

# ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2025

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

New Britain



[ywcanb.org](http://ywcanb.org)



# A Word from our CEO and Board President

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the individuals, families, partners, volunteers, donors, and community leaders who make the work of YWCA New Britain possible. Together, we have continued to advance our mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

This past year brought both opportunities and challenges. Through our Childcare programs, Family Literacy services, House of Teens, STRIVE, Dance and Performing Arts programs, Fitness and Wellness initiatives, Sexual Assault Crisis Services, we provided critical support, resources, and opportunities to thousands throughout our region.

Among this year's highlights was the first anniversary of our Family Childcare Incubator Program, which continues to foster entrepreneurship while helping address the critical shortage of childcare in New Britain. We also proudly celebrated the 40th Anniversary of our Dance Program, a milestone reflecting four decades of inspiring creativity, confidence, and self-expression in young people. Our Fitness and Wellness Program continued to grow, helping community members improve their health and well-being, while our Sexual Assault Crisis Services Program provided critical support and healing services to more than 700 survivors throughout Hartford County.

At the heart of every program is a simple but powerful belief: when people are given the tools, support, and encouragement they need, they can thrive. Every child who enters our classrooms, every family working toward stability, every survivor seeking support, and every young person discovering their potential reminds us why this work matters.

Despite increasing financial pressures and changes in funding, our supporters continued to stand beside us with generosity and commitment. Your investment allows us to provide life-changing services while building a stronger, more equitable future for all.

The information and stories in this report reflect the resilience, determination, and hope that define our community. While we are proud of what we have accomplished, we know there is still much work ahead. Together, we remain committed to expanding opportunities, addressing disparities, and ensuring that every individual has the chance to reach their full potential.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us keep our Mission in Motion. Because of your support, women, children, and families throughout our community have the opportunity to learn, grow, heal, and thrive.



Tracey Madden-Hennessey  
CEO



Norma Cruz-Mathis  
Board President



# Our Commitment to Equity and Opportunity

At YWCA New Britain, we envision a community where every individual is valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. Guided by our mission to eliminate racism and empower women, we create opportunities that strengthen families and build a more equitable future for all.

## **Empowerment & Economic Advancement of Women and Girls**

Through Family Literacy, workforce readiness initiatives, leadership development, entrepreneurship training, and our innovative Family Childcare Incubator Program, women gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to achieve greater economic stability and independence. Our childcare programs further support working families by providing high-quality early learning experiences that allow parents to pursue employment, education, and career advancement.

## **Health, Safety & Well-Being**

YWCA New Britain promotes the physical, emotional, and social well-being of women, girls, and families through Fitness and Wellness programs and our Sexual Assault Crisis Services Program. Serving communities throughout Hartford County, our survivor services provide crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, prevention education, and compassionate support for individuals on their journey toward healing and recovery.

## **Inspiring Confidence, Leadership & Creativity**

Our youth programs help young people build confidence, leadership skills, and resilience. Through House of Teens and middle school leadership initiatives, participants explore career pathways, engage in community service, and develop skills that prepare them for future success. For more than 40 years, our Dance and Performing Arts Program has fostered creativity, self-expression, discipline, and confidence in children and young adults.

As part of the YWCA USA network, YWCA New Britain proudly participates in national initiatives including Until Justice Just Is, YWomen Vote, and Week Without Violence, reflecting our commitment to justice, civic engagement, and safer communities.

## **Building Stronger Communities**

Every day, YWCA New Britain helps individuals overcome barriers, discover new opportunities, and build brighter futures. Through education, childcare, youth development, wellness programs, the arts, entrepreneurship, and survivor services, we are helping create a community where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.





# Childcare

At YWCA New Britain, we believe every child deserves a strong start. Our high-quality childcare programs provide a nurturing, safe and engaging environment where children learn, grow, and thrive. Through hands-on learning, creative play, literacy development, and age-appropriate activities, we help children build the academic, social, and emotional skills needed for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom as children explore, discover, create, and develop confidence through enriching experiences each day. Guided by caring and dedicated educators, our programs foster curiosity, independence, and a lifelong love of learning while supporting working families and strengthening our community.

By investing in our youngest learners today, we are helping to build brighter futures for tomorrow.

## ● ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

- Infant/Toddler: 61
- Preschool: 225
- School Age: 92
- Summer Sizzlers Program: 78

*“Since starting at the YWCA, my son has grown tremendously. His vocabulary is outstanding. He uses so many words, which I feel like is very advanced for his age, and I attribute that to being around teachers and friends who are of different backgrounds, and he’s just very personable and bright and bubbly, and I think that’s because of the environment he’s been in.”*

*YWCA New Britain Parent*



# Childcare Business Incubator

The YWCA New Britain Family Childcare Incubator Program is an award-winning model that is transforming lives, strengthening communities, and addressing the critical shortage of childcare providers. Through hands-on training, mentorship, business development support, and access to resources, the program empowers aspiring entrepreneurs—many of them women—to launch and grow successful family childcare businesses.

More than just creating childcare slots, the Incubator Program creates pathways to economic independence and small business ownership. Participants gain the skills, confidence, and support needed to build profitable enterprises while providing high-quality childcare services that help working families thrive.

By investing in entrepreneurs and expanding access to childcare, the Family Childcare Incubator Program is creating lasting economic and social impact throughout our community.

## ● NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- The Childcare Business Incubator continues to garner national attention and is inspiring models around the country.
- The program celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary in September of 2025, marking one full year since the doors officially opened for our four childcare providers.

*“Through the Project Incubator, I have gained valuable resources, training, guidance, and encouragement that have helped me strengthen both my childcare program and my business. The support I received has allowed me to improve the quality of care I provide, grow professionally, and better serve the children and families in the New Britain community.*

*I am especially grateful to Nicole Villanueva for her dedication, ongoing support, and commitment to helping providers succeed. Her guidance, knowledge, and encouragement have played an important role in my journey as a family childcare provider.*

*The program has made a meaningful impact on my business and has empowered me to continue creating high-quality early learning experiences for children while contributing to the growth and well-being of the New Britain community.*

*Thank you for believing in providers like me and for investing in the success of small childcare businesses. I truly appreciate all that you do to support our professional growth and the families we serve.”*

Karla Aliendres / Owner & Provider  
Mommy Bear Family Home Daycare





# House of Teens

House of Teens is a safe, supportive program designed to empower adolescents as they navigate the critical years of growth, self-discovery, and transition into adulthood. More than just a drop-in space, it provides a consistent environment where teens can build meaningful connections, develop life skills, and access caring mentorship.

Through structured activities, enrichment opportunities, and trusted relationships with staff, participants are encouraged to strengthen their confidence, explore their interests, and develop healthy decision-making skills. The program is intentionally designed to meet young people where they are—offering guidance, stability, and encouragement in a welcoming, judgment-free setting.

House of Teens continues to be a vital part of our mission to uplift youth in our community, helping them feel seen, supported, and equipped to succeed both today and in the future.



## ● ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

- House of Teens had 63 enrolled in the 2025 program
- The Community Health Worker program had 2 graduates, certified community health workers (CHW) in their community

*“House of Teens is more than just an after-school program, it’s a family. For many of us, it’s a home away from home.”*  
House of Teens participant

# S.T.R.I.V.E.

STRIVE empowers middle school girls and non-binary youth to build the skills, confidence, and experience they need to succeed in school, the workplace, and beyond. STRIVE, which stands for Strength, Teamwork, Respect, Individuality, Vision, and Excellence, is a program where girls can feel safe and comfortable, while still learning and having fun! Through career exploration, workforce readiness training, leadership development, and hands-on learning opportunities, participants gain the tools to envision and pursue their future goals.

The program focuses on developing essential life and employment skills, including communication, teamwork, problem-solving, financial literacy, and professionalism. By connecting young people with mentors, community partners, and real-world experiences, STRIVE helps participants discover their strengths, expand their opportunities, and build a foundation for lifelong success.

As they grow into leaders, advocates, and changemakers, STRIVE participants demonstrate the power of investing in youth and creating pathways to achievement. Through encouragement, guidance, and meaningful experiences, STRIVE continues to prepare the next generation to thrive in an ever-changing world.

## ● ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

Through YWCA New Britain's youth development initiatives, 111 young people participated in 2025 in programs designed to promote academic success, workforce readiness, and positive youth development.

- 84 students participated in the STRIVE after-school program.
- 16 students engaged in Summer STRIVE enrichment activities.
- 11 youth participated in the Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program, gaining valuable employment and career-readiness skills.

*This year, ROOTS has partnered with the YWCA across a variety of programs, deepening our relationship. With the STRIVE program, As the Program Manager at ROOTS, I led bi-weekly cooking and classes with each site as part of their "Fun Friday" programming. The girls loved getting to try new things, to learn different cooking techniques, and even try trending recipes they had seen online.*

*I have personally been able to witness the growth in these students-- of course in their cooking skills and knowledge, but more importantly in their confidence, self-assurance, and curiosity. I'd like to say this was all due to ROOTS programming, but it is clear that the daily staff interactions have a huge impact on the girls.*

*I am glad to spend one day each week with the YWCA, as I think this program is earnestly working toward a future free of injustice. Girls are empowered to speak up, to try new things, to ask to learn new things, and I am honored to play a small part in it.*

Jenna VanDonselaar / Program Manager  
ROOTS





# Central Connecticut Family Literacy Center

The Central Connecticut Family Literacy Program (CCFLC) is one of 25 family literacy programs in Connecticut and has served families in the New Britain community since 2012. Over the past five years, the program has supported more than 300 adult learners and their children through a comprehensive model that includes adult education, parent education, Parent and Child Together (PACT) activities, and early childhood education.

As the only family literacy program in the area offering free on-site childcare for infants and toddlers, CCFLC removes a significant barrier to participation while providing free English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED preparation classes for pregnant women and mothers with children up to age 10.

The program has consistently met Connecticut's performance goals for adult education and has helped 40 participants earn their GED or high school equivalency credentials. This year, four participants graduated and continued on to higher education, creating new opportunities for themselves and their families.

Through education, support, and opportunity, CCFLC empowers women and children to build brighter futures and achieve greater economic stability.

## ● ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

The total number of adult students enrolled in the family literacy program and their children from January to December 2025:

- 107 adult students
- 36 children (6 months to 3 years old)



*"YWCA New Britain is far more than a community partner to Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut. It is one of our most important collaborators in helping women achieve educational success and economic mobility.*

*What I value most about our partnership is the YWCA's ability to recognize emerging community needs and turn ideas into action. Under the leadership of CEO Tracey Madden-Hennessey, the YWCA has been an exceptional thought partner, helping identify gaps in services, bring organizations together, and develop innovative solutions that make a real difference for women and families. Through our work together at the Central Connecticut Family Literacy Center, we have expanded access to education, workforce pathways, and family support services that help participants build brighter futures.*

*The YWCA team is collaborative, forward-thinking, and focused on results. We are grateful for this partnership and proud of the impact we continue to make together."*

Ron Sheffer, Executive Director  
Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut



# Sexual Assault Crisis Services

Sexual Assault Crisis Services (SACS) provides free, confidential support to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones throughout our community. Through a comprehensive range of services—including a 24-hour crisis hotline, crisis counseling, hospital and legal advocacy, support groups, and prevention education—SACS helps individuals navigate the healing process with compassion and dignity.

As a program of the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, SACS covers a 46-town region, including all of Hartford County, part of Tolland County and the town of Plymouth.

In addition to direct services, SACS works to prevent sexual violence through community outreach and education programs that empower individuals, promote healthy relationships, and foster safer communities. By offering support, advocacy, and education, SACS remains a vital resource for survivors and a powerful force for change.

## ● IMPORTANT STATISTICS

In 2025:

- 598 survivors of sexual violence received 1 on 1 counseling and advocacy services.
- These survivors received 5,314 services which included short-term crisis counseling, medical and law enforcement advocacy, safety planning, and information and referrals
- Provided community education to 1,284 members of our community, including:
  - 573 college students, parents, and professionals
  - 711 youth
- SACS answered 470 hotline calls and responded to 201 hospital accompaniments.

