

**Chapman, Alice Joseph** (1918 – 2008) A feminist organizer and ERA activist, Chapman joined the Danbury, CT, chapter of NOW in 1970, where she became president and later president of the state chapter. She worked for CT ratification of the ERA, which succeeded the second time it was brought before the legislature. She was also on the steering committee to pass Question I, a referendum on a CT State ERA, which passed with a vote of over 2:1. Later, Chapman became a board member of the Connecticut All the Way coalition to defeat an attempt to rescind passage of the ERA. In 1975, Chapman was one of six women founders, a board member and the first treasurer of what became the Women's Center of Greater Danbury, Inc. Also, in 1975, Chapman started a rape crisis service, which operated out of her home for the first two years. In 1977, this service was coordinated with the police force and the Danbury Hospital and later became a part of the Women's Center. Chapman was elected to represent CT at the 1977 Houston First National Women's Conference to celebrate International Women's Year and elected to the IWY continuing committee. She was a member of the Danbury Equal Rights and Opportunity Commission, where she helped to author the city's affirmative action program. She also served on the Danbury school system Title IX advisory committee. In 1979, Chapman was elected treasurer of national NOW and spent two three- year terms in Washington, D.C. While in Washington, she attended a conference on the United Nations Decade for Women and, on invitation, a conference on SALT—the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks—for leading women's organizations in the country. Returning to Danbury, Chapman served two two-year terms as president of the Women's Center, during which time the Center purchased a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Chapman served as treasurer of the Center during the time it bought a building to accommodate its growing services and administrative staff. Chapman, who has six children, is an emeritus board member of the Center.