



Mercy
Learning
Center

Annual Report

2024-2025



“Here the education is free. My children and I have the opportunity to get a career and make a good future that permits us to help my family.”

- Erika, 45, Peru



Letter From MLC's CEO & Board Chair

Dear Friends,

In the Fall of 2024, Mercy Learning Center embarked on our first ever comprehensive strategic plan to guide our organization for the next two years and beyond. In our 38th year, we remain deeply committed to our mission: empowering women to reach their full potential through free, transformative education in a compassionate, supportive environment. As the organization continues to grow, we remain flexible to adjust to emerging challenges, including potential shifts in the social and political landscape. This strategic plan serves as a living roadmap to guide the organization's efforts, foster accountability, and amplify its impact in the years ahead. I invite you to read the executive summary of the strategic plan which is available on our website.

The creation of our strategic plan required a collective effort from board members, staff, students, donors, volunteers, and community partners. Out of the collaborative process of the strategic plan came a clear need to update our image and create a new, modern logo for the organization. In partnership with The Bananaland, a local, women-owned creative agency, we are proud to share our new logo with you through this year's annual report.

The logo was developed through the concept of a distinctive "M" composed of four interconnected



segments, each symbolizing one of MLC's core values: **compassion, innovation, resilience, and community.** One

of these values does not exist without the others, and they work together to empower our students to achieve what's possible.

In this report, you will see how we lead with **compassion**, creating a warm and welcoming environment for our students. You will hear about an **innovative** new program created to meet the evolving needs of the women we serve. Through personal stories, you will be inspired by the **resilience** of our students as they overcome obstacles and thrive. These values are each integral parts of our whole—our MLC **community**—a supportive and nurturing environment where women of diverse cultures and backgrounds learn, share experiences, and build relationships.

As you read the following pages, we hope the accomplishments and aspirations of our incredible students will motivate you to champion and support our mission.

Together we can create our vision: A world where all women are empowered to learn, lead, and shape their communities.



Lindsay Wyman

Lindsay Wyman
PRESIDENT & CEO



Tammy Barry

Tammy Barry
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Compassion

com-pas-sion noun

:sympathetic awareness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it



At Mercy Learning Center, compassion takes many forms. It's found in the small moments—a held hand, a fist bump, a welcoming hug for a child. It's a shoulder to cry on, a listening ear when life feels heavy, and the steady encouragement of a tutor or teacher when a lesson seems too hard. It's the kindness of a colleague offering support when someone's cup is full.

Compassion also shows up in powerful ways. A community group planting, harvesting, and delivering fresh produce for us each week. Supporters uniting to fund a new playground where children can play and dream for years to come. Tutors volunteering countless hours to help women learn and grow. Youth groups filling our pantry with essential supplies.

Every act of compassion, large or small, helps our students learn to extend that same kindness to themselves.

As one graduate shared,

“Between studying and family, my life always had many obstacles. I had a tutor who pushed me to do more. She said, ‘You need to study full time—you have potential for it and more.’ I believed her words because I was so negative about myself.”

This spirit of compassion strengthens us all. It nurtures connection, fosters well-being, and builds a community where everyone can thrive. Together, we are changing lives—and generations—with compassion at the heart of all we do.



in·no·va·tion noun
:a new idea, method, or device



Innovation

At Mercy Learning Center, innovation means reimagining how we teach, support, and empower every student to succeed.

When we noticed that native English-speaking students—about 10% of our population—were not staying enrolled at the same rate as non-native English speakers, we knew we needed to act. These students often face significant barriers: lacking a high school diploma, struggling to find employment or stable housing, and coping with food insecurity or limited access to mental health care.

In response, we launched the **NEDP (National External Diploma Program) Prep pilot program**, designed specifically for native English speakers who need more flexibility in their academic schedule. Students complete assignments online and attend one in-person class each week focused on direct math instruction and trauma-informed stress management—meeting them exactly where they are.

Many in this program have experienced deep personal challenges: teachers who told them they'd never

succeed, bullying, teen pregnancy, substance misuse, homelessness, or family instability. The program helps them rebuild their confidence, develop coping strategies, and chart a new path forward.

The goal is bigger than a diploma—it's empowerment. Students leave not only with the academic foundation to pursue higher education or a career, but also with a toolbox of life skills to navigate future challenges.

Enrollment in the NEDP Prep pilot, launched in September, exceeded expectations—proof that this innovative approach is filling a critical gap. Under the guidance of **Student Success Advisor, Anika Walker**, and two dedicated volunteer math tutors, students are mastering practical math skills—from place values to fractions—and rediscovering their own potential.

This class isn't solely about grades or test scores—it's about growth, confidence, and possibility. "I want you to win," Anika tells her students. At MLC, innovation is more than a new idea—it's the courage to look closer, think differently, and build pathways that change lives.





Resilience

“During high school in Brazil, I struggled to keep up because I didn’t have the required schoolbooks. My counselor and teachers would embarrass me in front of other students. That experience made me leave school altogether.”

“I always thought I wouldn’t be able to go back to school and earn my high school diploma, especially in a foreign country with a different language.”

“Last fall, I started my application for college, but it could not be completed. They would not accept the high school certificate from my home country of Jamaica.”