*"Our annual partnership with the Sexual Assault Crisis Service has been incredibly impactful for the students at Manchester High School. The prevention education programs deliver vital, sensitive information in a way that is empowering, respectful, and highly engaging for our students. The classroom visits provide our students with essential tools for safety and healthy relationships, making this collaboration an invaluable asset to our school community."*

Marco Pizzoferrato / Health and PE Teacher  
Manchester High School



# Performing Arts

For more than 40 years, YWCA New Britain's Performing Arts Program has empowered young people through dance and performance, fostering confidence, creativity, discipline, and lifelong friendships both on and off the stage.

## DANCE

- More than 140 students participated in dance classes throughout the year.
- Supported by 7 instructors, 22 student teachers, and 18 volunteers.
- Students represented communities across Central Connecticut, including New Britain, Newington, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, Plainville, Bristol, Hartford, Middletown, West Hartford, Glastonbury, Berlin, Southington, Farmington, Simsbury, Waterbury, Branford, and Unionville.
- Performed at community events including: Celebrate New Britain, Funshine Festival, Memorial Day Parade, Halloween "Thriller" performance

The program proudly celebrated its **40th Annual Dance Recital**, welcoming 678 audience members and honoring four decades of artistic excellence.

- 13 alumni returned to perform in celebration of the anniversary.
- 11 students received 5-Year Awards; 7 students received 10-Year Awards.
- 1 student received a 15-Year Award and graduated from the program.

The **YWCA Dance Team continued its tradition of excellence** with 20 dancers participating in: Regional dance competitions; Performance showcases; Community events; National-level competitions; The YWCA Annual Auction & Gala

The Chris Kuzia Scholarship Fund continued to make dance accessible for local families.

- Alumni raised more than \$5,000 for the scholarship fund.
- Five scholarships were awarded to deserving students.

## THEATER

The summer theater program supports two shows annually, a youth theater program for children 7-13 and another for ages 15+. Both productions provide the unique opportunity for the kids and young adults to build community and confidence.

### Youth Theater Program

- Our 7-13 theater group presented Wizard of Oz, Jr. on July 18, 19.
- Sold over 50 tickets per performance.
- The performances were held in the small gym at the YWCA.
- 14 young students participated.

### In collaboration with New Britain High School

- Our 16-College theater group presented Chicago on July 31, Aug 1 and two performances on Aug 2.
- The 4 performances were held at NBHS.
- With an amazing amount of incredible talent we choose to double cast the performance.
- 20 students participated to a delighted crowd.



# Fitness

YWCA New Britain's Fitness & Wellness Program promotes healthy lifestyles, personal well-being, and community connection. Through a variety of classes and activities, participants of all ages are encouraged to stay active, improve their health, and build lasting relationships in a welcoming and supportive environment.

- 34 Renew and Active Participants
- 4 Silver and Fit Participants
- 96 SilverSneakers Participants
- All Access Pass
- Gym-Only Memberships
- 5 Personal Training Clients
- Spin Classes, Yoga and More

## PICKLEBALL

Our energetic pickleballers come every week to stay fit, improve their game and socialize.

- 24-32 participants on a weekly basis
- Social Hour after has been very successful
- We held a pickleball tournament in early September with 12 teams participating. Trophies for the first and second place winners were given out and a box lunch followed
- Our annual Christmas party was held in December with approximately 35 pickleball players attending.

Towns Represented:

- New Britain approximately 110
- Berlin 20
- Plainville/Farmington/Southington/Wallingford/Kensington/Bristol/Avon less than 10 each
- Newington 15

## KARATE

Taught by the Institute of Martial Arts at YWCA New Britain:

- January - June 2025
- 24-participants
- Karate Tournament held in April / over 100 participated
- 21 from New Britain and others from Simsbury, Newington and Unionville

