

# SE CT Women's NETWORK Gives Time & Talent to Women's Center of SE CT

By [HWO Staff](#) Sun, May 23, 2010

## GENESIS HOUSE EMERGENCY SHELTER MAKEOVER PROJECT UNDERWAY FOR ABUSE VICTIMS



The Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut is pleased to announce a partnership with the Southeastern Connecticut Women's NETWORK, in which the NETWORK is undertaking the process of making over the Center's Genesis House emergency shelter. The shelter, an older sea captain's house at an undisclosed and confidential location, was in need of some 'TLC' and the Network stepped forward to volunteer time and expertise to transform the house, room by room. "Our goal is to create a more warm and nurturing environment to promote recovery for the women and children who live at the shelter," says Emma Palzere-Rae, Director of Development for the Women's Center. Residents move into the shelter to flee abusive relationships and stay for a period up to sixty days. "The Women's NETWORK has given much thoughtful planning to this project and we are starting to see some great results," adds Ms. Palzere-Rae.

The Southeastern Connecticut Women's NETWORK is an organization of more than 190 dynamic business professionals who reside and/or work in Southeastern Connecticut. The NETWORK has come a long way since it was formed in 1976 as an alternative to the exclusive, men-only clubs of that day. Now it offers both women and men an inclusive and supportive forum for the mutual benefit of all members. The purpose of the NETWORK is to provide its members with the opportunity to meet other professional and business people, to communicate and exchange general and career information, to promote personal visibility and a sense of community, and to develop a constituency for the purpose of examining and speaking out on issues of concern to the membership. For this project, the Women's NETWORK Board underwent training with the Women's Center to prepare for the confidential nature of the work.

The Women's Center, founded in 1976, operates two 24-hour hotlines, an emergency shelter and a transitional living program for families working to rebuild lives shattered by domestic violence or sexual assault. The Women's Center also provides legal assistance, counseling and advocacy, case management, support groups and educational programs for schools as well as community groups. All 21 towns in New London County are served by the agency.

Last year, the Women's Center sheltered 119 women and children fleeing abuse in Genesis House, the emergency shelter for women and children; provided training and support to 56 women and their children in Phoenix House transitional living program and the Pilots supportive housing program; counseled 5,901 clients seeking assistance for domestic violence; and educated nearly 9000 members of the community in strategies to both prevent and recognize domestic violence and sexual assault. Services and shelter staffing are now restored to 24/7/365, making the Women's Center of Southeastern CT one of seven agencies within the state to provide round-the-clock staffing. For more information about the Women's Center, visit [www.womenscenterofsect.org](http://www.womenscenterofsect.org).

The Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut is part of a national network of domestic violence programs and is a member agency of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV). The Women's Center is also a Partner Agency of United Way and its programs are funded in part by the State of Connecticut's Departments of Social Service, Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Office of Victim Services, Judicial Branch.

### PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Women's NETWORK Members Connie Plessman, Bethany Haslam, BB Smith and Elizabeth Conlon paint the entryway of Genesis House, the Women's Center of SECT's emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.