Many of our students have faced obstacles like these—poverty, discrimination, displacement, or self-doubt. Yet at Mercy Learning Center, they show what resilience truly means: the power to rise, rebuild, and keep going.

Each could have given up. Instead, they found within themselves—and within this community—the courage to persist. Their setbacks became stepping stones. Their roadblocks, launching pads.

At MLC, resilience isn’t just a value—it’s alive in every student who dares to begin again.

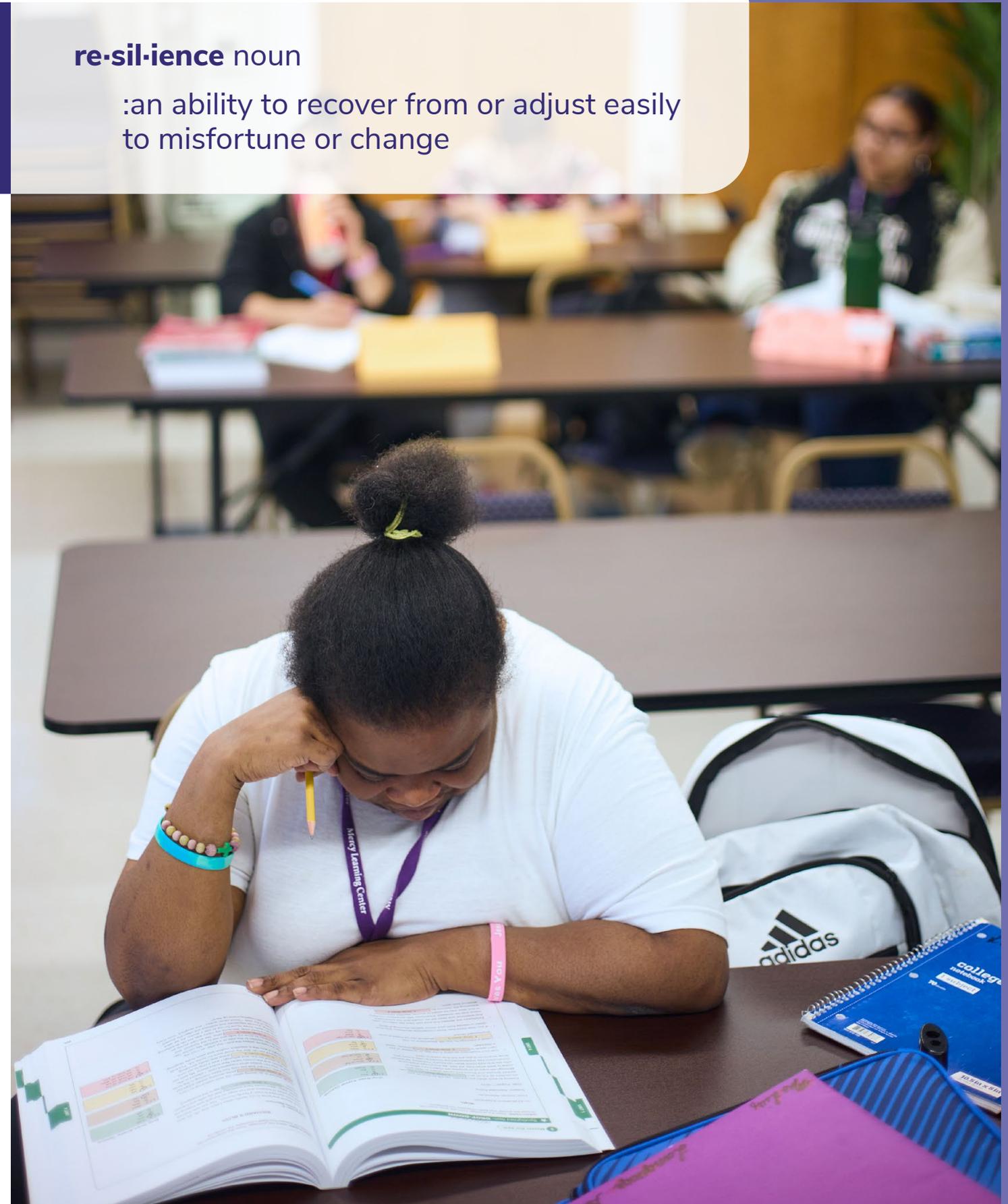
“The entire MLC team helped me feel welcome, supported, and driven to succeed. Completing this program has felt like crossing the finish line of a marathon.”

“My life was transformed by attending MLC and by obtaining my diploma. I learned a really important lesson, and that is to not give up.”

“In this country, a high school diploma is important to a person’s growth. I am now able to move forward to do better things by having a high school diploma.”

re-sil-i-ence noun

:an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change



com·mu·ni·ty noun
:a unified body of individuals

Community

Imagine walking through the doors of Mercy Learning Center as a new student. Maybe you speak very little English. Maybe school once felt like a place of fear or failure. Maybe you're arriving with your child by your side, both of you beginning something new.

The moment you enter, you're met with a smile and a warm welcome from the staff gathered in the lobby. Someone shows you to your classroom and another takes your child's hand to introduce them to theirs. The faces are new, but they are kind—and they're genuinely glad you're here.

