



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**1st Annual Legislative Roundtable
On Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault A Success**

Guilford, CT (December 13, 2018) - This morning's legislative round table was a great success and big step for Women & Family Life Center (WFLC) and Shoreline Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force (SDVSATF) into the advocacy world. Thank you to our team, the elected officials and providers that joined us. We are one step closer to changing the world, or at least our community. Since 2010, WFLC has been leading SDVSATF, a monthly group comprised of non-profit agencies, municipal offices and local mental health professionals whose mission is to provide education, coordinate resources and aid in the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in communities along the Shoreline.

"The Shoreline Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force is made up of providers and agencies that are on the ground, serving victims and survivors, every day," said Wendy DeLucca, Program Director and leader of the SDVSATF. "As a Task Force, we recognize our role in making change happen by giving voice to the voiceless. We are excited to work more closely with our elected officials as we deepen the public conversation and propel change."

Among the topics covered were improvements to Erin's Law, which mandates that each school system provide resources and education around the topics of domestic violence and sexual assault for grades K-12 and the impending Title-9 changes that could be harmful to victims and survivors. The SDVSATF suggested one way to combat the Title-9 changes to provide a confidential counselor on every college campus in the state. The dominant aggressor law that was passed last session will take effect January 1, 2019, which will reduce the amount of dual arrests that happen in domestic violence situations.

"We are so grateful to have a great team of elected officials along the shoreline that are willing to have a conversation about ways to improve services and outcomes for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault," said Meghan Scanlon, Executive Director of Women and Family Life Center. "We had a great discussion this morning and we look forward to working with our legislators in the upcoming session to create real change for the people in our community." Among the legislators present were Representative Sean Scanlon, Representative Vincent Candelora, Representative Noreen Kokoruda, Representatives Elect Robin Comey and Christine Palm, Senators Elect Christine Cohen and Norm Needleman.

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About Women & Family Life Center: The Women & Family Life Center (WFLC) is a nonprofit organization empowering women and their families on the Connecticut Shoreline since 1991 to face challenges and transitions in their lives within a safe and intimate setting in Guilford, CT. At its core, WFLC helps women and families in crisis move to new strength, life transitions become a time of positive change rather than a time of isolation, fear, and financial distress. Women and families are able to access a strong network of support, education, and community through the staff and programs offered at WFLC. Through the support of donors, local businesses and the annual Men Who Cook event, WFLC has been able to address some of the community's most pressing needs, including freedom from violence and harassment, access to affordable housing and economic security and success for women and their families.

For more information, visit: www.womenandfamilylife.org.