



PRESS RELEASE
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MEN'S GROUP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADD NEW MEMBERS

HARTFORD – For nearly ten years, Interval House's *Men Make a Difference, Men Against Domestic Violence*™ committee has been on the forefront of spreading awareness and education in the cause against domestic violence.

The group of Connecticut men has raised money, spoken in public and distributed thousands of pieces of educational materials. They serve as role models to other men and boys by promoting the premise that there is never any excuse for abuse in an intimate partner relationship.

On Friday, during the group's winter meeting hosted by United Bank, Senator Blumenthal and Mary-Jane Foster, Interval House's president and CEO, welcomed the new members aboard. Blumenthal and Foster are co-chairs of the committee.

"This group has an extraordinary mission to stand, as men, against one of the critical public health issues of our time -- domestic violence and abuse," Foster said. "They truly do make a difference in our communities and are committed to continue to do so."

The new members are: Dr. Kenneth R. Alleyne, of Eastern Orthopedics & Sports Medicine; Timothy D. Bergstrom, Regional President of Webster Bank; Donnie Cabral, two-time US track and field Olympian; Hartford Fire Chief Reginald Freeman; Harold Sparrow, President of the Greater Hartford YMCA; John J. Turgeon, a Partner with CohnReznick; and Mark Scheinberg, President of Goodwin College.

Founded in 2009 by Interval House and Senator Richard Blumenthal (then CT's Attorney General), the group is comprised of dozens of well-known state residents, including: Attorney General George Jepsen, Dr. William A. Petit, Jr., Channel 8 Meteorologist Joe Furey, Channel 3 News Anchor Dennis House, Fox 61 Sports Director Rich Coppola, Former CCSU Basketball Coach Howie Dickenman, and many more.

"As Attorney General and now as United States Senator, I have seen firsthand the catastrophic damage done by domestic violence and abuse to families and children," Senator Blumenthal said. "I believe deeply that men have an obligation to help break the insidious cycle of domestic violence. That's why I partnered with Interval House in 2009 to help form this group."

Since 1977, Interval House has helped more than 230,000 victims of domestic violence. The agency provides services to 24 cities and towns in the Greater Hartford region. It operates a 24-hour crisis hotline, 20-bed emergency safe house and provides counseling for victims and advocates in both the criminal and civil court system.