As you leave, those same welcoming faces ask about your day, wave goodbye, and promise to see you tomorrow.

Weeks pass, and those once-unfamiliar faces have become friends. Your class gathers for community lunches, sharing dishes from your cultures and stories from your lives. You celebrate birthdays and milestones together. Your writing has improved, math makes more sense, and speaking up in class feels easier. Your child is thriving too—swinging across the monkey bars, counting every one of the 25 steps to the classroom, and not wanting the day to end.

This is the MLC community. A place where every story matters, every person belongs, and every success is shared. Our values are more than words—they are the foundation of everything we do. In our classrooms and hallways, in every act of kindness and every moment of courage, **compassion, innovation, resilience, and community** come to life. Together, they create a place where women and families find belonging, discover strength, and build brighter futures for themselves and for generations to come.



What We Offer



Adult Education

We provide our students the opportunity to acquire basic academic skills, learn English, become active members of their community, earn a high school equivalency diploma, and obtain their first job and/or employment with higher wages. It is open to women of all backgrounds and all services and materials are free.

The Adult Education core curriculum includes English Language Learning (ELL) classes, Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes, digital literacy, and workshops to develop and build key life skills. Practical life skills training for employment and transitioning to post-secondary education are emphasized, especially as women enter more advanced classes and prepare for next steps in their education and employment journeys. Students also participate in ongoing enrichment workshops on topics including health, parenting, financial literacy, and art appreciation.

Our dedicated staff is comprised of certified paid teachers and trained volunteer tutors. We offer full-time and part-time sessions, and students often move back and forth between the two, depending on their needs and the needs of their families, at any point in time. The amount of time a student spends at MLC also varies greatly. While one student might be with us for six months, another might be with us for six years, or even longer!



High School Equivalency

For those interested in earning a U.S. high school diploma, we offer two pathways:

General Education Diploma (GED®) Preparation: Passing the GED® gives those who did not complete high school or do not meet requirements for a high school diploma the opportunity to earn this high school equivalency credential. MLC's certified teachers help students prepare for and take this highly rigorous four-subject test in Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies.

National External Diploma Program (NEDP®): This program is conducted online and through independent study with qualified assessors. NEDP® gives adults the opportunity to demonstrate high school-level skills by completing a portfolio of life skills and academic tasks anywhere they have access to the internet. It evaluates reading, writing, math, and workforce-readiness skills with real-world relevance.



Support Services

Low-income adult learners, particularly members of historically disenfranchised communities, face barriers to learning that are not typically present for traditional K-12 learners. MLC addresses this achievement gap with flexible learning paths and wraparound support services including a food and diaper pantry, citizenship preparation, career and college counseling, and referrals for legal, medical, mental health, and crisis services, all at no cost to our students. This differentiates Mercy Learning Center from other literacy education organizations in the area.

Additionally, MLC case workers and staff maintain and nurture attentive relationships with students and encourage them to share challenges as they arise so they can be addressed and overcome, together. Consistent attendance and higher educational achievement rates are a direct result of this crucial programming.



Early Childhood Education Program

MLC embraces a holistic approach to removing barriers to our adult students' success, and providing free, high-quality childcare and preschool is a cornerstone of our proven wraparound support system. Our student mothers are best able to focus on their own education when they know their children are being cared for, in the same building, while learning and playing in the nurturing environment of our Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP).

This program provides students' children age 3 months to five years with compassionate and stimulating learning environments critical for kindergarten readiness in English-dominant classrooms. Age appropriate, routine-based schedules are implemented to organize activities into a daily structure, including interactive play, exploration and investigation, English language immersion, story-time, arts and crafts, and playground fun.

Mercy Learning Center's continuum of free infant care, toddler care, and preschool programming of the highest quality distinguishes it from other childcare organizations in Greater Bridgeport. The ECEP curriculum holistically improves children's overall development: pre-literacy, problem-solving, self-help, and fine and gross motor skills, as well as cognitive, physical, social, and emotional skills.

The goal of ECEP is to educate and empower two generations—mother and child. Mothers become their children's first and best teachers through modeling, mastering educational parenting strategies, and fostering a love of learning. Mothers and children in our full-time program are part of our weekly Mother-Child Reading Program to promote family literacy. Participants meet in group settings with teachers to read aloud, review parenting topics, and receive books to take home to continue learning as a family.

