FAMILY CENTERS

New Beginnings

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FAMILYCENTERS.ORG

A Message from Our CEO and Board Chair



Many people have asked how it's been to replace a leader like Bob Arnold following his retirement after 43 years as Family Centers' CEO. Well, it can be compared to running a relay race with a world-class teammate who has given you a sizeable lead. As your teammate rounds the turn and runs toward you at full speed, it's up to you to successfully accept the baton and maintain that winning pace until you reach the finish line.

Bob has given us all a great lead as we work toward fulfilling our mission. He left Family Centers in great shape and pointed the organization in the right direction. During this time of transition, we've been focused on keeping the momentum going while tending to the ins and outs of our operation. We're also taking the necessary time to meet with community leaders and staff, while maintaining a strong working relationship with Board members, supporters and donors.

While the baton is secure in our hands, there is still a ways to go before the race is completed.

In addition to introducing a new in CEO for the first time in over 40 years, this year has been one of "New Beginnings" in so many ways at Family Centers. Our Adult and Pediatric Health Center at 75 Holly Hill Road in Greenwich opened in February and now offers enhanced primary care services to children and adults in our community. We are grateful to our partners, Greenwich Hospital and Yale New Haven Health, as medical residents and other medical staff from the hospital work alongside our own providers to offer specialized services to our patients.

Family Centers' Mission: Empowering Children, Adults, Families and Communities to Realize Their Potential.

We are excited to meet the needs of everyone in our community at this beautiful new facility.

Our Early Care and Education (ECE) and Literacy Volunteers program worked together to develop a new initiative to assist newly proficient English speakers earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials. Not only did this effort help launch new career opportunities for our Literacy Volunteers students, but it also addressed the growing staffing shortage across the early education sector. In fact, several of our CDA graduates were hired to work in Family Centers' preschool classrooms!

Our ECE program was also recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) with its prestigious NAEYC-Plus accreditation. Only reserved for a small percentage of early education programs nationwide, NAEYC-Plus designation confirms our ECE program's excellence in curriculum, child development and parent involvement.

Our doula service, which helps guide new parents enrolled in our Parents as Teachers (PAT) program through the birthing process, continued this past year and expanded to help even more families improve birth outcomes. We are excited to embed this free resource within our new health center at 75 Holly Hill Lane in the year ahead.

After years of searching for a new site in downtown Stamford, a large portion of our program staff moved into our newly-acquired building at 986 Bedford Street in Stamford this past November. With more than twice the space as our former location at 60 Palmer's Hill Road and located along a public transportation route, the Bedford Street location is more accessible for our clients and gives us the space to expand and house critical services.

All of these "New Beginnings" would not be possible without the generosity of our individual donors, local foundations and government leaders. In total, we received more than $4.1 million in support from foundations and $3.2 million from our donors. We've also raised nearly $2 million toward The Bob Arnold Fund, which both celebrates Bob's amazing legacy and allows Family Centers to continue its innovative approach to meeting our community's needs for many years to come.

It takes a team effort for us to meet our mission. We count on the skill and dedication of our staff. We enjoy the expertise and generosity of our Board of Directors and donors. We work hard to be great partners with local community organizations, foundations and our governmental agencies. It is hard work, but also significant and fulfilling. So, we encourage you to join us in running the race. Cheer us on, and watch how far we can go!

Dr. Louis Josephson, *CEO*

Kate Clark, *Chair*

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** Director*
***Leadership Council*
† Deceased

2024-2025

Family Centers By the Numbers

More than 26,000 Lives Touched



70+ Community Partnerships



300+ Professionals



14X Hearst Connecticut Media Top Workplace





60+ Service Delivery Sites



16x Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating



22 Licensed Facilities in Stamford, Greenwich and Darien



500+ Volunteers



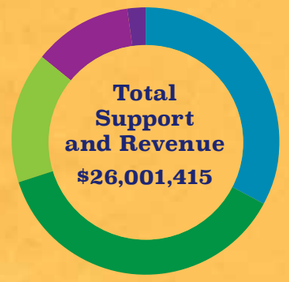


FY 2025

Financial Report

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

Operating Revenue*



Government Grants	$ 8,614,163	33%
Service Fees	$ 9,535,523	37%
Foundation Grants	$ 4,108,756	16%
Contributions and Special Events	$ 3,190,836	12%
Other	$ 552,137	2%



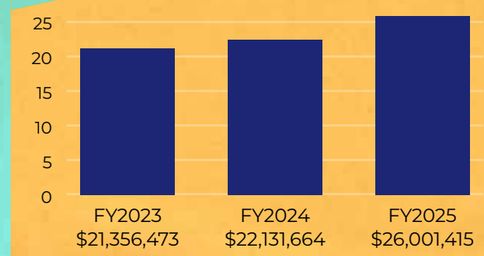
Health Care	$ 14,260,444	55%
Education and Human Services	$ 11,787,438	45%

Operating Expenses

*FY24 figures unaudited as of publication.

