

'We have seen a need for services like we've never seen before in 48 years': Prudence Crandall Center receives grant at critical time

Published: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 17:07

@drzewieckinh

NEW BRITAIN – Safe shelter and services will continue to be available to survivors of domestic violence thanks in part to a \$50,000 grant awarded to the oldest domestic violence program in the state this week.

The New Britain-based Prudence Crandall Center accepted the donation from the Main Street Community Foundation's Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust Tuesday. The funding came at a particularly critical time for the non-profit agency, which serves residents of Bristol, Berlin, Burlington, Kensington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Terryville. This particular donation will go to help residents of Southington, one of the largest communities served.



Contributed photo | The Main Street Community Foundation presents the Prudence Crandall Center with a \$50,000 check Tuesday. From left, PCC Development Director Carolyn Jasper, Main Street Community Foundation CEO Susan Sadecki, PCC CEO Barbara Damon and Kate Kerchaert, Director of Grants & Programs, Main Street Community Foundation

“At Prudence Crandall Center the last 15 to 18 months of this pandemic time have been incredibly difficult,” PCC CEO Barbara Damon said. “We have seen a need for services like we’ve never seen before in 48 years.”

The demand for counseling services is up 40% and the emergency shelter reached 250% capacity at one point.

“It’s just a very difficult time for people who have experienced domestic violence,” Damon said. “They’re connecting to our services in ways they never have. We have experienced almost \$400,000 in unbudgeted, unexpected costs throughout this year. The only way we’ve gotten through all of that is because of our community supporters, and the Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation is a wonderful example of that. This check helps with all of those costs to make sure our services continue to be available and to get us through this difficult time.”

President and CEO of Main Street Community Foundation Susan Sadecki presented Damon the award.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation and the advisory committee of the Bradley Barnes Memorial Trust,” Sadecki said, “we are so happy to be investing in these critical, critical services for the residents of Southington, for families. These are essential services that need to be provided every single day.”

PCC operates a 24-hour crisis hotline, which can be reached toll-free at 888-774-2900. Services include an emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, court advocacy, domestic violence

counseling, and community education and prevention services.

Erica Drzewiecki can be reached at edrzewiecki@centralctcommunications.com.