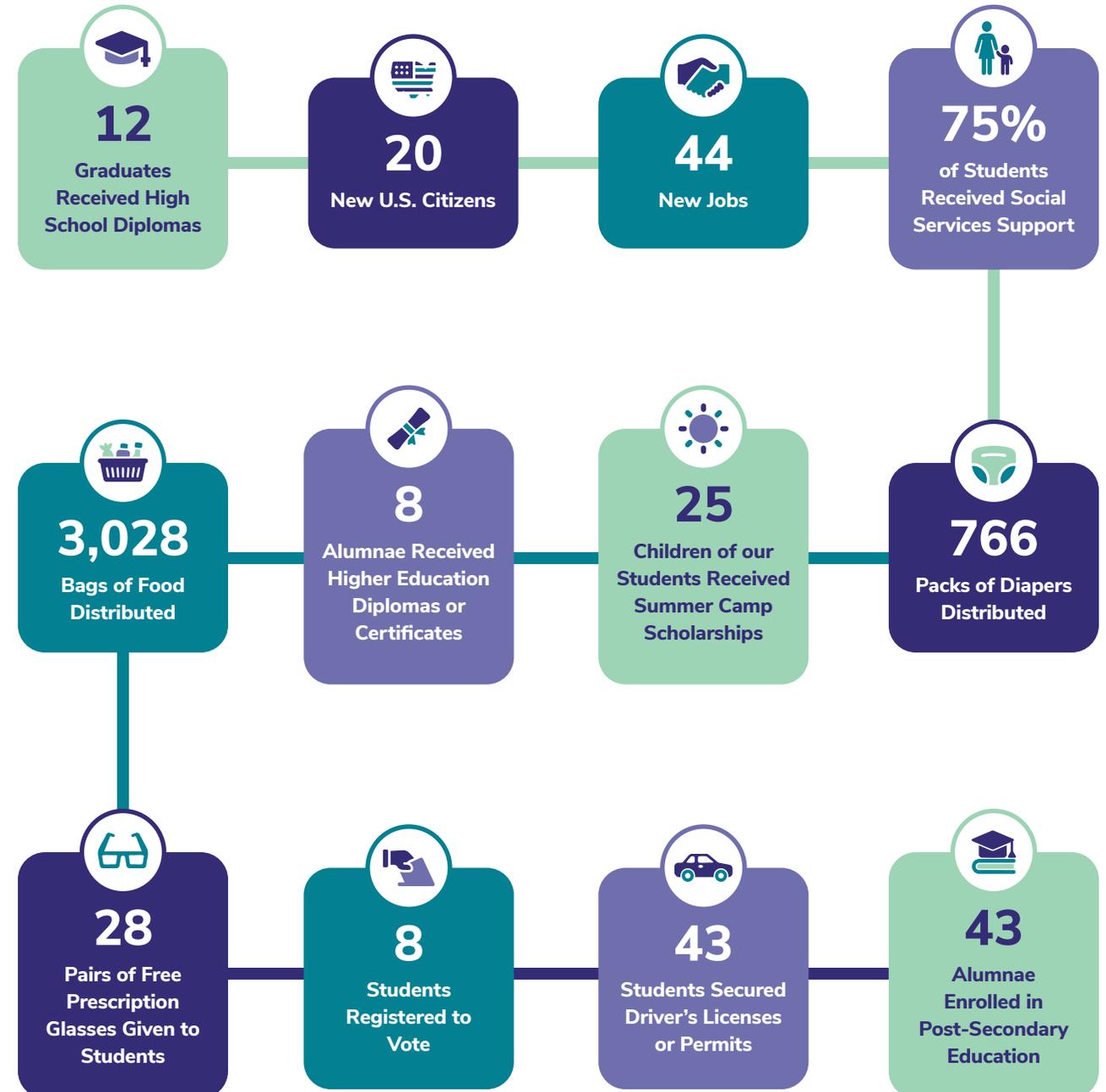


“It is helping me and my family a lot by giving us good information for what is going on, food, diapers, and the most important thing is that I have become self-reliant for my child’s school and doctor.”

- Raghad, 26, Syria

Because of You...

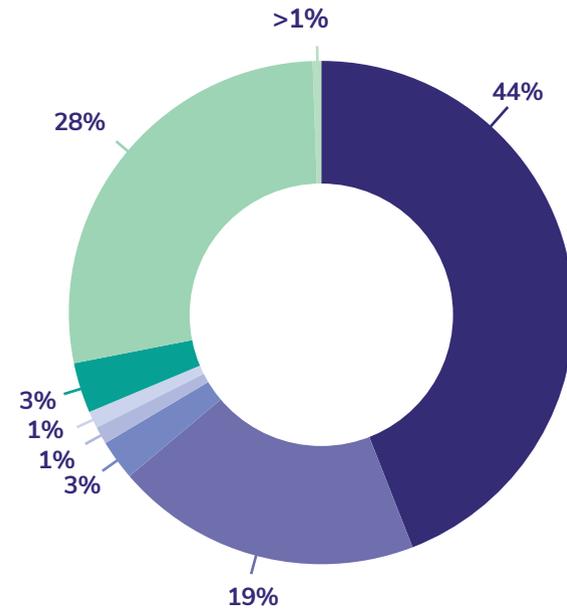
Lives Changed, Goals Achieved & Futures Transformed in 2024-2025



Financial Summary

Support & Revenue

● Individual Donations	\$2,178,863
● Private Donations	\$973,550
● In-Kind Donations	\$130,927
● Government Grants	\$50,000
● Corporate	\$60,702
● Local Organizations	\$158,319
● Investment Gain	\$1,387,607
● Realized & Unrealized Gain on Beneficial Interest	\$2,267
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$4,942,235



Expenses

● Programming	\$3,152,401
● Management & General	\$587,086
● Fundraising	\$377,978
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,117,465

● Programming | **77%** ● Management | **14%** ● Fundraising | **9%**



Mercy Learning Center has received a 4-Star rating for sound fiscal management, commitment to accountability, and transparency from Charity Navigator for the eleventh consecutive year. MLC also holds the Platinum Level rating from Candid.



