

## Katherine G. Verano

Katherine is the Chief Executive Officer of Safe Futures, formerly known as The Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut.

After attending community colleges and the American Institute of Banking, Katherine had a long career with the Bank of Boston and Landmark Bank in the Hartford area. Katherine left her career in Corporate Banking and came to Safe Futures 33 years ago after her close friend and peer in banking was brutally murdered by her husband. Katherine is dedicated to working in this field and since 1993 has held multiple leadership roles within the agency.

One of her roles was in the criminal judicial system, where Katherine worked within the Court Support Services Division of Family Relations, interviewing and advocating for thousands of victims and offenders of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, elder and child abuse over a 20-year period. Katherine has been exemplary in bringing court, law enforcement and community partners together in forums and roundtables; in a collaborative effort to enhance services to victims of crime, while educating partners and planning for The Center for Safe Futures.

Katherine, known to many as Kathie, is recognized as a national and international trainer on matters of Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Strangulation and the Lethality Assessment Program. She has traveled to numerous states, and traveled internationally to Beijing, China, with the Yale Paul Tsai China Law Center, and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), training Law Enforcement, Advocates and Government officials. Kathie is a Certified State of Connecticut Police Officer Standards Council Trainer.

Kathie is currently serving a four-year term as an elected official on the Governor's Connecticut Judicial Review Council, where grievances against judges and commissioners are heard and evaluated. She also serves on the Governor's Council on Women and Girls. Currently a member of the New London Rotary Club, Kathie was honored to have been one of the first female Rotarians in the East Hartford Club in the 1980s.

Over the years, Kathie has been honored and recognized by various groups, such as The Influential Women and Youth award, LeadHership Award, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence First 100 Award, and numerous certificates and recognitions for her work.

Kathie is an active Board member of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and serves on committees of The Alliance for Hope for Hope Family International Family Justice Center, The Alliance for Camp Hope, and the newly formed Connecticut Alliance for Family Justice Centers in Connecticut, to name a few.

Family is very important to Kathie, who resides in Waterford, CT., and has an amazing daughter, Kaitlyn Rose Berkel-Espinosa, and daughter in law, Ashley Espinosa, four wonderful sisters and the best brother you could ask for, and of course her little Chihuahua, Gizmo.

Harkness Memorial Park is her favorite morning walk, and as an avid bird of prey (raptors) enthusiast, watching Eagles' nests live, she shares far too many facts to anyone who will listen.

Family, friends, travel and volunteer work are keys to happiness.