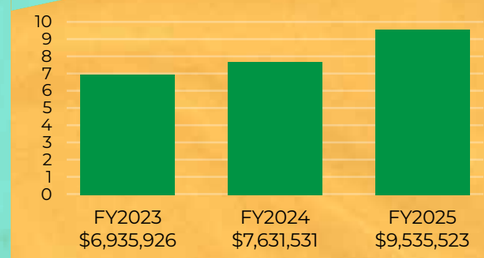
2023–2025 Fiscal Growth

Growth of Support and Revenue



Growth of Foundation Grants

Growth of Service Fees











Clockwise from top left: (l-r) Center for HOPE Luncheon Co-Chairs Mary-Jane McCormack and Tiernan Cananna with Family Centers' Board Chair Kate Clark and Luncheon Keynote Speaker Marisa Renee Lee; 2024 Ray of HOPE Award Recipients Susan Yonce and Leigh Carpenter; Titan Speaker David Rubenstein; Midnight in Monte Carlo Co-Chairs (l-r) Alex Steel Scott, Pheobe de Croisset, Victoria Triplett and Shirin von Wulffen.

Family Centers' Special Events Raise More than $1.1 Million

This past year, hundreds of Family Centers' closest friends came together to support the organization's mission and help generate important funds through our three special events. From an unforgettable Monaco-themed evening to thought-provoking speaker series, each event celebrated our community's spirit of generosity and collectively raised more than $1.1 million to support Family Centers' integrated network of health, education and human service programs.

On November 25, bestselling author, Carlyle Group Co-Founder and Baltimore Orioles Chairman & CEO **David M. Rubenstein** headlined the latest Titan Series breakfast. During a conversation with **Robert K. Steel**, Rubenstein discussed his latest book, *The Highest Calling*, and the legacy many American Presidents have left on the world stage. He also shared stories from his time working in the Carter Administration and insights on the state of baseball as an MLB team owner.

Marisa Renee Lee, an award-winning author, advocate and former Obama cabinet member, graced the stage as the Center for HOPE's Annual Luncheon speaker on September 19. Drawing from her own experiences following the death of her mother, the loss of a much-wanted pregnancy and the tragic deaths of her two cousins, she released her first book, *Grief is Love: Living with Loss*. At the event, Family Centers honored Board members and longtime Den volunteers, **Leigh Carpenter** and **Susan Yonce**, with the 2024 Ray of HOPE Award. Many thanks to our co-chairs **Tiernan Cavanna**, **Mary-Jane McCormack** and **Abby Ritman** for planning such a memorable afternoon.

Then on June 1, more than 350 guests were transported to the French Riviera for our Midnight in Monte Carlo benefit. Complete with exotic cars, casino tables, a surprise showgirl dance routine and amazing cuisine, co-chairs **Phoebe de Croisset**, **Alex Steel Scott**, **Victoria Triplett** and **Shirin von Wulffen** planned an evening filled with glamour and elegance. Many thanks to our hosts, **Mary** and **Jason Dillow**.

We are so grateful for the donors and sponsors who made these events a success!

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$199,999–$100,000

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$24,999–$10,000

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Elisa and Tom Wilson
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Leadership Gifts

$9,999–5,000

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M. Bonnie Axthelm Charitable Fdn.
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Irina and Michael Straw
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Alicia Tranen
Kerry and Charles Tyler
David Van Dyke
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$4,999–$2,500

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Jamie Camche
Tiernan and Kieran Cavanna
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First Presbyterian Church of Stamford
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Sally Harris
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Jenny and James Matthews
Mary-Jane and Rob McCormack
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Abby and Jimmy Ritman
Eric Rosen
Holly and William Russell
Christina and Dan Seale
Alice and William Sherwood
Lisa Volling
Kathleen and Kevin Walsh
The Warburg Pincus Fdn.
Warby AP Team
Dee and Pug Winokur

$2,499–1,000

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Sara and Phil Bartow
Byrdie Bell
Sophia Bermingham
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Eryn and Mike Bingle
Kelly Bligh
Kate and George Boudria
Stephanie Brag Enestrom
Laura and Peter Brandt
Denise Brennan
Caitlin Brodie
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Mike Brown
Victoria Bruno
Melinda and Brian Carroll
Samantha and Nabil Chartouni
Meghan and Robert Cioffi
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We apologize for any errors or omissions

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Carole Elias Family Assistance Fund
Cory Donnalley Scholarship Fund
Laura M. Grauer Professional Development Fund
The Laurie and Peter Grauer Scholarship Fund
Lynn Laitman Fund
The Alissa Manacher Fund
Mary B. Pivirotto Fund
Joanna B. Schulman Fund
Joan Melber Warburg Fund
Candee I. Weed Fund

An Era of New Beginnings

2025 was a milestone year for Family Centers. Seeds of growth planted over the past several years came to fruition, resulting in new spaces, expanded services and fresh leadership.