Audited financial statements and IRS 990 Report are available at: www.mercylearningcenter.org

Ways to Give

When you support Mercy Learning Center, you are giving the gifts of Education and Empowerment.

Education is the key to a better future. Your support allows a woman to make immediate changes in her life and opens new possibilities for her future and the future of her family.



✉ Make a Monetary Donation

Use the enclosed envelope or scan the QR code to make a donation today to support women's education. Giving on a recurring basis ensures the sustainability of MLC while saving yourself time. Just set it and forget it!

🎁 Planned Giving

With planned giving, you are establishing a donation that will be given at a later time. By planning to support MLC in the future, you help ensure that we continue to educate and empower women and families. Planned giving can also provide financial benefits to you and your family now and in the future.

🥕 Stock our Pantry

Your gifts of food, diapers, hygiene supplies, and gifts cards support the women at MLC so that they can stay in school. Review our Wishlist on our website to see what items are most needed and consider donating or organizing a collection drive.



Our Wishlist

Donating supplies from our wishlist is an impactful way to support learning, stability, and everyday needs.

🏢 Employer Matching Programs

Enroll in your employer's charitable matching program and multiply the impact of every gift you make. Many employers also offer a pre-tax, automatic payroll deduction donation program. Inquire at work today!



Donate Today!

Your donation fuels critical programs that help women and families thrive. Let's keep the momentum going — together.

Our Donors

Reflects total gifts dated July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Visionaries

\$50,000 and up

Steven and Tammy Barry
Hayes B. and Clare S. Clark
Connecticut State Department of Education
Estate of Cathryn J. Cornell
Elizabeth M. Pfriem Foundation
Becky and Michael Goss
Michele Williams and Mark Loughridge
John and Patricia Nallen
Robert S. and Susan C. Payne
John and Stella Seo
Eric and Linda Speer
Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation
Synchrony
The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation
The John and Ethel Kashulon Foundation

Sharon A. Sanford and Scott Kauffman
John and Beth Kelly
M&T Charitable Foundation
NeighborShare, Inc.
New Canaan Community Foundation
Newman's Own Foundation, Inc.
John and Beth Peto
Lori and Paul Reszutek
Robert M. Schiffman Foundation
Elaine Appellof and Jerome Saunders
Stanley Family Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
The Dyson Foundation
The McPhee Foundation
United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut
J. Baxter and Alessandra Urist
Webster Bank
Brian and Elizabeth Wenzel
Donald J. Whinfrey and Virginia M. Whinfrey
Lorraine and Christopher Wilson

Educators

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Shereen Abdel-Meguid
ADP Total Source, Inc.
Anonymous
Eunice Bigelow
Wendy Anderson Brachfeld and Kenneth Brachfeld
Joseph and Colleen Brandon
Bridgeport Ladies Charitable Society
Patricia Kearney and Sandra Bromer
Bucks Creek Foundation
Carol Burton
Cynthia and Steven Carlson
Mary Beth Clayton
Jean and Neil Coleman
Crane Charitable Funds and Crane NXT
M. Patricia Davis
Hal Didner
Molly Alger and Jay Dirnberger
Ernest C. Trefz & Joan Trefz Foundation
Chris and Leslie Fabro
Franklin Philanthropic Foundation
Dennis and Diane Ganzak
Barbara Hilli
Michael and Nancy Ian
Diane and Rady Johnson
John and Elizabeth Kilgallon
Klein Family Foundation
Andrew J. Knuth
Peter and Debbie Krieg

Susan Lotty
Debra and Edward B. Mahony
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.
John and Denise McNicholas
Regina L. and John D. Mello
Nexus Dynamics Group
Allen and Lorraine Noveck
Andrew and Elaine Rankowitz
Lucy and Lawrence Ricciardi
Renee and Brian Sacco
Rebecca S. and Michael E. Shea
Manuel and Katherine Sousa
Southport Congregational Church
William and Bonnie Strittmatter
Faith Taylor and Theodore L. Sullivan
Superior Seafood
Lea and David Sylvestro
The Elizabeth Bond Davis Foundation
The Fairfield Women's Exchange
The Fred R. and Hazel W. Carstensen Memorial Foundation, Inc.
The Huntington Foundation
The Robert F. and Maureen T. O'Keefe Family Foundation
Debbie Tobin
Dana and Richard Walsh
Westport Rotary Club Foundation
Westport Sunrise Rotary Club
Karen Krupnik and Alexander Zaharoff

