to **Skye** and the wonderful staff at Hudson House who hosts the Fashion Preview on the Center's behalf year after year.



FASHION SALE AND PREVIEW (cont.)



CENTER IN THE COMMUNITY



Thank you to our longtime supporters National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) for donating flip flops and sweatshirts for the victims and survivors we serve!



High school student Adam Shinder and his youth group, Emek USY, collected hundreds of snacks and decorated and assembled over 80 bags at their recent convention and donated them to the Center. The bags had uplifting messages and artwork on them and were distributed to our children and families.



Piermont's Girls Night Out was a huge success! Special thanks to Dr. Ruba Rizqalla for connecting us to this opportunity and for Piermont Chamber of Commerce as well as Presence of Piermont - Fara Abramson for this incredible opportunity. Thank you to everyone who donated \$40 in honor of our 40th Anniversary. We hope you are enjoying your special gift "Piermont, I love you," bag.



Center for Safety & Change and the Village of Suffern joined forces at Community Day of Action. Local volunteers assembled 100 comfort kits to support victims and survivors of human trafficking. In 2018, the Center supported more than 100 human trafficking victims and more than half were under the age of 18.



On June 11, members from Center for Safety & Change attended Rockland Business Women's Network Women of Achievement Breakfast to help "Celebrate Our Past and Invest in Our Future." During the event, Board member Emily Dominguez was presented with the 2019 Women of Achievement Award and Board member Lisa Falone received the 2019 RBWN Service Woman of the Year Award. Congratulations to both women on their well deserved honors!

PARTNERS WITH PRIDE

Center for Safety & Change showed up strong at Rockland Pride Sunday supporting victims and survivors, specifically from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities. In 1997, Center for Safety & Change launched a program for lesbian and bisexual women who were being abused by their intimate partner. This program was later expanded to provide services to the entire LGBTQ communities. Through collaborative state and federal grants, we serve as a resource to all seeking information and referrals for services. The Center proudly has a satellite office at the Rockland County Pride Center in Nyack ensuring victims and survivors receive affirming, culturally competent services regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. We are excited to have been awarded a federal grant that will allow the Pride Center to open the only LGBTQ-specific youth drop in center in the County.



CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE

GOLF

TOURNAMENT 2019

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019
ROCKLAND COUNTRY CLUB

REGISTRATION: 11:30 AM | **SHOTGUN START:** 1:00 PM
COCKTAILS & DINNER: 6:00 PM

Golf includes greens fees, cart, lunch, beverages/snacks on course,
dinner buffet with open bar, contest prizes and a special gift.

Visit **centerforsafetyandchange.org/golf**
to register and for sponsorships

*Limited number of golf spots available

TEE PARTY TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

For more information, please contact the
Development Office at (845) 634-3391
or development@centersc.org.



Save THE Date

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND!

Rockland Women Leaders
Hall of Fame Ribbon-Cutting
Friday, October 4 | *Center for Safety & Change*

Rockland Women Leaders
Hall of Fame Dinner
Saturday, October 5 | *Crowne Plaza · Suffern*

40th Anniversary Brunch
Sunday, October 6 | *Hilton Pearl River*



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Michael Nicholson
Chief Financial Officer

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Tracie D. McLee
Chief Development Officer

Christina Vitolo
*Coordinator of Services to the
LGBTQ Community/
Community Relations*



Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Safety & Change is to develop strategies to end gender-based violence and provide shelter and supportive services that empower survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and other crimes.

Value Statement

The values of the Center for Safety & Change are built on a foundation of knowledge that gender-based violence is a historically deep-rooted and pervasive reality. The Center is committed to changing systems that tolerate and perpetuate the oppression of women and violence against others. We are bound by these values to offer services that are both relevant to and respectful of the diverse communities we serve.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Center for Safety & Change is to help create a society in which all individuals can live with dignity and equality, free from fear, violence and oppression.

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