

PRESS RELEASE
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STATE DIGNATARIES AND INTERVAL HOUSE TO HONOR ICON IN THE CAUSE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HARTFORD – Interval House, the state’s largest domestic violence organization, will present its 4th Breakfast with Champions Award to Cecile Enrico, the agency’s longtime director who retired in June.

The Oct. 6, 2016 morning ceremony at [The Riverview](#) in Simsbury honors Enrico for her more than 40-years of service to Interval House and work in the cause against domestic violence and abuse. In the mid-1970s, Enrico, herself a survivor, helped create Interval House with a group of other victims and allies. She started as a volunteer, then became one of the organization’s first fulltime victim advocates. Then in 1988, she became the agency’s executive director.

The breakfast event will bring a myriad of friends, supporters and state officials to pay tribute to Enrico’s work and legacy. She is the 4th recipient of Interval House's Breakfast with Champions Award, joining past honorees: US Sen. Richard Blumenthal, CCSU Coach Howard Dickenman, and Dr. William J. Petit, Jr. Senator Blumenthal will be on hand to present the award to Ms. Enrico, as will all the past honorees.

"Having worked with Cecile, I have seen firsthand her extraordinary dedication to domestic violence survivors, providing vital shelter and services and leading critical programs to prevent abuse," Blumenthal said. "She has truly made a difference."

Enrico’s achievements in the cause against domestic violence over the years have been numerous. In 1985, she was honored by President Ronald Reagan and received an award at the White House for her service to victims of abuse. Other awards include: The 1998 National Council of Jewish Women Award; the 2005 Hartford Courant Women of Character Award; and the 2007 National Organization of Women (NOW) Award.

“The institution she helped create has saved and changed countless lives,” said Interval House’s Interim Executive Director Catherine Bradshaw. “This is Cecile’s day, and we can’t do enough to thank her for her tireless service and extraordinary contribution to the cause.”

Since 1977, Interval House has served victims of domestic violence, mostly women and children who were psychologically or physically battered by their partner. The nonprofit is dedicated to providing services to prevent and break the cycle of family and intimate partner violence. Since it was founded, Interval House has provided services to more than 225,000 people.

To purchase tickets or tables for the breakfast go to www.intervalhousect.org or call 860-246-9149, Ext 337. All proceeds from the breakfast will go to Interval House’s *Cecile Enrico Fund* to support free services for victims of domestic violence.

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