Ambassadors

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Randy Abrams
Ambler Family Giving Fund
Gary R. and Susan A. Anderson
Andrews Family Foundation
Anonymous
Ashley Aymonier
Steve Baker
Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Nir Bar Dea
James Woods and Janet Barillari
Barnum Foundation for Life, Inc.
Patrick and Gina Beranek
Charles and Casey Berg
Regina and Ted G. Bobroske
Thomas Bothur
Mary and John Butala
Timothy Butala
Nicole Caccamo
John E. and Sharyn M. Cannon
Tim and Krista Carroll
Jill and Joe Castro
Chevron Humankind
Clara Kim and Ernie Choi
Christ & Holy Trinity Church
Robert B. and Maureen A. Clark
Lindsay Clayton
Roseanna and Rooney Coleman
John F. and Karen S. Connolly
James and Christine Cook
Ellen and Frank Cutney
Geody Davatzes
Catherine and Elwood Davis
Helen M. and Francis R. Degnan
Johnna DeSantis
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation
Dianne & Brian DiStassio
Robert L. Petersen and Arlene Doherty
Robert and Carol Eck
Nicole and Jorge Eckardt
Chris and Shivanthi Edwards
Daniel and Sherry Egan
Deborah L. Beall and Donald Ehman
Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust
Elizabeth and Joseph Massoud Family Foundation
Michael and Jessie Elsas
Alex Smith and Chris Eriksen
Mary and Jeff Esser
Gail Federici
First Church Congregational
Marika and Scott Foley
Ann Sherwood and James Foreman
Kevin Foster
Elisabeth Fraas
Ed and Lisa Friedland
Louis Gagliano and Caren Calish Gagliano
Mary Eileen and John J. Galiette
Justin and Jen Gardner
Andrew and Julia Genser
Dennis Gibbons
Dina Gilbertie
Andrew S. Gleeman
Greenfield Hill Congregational Church
Leslie Gruss
Charles Haberstroh
James and Karen Harman
Hartford Healthcare
Suzanne and John Herlihy
Mary and Daniel Hoffman
Kenneth Ian
Anthony and Martha Ian
Idella Stuart Hempstead Trust
Nora and Alex Jinishian
Joanna Buchanan LLC
Helen Johnson
Sara LeTourneau and Michael L. Johnston
Joseph A. Patrick Foundation

John Kauer
Kenneth and Barbara Kleban
Gary Koos
Kim Taylor and Bruce Kueffner
Jerry and Dana Kuyper
Robert H. and Marianne Laska
Marta Jo Lawrence
Dan and MaryBeth Lawrence
Evan S. Lazer
Kristopher Dean Lazzaretti
Robert Levine
Estate of Benjamin B. Lewis
Liberation Programs, Inc.
Eileen Mulrenin and Greg Loss
Kimberly A. Macomber
Patricia Mariani
Matthew and AnnMarie Massie
Mastercard Impact Fund
Martha Constable and Bruce McQuirk
Mr. David and Dr. Elizabeth McKinnis
Ellen and Donald McNees
Michael and Barbara McPhee
Suzanne and David Mercado
Maura Mitchell
Jessica Morency
Craig and Pamela Moss
Peter and Dale Najarian
Tracey and Anil Narang
Theodor Rozsa and Lynn Nathanson
Dr. Maureen Fitzpatrick and Dr. Gerald Neipp
Thomas and Rebecca Newman
Newtown Savings Bank Foundation
Andrea and Jim Ondak
James P. and Melissa O'Shaughnessy
Mike and Trish Paliotta
Bill and Lory Pasqua
Anne Pollack
R.C. Bigelow, Inc.
Stephen Ramsey
Ruth Rolander
Rotary Club of New Canaan
Noah Safian
Cheryl Thompson and Jeff Sears
Charles Shaeffer
Julie and Steve Shapiro
Karen Ann Simmons
Catherine Smith
Susan and Paul Speer
St. Anthony of Padua Church
Starly Foundation
Barbara Stemmer
Tom Miller and Anita L. Stepanowski
Patricia and Richard Stone
Herbert Sue
George and Judith Tappert
Target
Susan Telesz
Kristen and Owen Tharrington
The Andrew and Barbara Bangser Charitable Foundation Inc.

The Connecticut Project
The Cyrus W. & Amy F. Jones & Bessie D. Phelps Foundation
The Delaney Memorial Foundation
The Fonteyne Family
The Helen Breznicky Testamentary Charitable Trust
The Unitarian Church in Westport
The Wallace Family Fund
Thomas Enders III and Elise Thoron
Trumbull Rotary Foundation, Inc.
Tzedakah House, LLC
Union Savings Bank Foundation, Inc.
Lauren and Christopher Urist
Dirk and Tove Vanderblue
Justin and Debra Venech
Shari Jones and Waqas Wajahat
Russell Sherman and Lisa Weitzman
Kathleen and Andy White
Scott and Christyn Whitney
Women's Fellowship of First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Yale New Haven Health
Ronni and Fredric Zinn

Supporters

up to \$999

Deborah Goodman and David Abbey
Sophie Acheson
Ceren Akinci
Cathy and Victor Alfandre
Kathleen Allsup
Sandy and Peter Altieri
American Fabrics Arts Building
American Association of University Women Bridgeport
Karen Anahory
Marie Anamasi
Deborah and Christopher Anderson
Arthur Lungo and Carol Anderson
Karina and Marc Andre
Joan Andros
Anonymous
Mary Ellen Antal
Marianne Antezzo
Kathy Atwell
Katie and Robert Augustyn
Megan Axtell
Jean Axtell
Patricia Babina
Mary Catherine and Paul R. Badeski
Bette Ann Bailey
Jason and Kristin Baisch
Sarah Baker
Pamela Ball
Richard Baril
Susan P. Barrett
Carol and Peter Barry
Laurie Bateson
Gina Battista
Richard N Bauer
Alice and Lawrence Beck