## RENTALS

Gym and space rentals increased in 2025 including

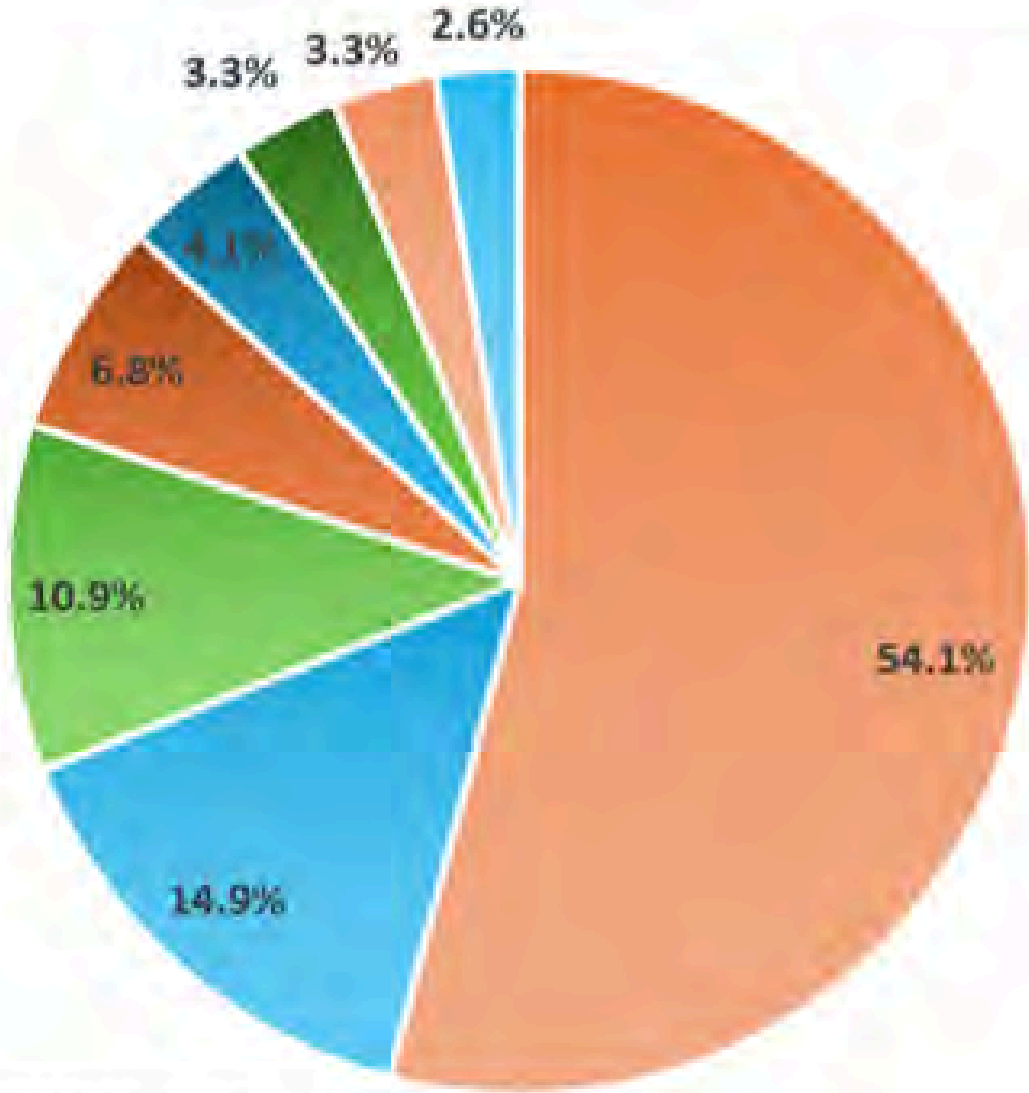
- Revel Gymnastics
- Top Flight
- CT Take Over Basketball
- Untapped Elite Basketball



# Financials

2025 Investment in Our Mission

**\$8,523,100**



- Early Childhood Education
- Sexual Assault Crisis Service
- Youth Development
- Childcare Incubator Program
- Adult Literacy
- Health Promotion & Sports
- Management & General
- Fundraising & Development



# Thank You to Our Community Partners

*We couldn't do this important work without your support!*

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To sign up for our newsletter,  
contact Doreen Chudoba at  
doreenc@ywcaneubritain.org*

# 1910 Society

The members of the 1910 Society are those that have already made a gift of \$1,000 or more to our endowment or have notified us of their intention to include us in their estate plans. Managed by the Board of Trustees, YWCA Endowment Fund provides a permanent source of income for the organization. The continuing financial health of YWCA New Britain depends greatly upon the growth of our endowment funds through the generosity of caring friends and community partners.

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