In November, Family Centers celebrated the opening of its new Stamford location at **986 Bedford Street**. Strategically located downtown and along a major bus route, the new site doubles the size of the former Palmer's Hill Road offices and offers a modern, welcoming home for our health, education and human service programs. With classrooms, meeting areas and flexible program space, the facility makes services easier to access and significantly increases our capacity to serve.

In February, we officially launched our **partnership with Greenwich Hospital/Yale New Haven Health** (YNHH) by opening new adult and pediatric primary care health centers at **75 Holly Hill Lane** in Greenwich. Under Family Centers' management, patients now benefit from an integrated model that brings together primary, dental and behavioral health services under one roof. Specialty care is also available through Greenwich Hospital and YNHH.

Family Centers also marked another important milestone with the opening of a **School-Based Health Center at Turn of River Middle School**. Made possible through federal funding secured by **Rep. Jim Himes**, the clinic expands existing mental health services to include primary care – greatly removing barriers and ensuring more students receive the care they need to thrive in and out of the classroom.

Our **Early Care and Education** program achieved the prestigious **Accredited Plus** designation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), affirming our excellence in teaching, curriculum and family engagement. This distinction underscores our commitment to giving children the strongest possible start in life.









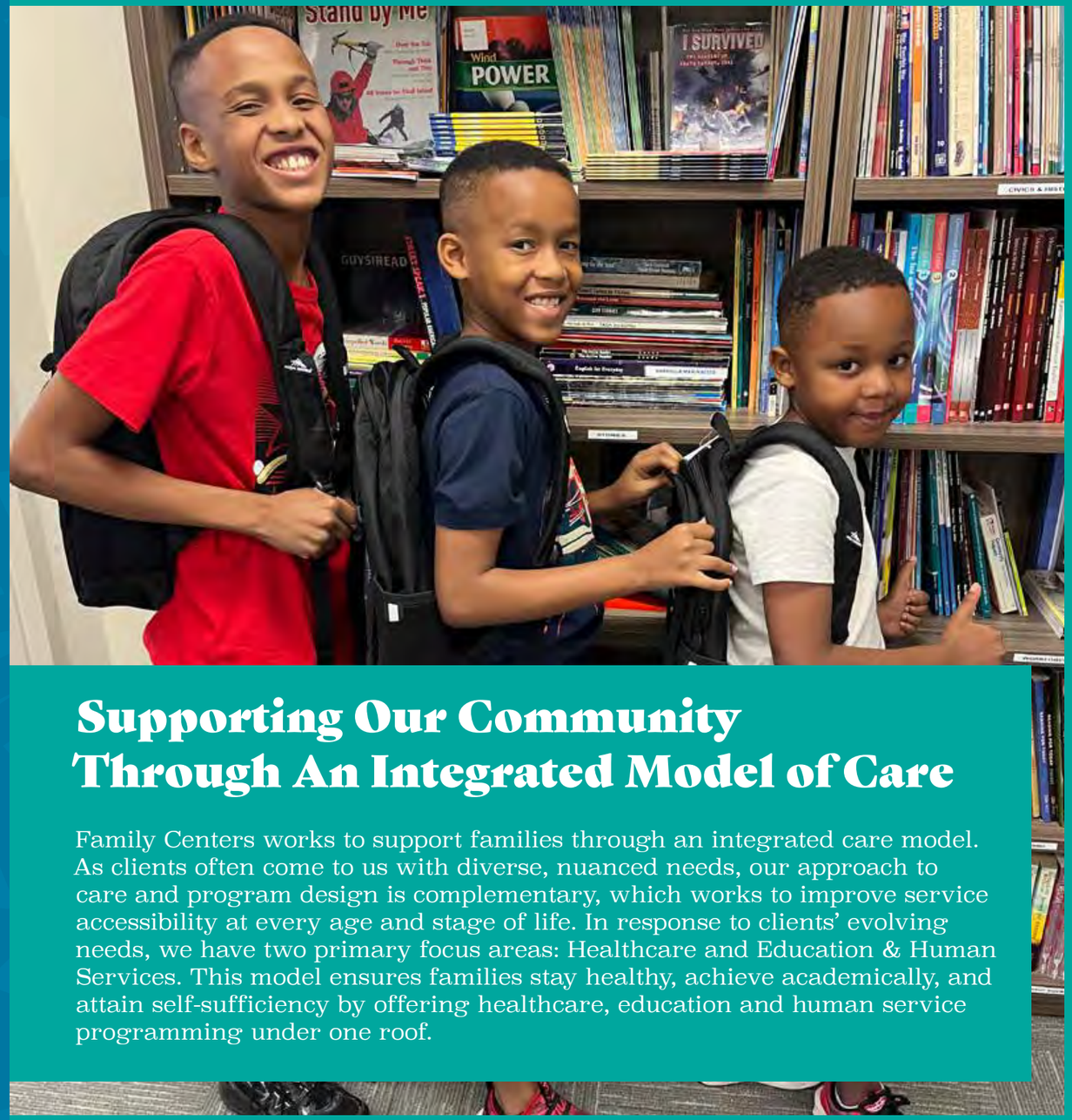
Clockwise from top left: Louis Josephson, Family Centers' CEO; Recent CDA graduates; Family Centers Health Care's new Adult and Pediatric Health Center; the ribbon is cut at the new SBHC at Turn of River Middle School

Adult education also expanded through the launch of the **Child Development Associate (CDA)** certification program – a collaboration between **Literacy Volunteers** and Early Care and Education. Twenty students began their journey toward earning CDA credentials, gaining hands-on experience in our classrooms. Several have since joined Family Centers as full-time teachers.

