



PRESS RELEASE
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Recent Grants Equip Interval House to Help Victims of Domestic Violence in Face of Pandemic

HARTFORD – Thanks to four major grants totaling more than \$125,000, Interval House is poised to continue its services for victims of domestic violence without pause during the height and uncertain aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The generous philanthropic windfall comes in the wake of a social shutdown that has drastically affected how victims of domestic violence are assisted and that effectively halted the spring fundraising event season. As such, the awards provide budgetary relief and will equip staff to work remotely as the agency strives to meet a 38% increase in requests for assistance.

“To say these grants came at the right time is a huge understatement,” said Mary-Jane Foster, Interval House’s President and CEO. “We can’t thank our extraordinary grantors enough for identifying a dire need and stepping up to meet it. We are profoundly grateful.”

The four grants awarded since April are:

- A timely \$39,000 COVID Response Grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to purchase updated laptops and related equipment to enable Interval House staff to work more effectively and efficiently from home. This grant greatly assists advocates in keeping the lines of communication open with clients who are at higher risk during stay-at-home orders, and also promotes better remote workflow for the agency into the future.
- A \$31,250 grant that includes a 25-percent bonus to respond to urgent needs of vulnerable people during to the pandemic from the Lincoln Financial Foundation. The funds are earmarked to help victims who are facing added dangers due to isolation associated with the state-imposed quarantine, and are aimed and ensuring short-term crises do not derail the long-term goals of a secure future for families who depend on the Foundation and Interval House.
- \$30,000 from the Bank of America Foundation, which represents a doubled grant to cover the basic needs of safe house residents and the programs that provide

food, services, education and safety planning to those clients. The funds are intended to further assist Interval House during the uncertain months ahead, providing immediate relief to operations at the safe house, which has been at 117% capacity since March.

- A \$25,000 grant from The Maximillian E & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation to cover the agency's information technology and cyber security needs for one whole year, ensuring the safety of client information and uninterrupted technical support as staff works to connect with victims during and in the aftermath of the health crisis.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence calls to 911 have increased across the country. In fact, in Hartford, police have reported a 20% uptick in family violence calls compared to Spring 2019. The surge in calls for help moved police and city leaders to create a four-member team of officers solely dedicated to investigating domestic violence complaints.

Work at Interval House has been noticeably active as well, Foster said. Since the start of the pandemic, the safe house -- always full -- has turned over several times with victims seeking shelter and help with domestic violence related problems.

"For us, things are busier than ever and because of the situation we have had to find new ways to provide the same life-saving services we always have," Foster said. "These grants are crucial right now as we do know what the future holds or how long this will continue."

About Interval House:

Founded in 1977, Interval House is the largest agency in the state of Connecticut dedicated to preventing and breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Through free and confidential services for victims in 24 towns and cities both East and West of the Connecticut River, Interval House has touched the lives of more than 250,000 women and children through its direct service and community outreach. 24-Hour Hotline: (888) 774-2900. Donations accepted: www.intervalhousect.org/donate. All other calls: (860) 246-9149. Website: intervalhousect.org.

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