Caitlin and Alex Beed
Richard and Ellen Bernstein
Gina and Shane Berry
Elizabeth T. and Henry P. Bianco
James and Jill Bicks
Jeanne Hanrahan and Daniel Bivona
Lauren and Trudi Black
Susan and Peter Blank
Maxine Bleiweis
Sister Eileen Boffa
Marion Bonomo
Cathleen Borgman
Diana Bowes
Crystal Boyce
Michael J. and Priscilla Boyle
Norean Lennon-Bradley and Keith Bradley
Rachel I. Branch
Elaine D. Brandon
Marjorie E. and Gary A. Brandt
Christine Brehner
Aileen A. and Jeffrey A. Brill
Wendy and Spencer Brown
Erica Brown
Karol Brumit
Rachel and W. John Brunt
David and Marie-Claire Bue
Jennifer S. Bull
Danielle Buonaio
Alayne and Martin S. Burger
Patricia J Burns
Robert Edward Butkus Jr. and Nicole R. Butkus
Stephen Butler
Christopher Caltieri
Celia Campbell-Mohn
Mary Cannata
Sandra P. and Rocco J. Carbone
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Card
Lina and Joseph Cardozo
Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP
Suzanne Caron
Mary and Kevin Carroll
Bill and Erika Carter
Estate of Ron Caruso
Claudia Caryevschi
James Casey
Philip and Stacey Casparius
Linda R. Cassuto
Jillian Cavanaugh
Susan Cazary
Scott S. and Carlie Centrella
Nina Chanana
Paula F. Chapla
Bouchra Chemseddine
Jeanette and Michael Chen
Irina Chernova
Susan Chevalier
Robert and Katherine Chimini
Christine Chivily
Josh Clark
William and Sue Clark

Robert Spaulding and Tova Clayman
Kay and Gary Cohen
Carolyn and Gary Cohen
Nancy Cohn
Corinne Cole
Alison Conroy
Convent of the Sacred Heart
Emily A. and Catherine M. Coppola
Maria Corigliano
Jeff Cramer
Mary Crean
Cathy and Joe Cron
Rachel Cross
Joan S. Crossman
Amanda Crowell
Regan Cucinell
Wendy Cudmore
Stephen and Susan Cugliari
John and Francine Cullinane
Richard T. and Sally Cummings
Christine Cummings
James and Stacie Curran
Madeline Czeterko
Vincent and Nicolys D'Agostino
Kathleen A. Daly
Sharon Damico
Kathryn and Lance D'Amico
Laura Dankowski
Rose Marie and Anthony D'Aquila
Paula Davis Mulderrig
Virginia Day
Dorothy D. Adams and Josephus De Groot
Robert Decerbo
Pam and Mike Dedona
Nick and Lee DeMonico
Kinjal and Vinit Desai
Karen Broyles and Jennifer C. Desmarais
Kay DeWitt
Diana Sawicki Interior Design Inc.
Nicholas Didonato
Christina Disabato
Roseanne DiSanto
Ginger G. and James P. Donaher
Leslie and John Donahue
Courtney Donlan
Margaret Gibbons Donohue
Maryann and Kevin Donovan
Mary Dunlap
Deborah and Philip Dwyer
Frances E. Dwyer
Cindy Eadie
Lynn Eckert
Edgewell Personal Care Co.
Deborah Edwards
Dina Edwards
Kristin and Todd Ehrlich
Robert Epstein
Phylis M Esposito Fund
George J. Estabrooke
Michael Falso

Supporters (cont.)

up to \$999

Caroline Guerlain and Thomas Paul Fereleto
Eva Fernandez
Christal Ferrandino
Elizabeth Field
Rochelle Field
Doug and Tracy Fincher
David and Tracy Fiore
Valerie S. Fischel
Elizabeth Fisher
Mary Fissell
Karolyn V. Fleegal
Heidi and Robert Flicker
Sara S. Flokos
Sean and Nora Ford
Barbara Francisco
Leslie Frankel
Eileen FitzGerald and Henry Frey
Diane Fried
Michael and Lynn Gabriel
Mary Ellen and John Gallagher
Brien Galvin
Arthur and Ellen Gang
Gartner
Gail Kelly and Bruce Gaylord
Laurie and David Gendell
Lisa Gentile
Teresa A. and Eugene Gentile
Martin and Dru Georgiadis
William Gerber
Betty J. Gerner
Pamela Ghione
Linda Gibbons
Dawnmarie and Anthony Gili
Ingrid Gillespie
Frank and Marjorie Gillis
Amy and John Gillis
Andrew Giron
Carol and Hazen Goddard
Claire S. Gold
Lynn and Thomas Goldberg
Kristine Goldhawk
Angela C. Golias
Joseph and Mary Goodman
Judith A Gouveia
Deborah Graser
Margaret Gray
Mallory Gray
Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association Inc.
Kent Green
Mimi and Chuck Greenlee
Greens Farms Garden Club
Maria Grimshaw-Clark
Edward and Madeleine Grossman
Nori Grudin
Eva Grundy
Kerri A. Gruninger
Guardian
Al and Johan Hagaman