Finally, 2025 ushered in a new era of leadership as **Dr. Louis Josephson** became President & CEO following **Bob Arnold**'s retirement after 43 remarkable years.

"Family Centers has a long history of adapting to meet the evolving needs of our community," said Dr. Josephson. "Building on that tradition, we'll continue to expand services, reduce barriers and create new beginnings for those we serve."

These developments reflect both continuity and renewal. As lower Fairfield County continues to evolve, Family Centers remains deeply committed to its mission while embracing new opportunities to expand its impact. With the support of our community, Family Centers will ensure that new beginnings remain possible for all who turn to us for care and support."



Supporting Our Community Through An Integrated Model of Care

Family Centers works to support families through an integrated care model. As clients often come to us with diverse, nuanced needs, our approach to care and program design is complementary, which works to improve service accessibility at every age and stage of life. In response to clients' evolving needs, we have two primary focus areas: Healthcare and Education & Human Services. This model ensures families stay healthy, achieve academically, and attain self-sufficiency by offering healthcare, education and human service programming under one roof.

Our Healthcare offerings break barriers to accessing quality services and build stronger communities. Services include a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with primary medical, dental and behavioral health services; individual, family and group therapy; full-service, school-based clinics; bereavement and trauma support services; HIV medical case management and prevention; service provider training and educational resources.

Our Education & Human Service programs utilize a holistic approach focusing on the whole family to ensure children and parents succeed. Services include preschool and early childhood education; academic and social-emotional supports for elementary-age students; vocational and self-sufficiency support; adult and family English-language and basic literacy education; two-generational, home-visiting parenting support programs; and resident support resources. →

OUR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Education & Human Services

Family Centers's integrated approach focuses on the whole family to ensure children receive a solid educational foundation and parents can achieve their goals. Services include early education and preschool programs, two-generational support, vocational training, literacy and English language instruction, parent education and more.



"When we joined the PAT program, Elizabeth was two years old and struggling with behavioral issues. At the time, I didn't always know how to respond – especially coming from a culture where parenting looks very different. I've learned to be more patient and gentler with her. This program didn't just support her. It helped me become the kind of father she needs."

VICTOR AQUINO,
Parents as Teachers Program Participant



"We loved how Family First helped us with homework and school, but the fact that the program represented a space where we made lasting friendships and felt supported is something we'll always hold dear. Now we volunteer in the classrooms every week because it feels good to be part of that same close-knit community and be those 'big kids' for someone else."

DYANNA DIAZ AND AILIN IMANA-SANCHEZ,
former Family First in Education students and current volunteers



"RITE Start has helped me gain a better understanding of what it takes to be a teacher. By helping first and second grade students with reading, writing and homework, I learned communication and leadership skills that I could use in the classroom. I was also exposed to media studies, and am strongly considering working in a school library."

MIA MADEIROS,
RITE Start Student

"I couldn't be happier with the care Lou Violet has received at Family Centers. She first came to the infant/toddler center at six-months old and has grown into a bright, social and confident preschooler. I love the consistency of the curriculum, the diversity of the families and how the program supports her social and emotional growth. The staff celebrates every developmental milestone with us and even taught me a few things about parenting!"

JESSICA LEBRETON,
Early Care and Education Parent



86%

of Family First in Education students showed measurable academic growth during the 2024-25 school year.

Through the support of the **Intensive Family Preservation** program,

100%

of participating families avoided foster care intervention or the removal of a child from their home.

89%

of families enrolled in the Early Care and Education program received scholarships or tuition assistance totaling more than $3.5M.

1,886

parent engagements were facilitated by the **Parents as Co-Educators** program on topics including school engagement, parent organizing, child development assistance and educational support.

621
students representing
43
countries and
24
native languages received English language instruction and vocational support through Literacy Volunteers.

208

people received job search assistance, vocational coaching and resume writing support though **Reaching Independence Through Employment (RITE)**.

46

Section 8 residents participating in the Family Self Sufficiency Program collectively saved

$529,406

to use toward a future home downpayment, tuition costs or any other self-sufficiency related expense.

Friendly Connections facilitated nearly

1,587

calls or personal visits and 446 socialization sessions to keep local seniors engaged in the community.

Screening Stamford's Youth provided

81

community-based mental health screenings among city's youth.

Education & Human Services Programs

- Community and Supportive Services
- Early Care and Education
  - Armstrong Court Preschool
  - The Grauer Preschool
  - Gateway Preschool
  - Joan Melber Warburg Early Childhood Center
- Family First in Education
- Family Self Sufficiency Program
- Friendly Connections
- Here-to-Help
- Intensive Family Preservation
- Literacy Volunteers
- Pathways to Employment Growth (PEG)
- Parents as Co-Educators Program
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Reaching Independence Through Employment (RITE)
  - RITE Start at Anchor
  - RITE Start at Windrose
- Screening Stamford's Youth
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Case Management



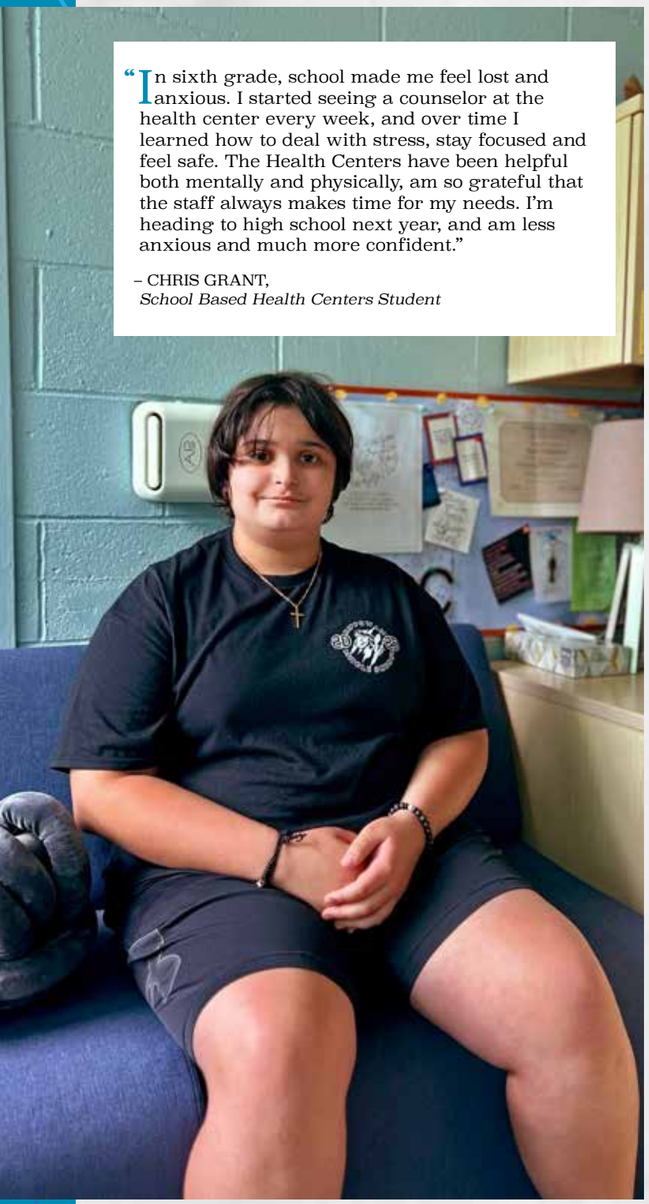
"When I left Ukraine, I had to leave behind my home, career and my friends. Starting over in a new country was one of the hardest things I've ever done. Literacy Volunteers gave me more than just English lessons. It gave me the chance to rebuild my life. With Family Centers' support, I earned my real estate license and now am able to continue a career where I can help families, including other Ukrainian refugees, find a place to call home."

OKSANA VOLUSHCHUK,
Literacy Volunteers Student

OUR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Health Care Connections

A healthy community is one that thrives. Family Centers' extensive network of primary health, dental and mental health centers, behavioral and mental health programs, educational resources and support services breaks down barriers associated with accessing quality health care and builds stronger communities.



"In sixth grade, school made me feel lost and anxious. I started seeing a counselor at the health center every week, and over time I learned how to deal with stress, stay focused and feel safe. The Health Centers have been helpful both mentally and physically, am so grateful that the staff always makes time for my needs. I'm heading to high school next year, and am less anxious and much more confident."

– CHRIS GRANT,
School Based Health Centers Student



"I'm so grateful for Family Centers Health Care. The staff and medical team are so professional and very attentive to every aspect of my health. Most importantly, they treat every patient with the same level of respect regardless of their background or insurance status. It's such a comfort to know that your medical providers truly care about their patients and do anything in their power to help."

ROSA GOMEZ,
Family Centers Health Care Patient and Advisory Board Member



"Our Care to Care nurse consultant has been an incredible resource for our preschool. She keeps us up to date on staff trainings and immunizations, supports our team through health concerns and builds strong relationships with families. Her weekly visits bring consistency and peace of mind. We truly couldn't ask for more."

PAOLA MONSALVE,
The Learning Center at Piper's Hill Executive Director and Care to Care Client



"I was dealing with a difficult family situation a few years ago that left me feeling stuck. No matter what I tried, I couldn't find the right way to talk about it with my kids. Meanwhile, my anxiety and depression kept getting worse. Therapy helped me find the balance I needed. I was hesitant to seek help at first, but committing to therapy and working with my clinician was the best decision I could have made. I gained clarity, learned tools to face adversity and communicate my needs more effectively."

PAOLA PALLETTE,
Counseling and Mental Health Program Client



"Many years ago, I was going through a rough time in my life. I saw a sign on a pay phone for Stamford CARES and decided to call the number. Since getting involved, the team has supported my physical and emotional health, provided financial guidance and always lent a shoulder to lean on when I needed it. Family Centers helped me find the strength to be the healthy, confident person I am today."

NANCY JOSEPHINE OLANEYE,
Stamford CARES Participant



"Being a part of The Den has given our family a sense of connection and community after unimaginable loss. We feel so grateful for the friendships we have formed with others who truly understand our experience. The groups have helped both of my daughters develop the language to express their feelings and offer a safe space to talk about their dad. The Den has been a warm, welcoming space where we feel supported, seen and less alone."

RACHEL ABRAMS,
The Den for Grieving Kids Participant

16,998
individual and group therapy sessions were offered by the Counseling and Mental Health program.

2,661
adults and children received medical and dental services through **Family Centers Health Care.**

The **School Based Health Centers** facilitated
439
psychiatric sessions.

The Center for Hope helped
144
people cope with loss or a critical illness diagnosis by offering
1,528
bereavement and trauma therapy sessions.

199
HIV and Hepatitis C tests were administered by Stamford CARES' Prevention team.

795
home & center-based child care providers serving
1,949
children received CPR, First Aid, Epi-Pen administration and other trainings from Care to Care.

Family Centers Health Care assisted
70
households enroll in health insurance.

Family Centers' **psychiatry team** facilitated
1,741
psychiatric evaluations and medication management sessions .

100
children from
14
schools in Stamford and Norwalk participated in school-based bereavement groups facilitated by The Den for Grieving Kids.

7,532
medical and dental visits were facilitated by **Family Centers Health Care**.

Health Care Connections Programs

- Care-to-Care
- Counseling & Mental Health Services
  - Center for HOPE
  - Wellness and Prevention Services
  - Trauma Response
  - WorkLife Solutions
- The Den for Grieving Kids
- Family Centers Health Care
- School Based Health Centers
- Stamford CARES

CLIENT FEATURE

Yesica Lopez



"I've learned so much, made close friends, and found a support system I never expected. I am truly grateful."

Yesica Lopez never imagined that becoming a mother would bring both profound joy and overwhelming hardship. After the birth of her son, Samuel, postpartum depression made those early days especially difficult. Originally from Colombia and without a strong local support system, she didn't know where to turn. But a referral from Greenwich Hospital introduced her to Family Centers' **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** program and everything began to change.

Through PAT, Yesica found more than just parenting guidance—she found a lifeline. Through regular home visits and phone calls, her parent educator offered consistent emotional support and helped her build essential skills in parenting and early childhood development. With encouragement from the program, Yesica sought mental health counseling through the **Outpatient Behavioral Health** program to address her postpartum depression and prioritize her own well-being. "It was very hard to become a new mom and be new to this country at the same time," she said. "These supports helped me feel stronger."

Yesica's resilience was tested again when her second son, Martin, was born prematurely and diagnosed with bilaterial microtia—a condition that affects the outer ear and causes hearing loss. The diagnosis brought fear and uncertainty, but Yesica didn't have to face it alone. The PAT program helped her navigate a flood of medical information, connected her to speech and occupational therapies, and provided referrals for additional support, including adult and pediatric primary care through **Family Centers Health Care**.

Today, three-year-old Samuel attends **The Grauer Preschool** and Martin, now one, is enrolled at the **Warburg Early Childhood Center**. Both boys are thriving thanks to the early education and development support they've received. Yesica hopes to enroll them in the **Family First in Education** program when they reach elementary school and plans to join **Literacy Volunteers** to continue improving her English and strengthening her advocacy for her family.

Looking back, Yesica sees how far her family has come and how much stronger she's become through every challenge. "Family Centers has been there for me during the most difficult and emotional parts of my journey as a mother," she said. "They helped me heal, find answers and give my children the best possible start. I've learned so much, made close friends and found a support system I never expected. I am truly grateful."

CLIENT FEATURE

Ana Rosario Palma



"...the first night at The Den, something lifted. I felt like I could finally share what was in my heart. And hearing others' stories—realizing I wasn't alone meant everything."

When Ana Rosario Palma suddenly lost her teenage son, Angel, during his summer vacation to Guatemala in 2024, her world fell apart.

Deep in grief and burdened by the financial hardship from traveling to her home country to bury her eldest child, Ana struggled to find a path forward. She couldn't bring herself to return to Stamford High – where Angel had been a student – and felt paralyzed by the thought of asking for help. But she knew she couldn't carry the weight alone, not for herself, and not for her two younger sons, Joshua and Mateo.

Desperate for support, Ana turned to Springdale Elementary School, where her middle son, Joshua, is a student. The staff responded immediately, referring her to the **Here-to-Help** program.

"When I first met my Outreach Worker, it was only a few months after losing Angel. It was extremely difficult to open up at first, but little by little, I started to feel safe. Talking to her felt like talking to someone sent from heaven."

That initial connection became the first thread in a safety net that would support Ana and her family through the darkest chapter of their lives. Her Outreach Worker helped secure an afterschool program placement for Joshua—made possible by a scholarship so Ana wouldn't have to worry about the cost. The structure gave Joshua a safe and nurturing place to spend the afternoons and gave Ana the emotional space to begin healing.

Through Here-to-Help, Ana was referred to **The Den for Grieving Kids**. At first, she wasn't ready to talk about her son's death. But as she watched Joshua struggle with his own grief, she realized they both needed a space to process their emotions.

"I couldn't even talk about it with my family," she said. "But the first night at The Den, something lifted. I felt like I could finally share what was in my heart. And hearing others' stories—realizing I wasn't alone—meant everything."

Joshua responded to the extra support right away. His teachers noticed a difference in his emotional stability and behavior at school. And at home, his questions about Angel became more peaceful. "Now he says, 'My brother is in a beautiful place. One day we'll all be with him.'"

Feeling buoyed by both Here-to-Help and The Den, Ana also joined **Literacy Volunteers**, both to learn English and to honor Angel's memory. "He always encouraged me to learn English. I want to be able to support my children in every way I can," she said. The program has helped her build confidence, connect with other moms and feel less isolated.

Though she still feels the ache of loss, Ana now moves through her days with a renewed sense of purpose—and support behind her.

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Our Volunteers (cont'd.)

(continued from page 19)

Eleanor Kelley · Annie Kelley · Elizabeth (Lizzie) Kennedy · Kim Kispert · Joan Kravett · Ethan Krawchuk · Flo Krupa · Karen Kuflik · Sarah Landman · Jane Lazgin · Rich Lee · Eric Lee · Caroline Leonard · Andrea Levine · Jim Linden · Kate Littlefield · William Looney · Jennifer Lopreto-Florian · Reggie Lupo · Cindy Lyall · Nathalia Mackenzie Fuentes · Sophia Maddock · Fernando Maddock · Tia Mahaffay · Gerry Male · Kate Mamorsky · Kathryn Mamorsky · Fabiana Marin · Arlene Mark · Laura Martinez · Maria Mata · Jenn Matelski · Karen Matunich · Kaleigh Mayer · Mary-Jane McCormack · Ashley McCormick · Bish McDonald · Bish McDonnell · Ann McEvily · Kaes McGeary · Camilla McGraw · Maureen McKay Tennyson · Michael McKeever · Nancy Meckel · Abby Mecsery · Delilah Meegan · Nina Menz · Louisa Michelagnoli · Jennifer Miller · Carol Miller · Molly Milligan · Lisa Mills · Mary Moran · Morgan Stanley · Simonetta Morrison · Anthea Bosch Moschini · Mimi Moulton · Adelaide Mueller · Mira Nederlander · Neev Nedungadi · Kimberly Nemser · Daisy Neumark · Bryna Noyer-Maingard · Joyce Oberdorf · Jim O'Brien · Margaret O'Keefe · Cristina Orchulli · Elias Orrell · Nancy Palmer · Sarah Parker · Parkway School · Kelly Pasciucco · Karissa Payero · Maggie Peiree · Karolay Pena · Lauren Pennino · Sara Peters · Toby Peters · Isabel Phillips · Magalie Pierre · Mary Pivirotto · Maria Popp · Renee Potter · Maria Puntereri · Meredith Pyne · Nitya Ramanan · Briony Raymond · Reading Champions · Tania Recinos · Ashley Reid · Yareni Reyes · Shannon Reynolds · Vladimir Reynoso · Adriana Riles · Abby Ritman · Milly Rivera · Jennifer Roach · Alexandra Robertson · Rachel Robison · Keely Rodriguez · Nicki Rose · Eleanor Rose · Barbra Rosenberg · Leigh Ann Ryan · Kathleen Ryan-Mufson · Chris Samuel · Michelle Santana · Kathleen Sartorius · Jane Scaramella · Ellen Schecterman · Sharon Schoen · Lynn Schwartz · Alexandra Scott · Christina Seale · Nancy Selander · Leslie P. Sexer · Judy Sgammato · Shakespear in the Park · Kathryn Shaw · Karen Simpson · Judy Singer · Jane Snowdon · Alison Soldano · Courtney Spada · Spectrum · LN Sriram · Wendy Stapleton · Robert Steel · Silvana Stein · Margo Steinbach · Diane Straus · John Straus · Irina Straw · Kathleen Suchy · Eleanor Sullivan · Tracy Sutka · Claiborne Swanson Frank · Lexy Tanner · Sarah Toepke · Catherine Tompkins · Victoria Triplett · Jonna Trovato · David Tuttle · David Van Dyke · Karla Vargas · Maria Vasconcelos · Robert Vendig · Laurel Villarente · Abigail Vogt · Lisa Volling · Inga Voloshin · Shirin von Wullfen · W.R. Berkley · Sari Wacks · Nan Waite · Terri Walker · Kristen Walmsley · Kevin Walsh · Susan Warner · John Wilson · Jean Witmer · Lisa Wolf · Amanda Wurtz · Xerox Corporation · Isabela Yoguez · Susan Yonce · Brady Yoon ·

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

OUR 2025

Award Winners

Helen Gratz Rockefeller Outstanding Volunteerism Award

Patti Fast



"From chairing memorable benefits to guiding our programs with care, Patti Fast has given so much of her heart and talent to Family Centers. Her thoughtful leadership on the Development and Audit Committees has also helped us grow stronger and stay true to our mission. As a Senior Advisor, Patti continues to be a trusted voice and cherished champion for our work."

KATE CLARK, *Board Chair*

Anne Firestone Ball Family Champion Award

Dr. Michael Hodish



"Dr. Michael Hodish has become an invaluable part of our team. Several times each month, he generously volunteers his time and expertise to offer high-quality dental care to patients who might otherwise face significant financial barriers. Beyond his clinical contributions, he supports chart reviews and administrative tasks, easing the workload for colleagues while sharing innovative practices that improve efficiency. His humor and joyful outlook create a welcoming environment for patients and staff alike, and his unwavering passion for service continues to make a lasting difference in both our community and our health center."

JOHN MIDY, *Family Centers Health Care Director*

Janet Hennessey Dilenschneider Excellence in Leadership Award

Marion Beale and Cathy Hogan



"Marion's high standards and professionalism have anchored our finance team time and again during crucial transitions. In addition to her financial acumen, Marion's heart and compassion for the services Family Centers provides is unmatched. Tasked with watching our dollars, she is often the first leader to say that we must spend what is needed in support of services."

LOUIS JOSEPHSON, *Chief Executive Officer*

"It has been a privilege to witness Cathy's leadership journey from teacher to site manager to now Director of our Early Care and Education program. Each day, she is charged with the development of more than 200 children, and I'm so proud of the incredible impact she has made. Cathy is a teacher of teachers, a manager of managers and a leader of leaders."

YENNY TOONE, *Vice President*

Shawn M. Lang AIDS Warrior Award

The Rev. David Van Dyke



"For many years and starting in the earliest days of the HIV pandemic, David Van Dyke has shown an unwavering dedication to people living with HIV and the HIV issue in this community. As a key stakeholder from the faith community, David embodies the qualities of an AIDS Warrior by standing out in front for people who cannot."

DENNIS TORRES, *Chief Health Officer*



ECE Program Earns NAEYC's Highest Designation

The Early Care and Education program (ECE) has achieved Accreditation Plus from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)—a prestigious distinction held by fewer than 10% of early childhood programs nationwide.

NAEYC Accreditation Plus represents the highest level of recognition for early childhood programs and signals excellence in areas including curriculum, teaching practices, health and safety, family partnerships and program leadership. It also reflects a commitment to continuous quality improvement through verified engagement with ongoing assessment and enhancement.

"This recognition confirms what our families and educators know—that Family Centers is a place where young children thrive," said Yenny Toone, Vice President. "We are honored to be recognized for the quality, care and intentionality that defines our classrooms, and we will continue in our unwavering commitment to preparing children for lifelong success."

To earn Accreditation Plus, Family Centers underwent a rigorous review process involving site visits, detailed documentation and comprehensive assessments aligned with NAEYC's 10 Early Learning Program Standards. Achieving this distinction requires meeting not only foundational quality benchmarks, but also demonstrating excellence in implementing feedback, professional development and data-driven program growth.

Congrats!



Family Centers and Sacred Heart University Form Workforce Partnership

Family Centers and Sacred Heart University (SHU) have entered an agreement that will help meet the workforce development needs of the community and provide educational opportunities in placement, internship and academic work.

Through the collaboration, qualified SHU students will benefit from internship and clinical placements in a variety of Family Centers' programs. Family Centers' staff will also mentor, coach and train students. In return, Family Centers employees will receive a 20% SHU tuition discount and access leadership and workforce development courses.

The partnership was formally announced during a ceremony on SHU's West Campus on May 27.

"This collaboration is a win-win," said SHU Provost Robin Cautin. The phrase was repeated throughout the ceremony as both SHU and Family Centers believe the collaboration is a good one with ample benefits for each organization.

"We are thrilled to mentor SHU students, who represent the future of the workforce here in lower Fairfield County," said Louis Josephson, Family Centers' CEO. "By offering internships and clinicals, it is our hope to encourage more students to consider careers in health care or human service programs."