Susan and Richard Hagan
Johanne E. and Michael F. Hagan
Mary Halcott
John Halloran
Phil Schemel and C. Gibson Halloran
Mary Hammer
Patti Hanrahan-Murphy
Kristi Hardin
Mark and Virginia Harger
Mark and Elizabeth Harrington
Mary Harrison
Robert and Kim Haskins
Karen and Gregory W. Hawes
Marie Hayes
Doretta Heckmen
Beth and Scott Hensel
Lynn Hesnel
Robert J. and Joyce Hobbie
Henry A. Hofflich
Bethany Holland
Richard W. and Diane S. Holmes
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Alan and Shira Honigstein
Mike Hoover
Lisa and Ted Horowitz
Victoria and Michael Howard
Linda Hudson
Gregory and Lisa Huet
Edward Hulina
Humana
Brad and Lisa Hurley
James and Dana Ian
John and Elaine Iannarone
IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign
J.McLaughlin
Karen Jacobs
Francoise and Richard Jaffe
Helen Jankoski
Catherine Jenal
Alfred and Karen Jennings
Douglas O. and Anne Jensen
Ana Johnson
Nancy W. Jones
Mimi Kahan
Shahid Kanwal
Allyson Kapadia
Joanne Kaufman
Patricia Keane
Colleen Connor and Brian Kelahan
Paul J Kelly
Elizabeth Kennard
Maria Casale and John J. Kennedy
Mary Ellen and Dennis Keresev
Natalie and Christopher Kern
Michelle and Sabri Khessibi
Gay Kimball
Deborah T. Kinnebrew
Eileen and Allan Kleban
Albert and Alida Kleban
Jillian Kleban
Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.

Curtis Knox
Nancy Korcsmaros
Preston and Mary Jean Koster
William Kugeman
Carleen and Peter W. Kunkel
Ellen Green Kuroghlian
Jeana LaDelia
Nick and Rebecca Lai
Alice Lamberson
Cynthia Lamontagne
Thomas and Jean Larson
Kathy Lasota
Carol Lautenbach
Stephen and Karin Layton
Urban E. and Patricia H. Leimkuhler
Joseph Brian Lemay
Shannon Levi
Evan Levinson
Jon Levy
Barbara and Harold J. Levy
Michelle Lieberson
Marcia Lim
John and Susan Littlefield
Thomas and Brenda Lloyd
Deb Lloyd
Susan Lloyd-Scannell
Robert and Judith Lorette
Magdalena Loucks
Eleanor Lowenstein
Diane Lowman
Cynthia and Christopher Loynd
Sally Ludlow
David and Elaine Lynch
Lauren Lyons
Joan Makara
J. Eric and Inge H. E. Jonckheer Maki
Melissa Malagutti
Jennifer and Paul Maloney
Robert and Karen P. Maloney
Gloria C. and Ronald B. Manning
Carey Zimmermann and Joseph Manson IV
Denice Marrero
Angela R Marshall
Wendy Brandt-Martinenas and Vitas Martinenas
Gail M. Marton
Denise Mason
Mass Mutual
Jeanne Mathews
Shannon Mayer
Jo-Ann and William McCann
Charles and Lucy McCarthy
Kerrie McDevitt
Rita A. McDougald-Campbell
Carol Whitney and Ray McGee
Kevin and Kathleen McGovern
Kelly McGovern
Byron and Kara McKenna-Wong
Keenan McMahan
Maura McNeil
Felicity Medinger
Marilyn Lord and James Meisner

William Meloney
Diane Melish and Alexander McNab
Ellen Mello
Anthony and Sarah Menchaca
John Mennel
Morgan Mermagen
Kristin and Sean Merrill
Polly and Derrek Metz
MaryAnn Meyer
Jim Meyers
Mike and Marianne Miceli
Mollie Milano
Sharon and Brian Miles
Janie Miliotis
Patricia Miller
Richard and Betsy Miller
Eudis Mirsky
Marilyn and Matthew Mitchell
Monroe Women's Club, Inc.
Michael Moore
Antoinette and Matthew Moro
Elizabeth Morrison
Liz Mosher
Nancy Moskalski
Judith McGinnis Mudre
Paul and Maryann Muller
Kevin and Cathy Mulrenan
Henry Nachman Jr. and Amy P. Nachman
George and Penny Nagy
Alagiasundaram and Kala Namasivayam
Joy Nazzaro
Elana Nemitoff-Bresler
David and Cecile Newberg
Thomas and Isabelle Newbold
Celeste Cobb and Oliver North
Peg and Nelson North
Judith Northup-Bennett
Teresa Novicki
Kathie Oberst
Gary Oberst, Esq.
Richard Kovacs Jr. and Katelynn Obrien
Marion Hulton and Patricia Ochman
Tim and Susan J. O'Halloran
Susan and Ted Okon
Toni Oliveira
Jo-Ann Olsen
Kerry F. O'Mahony
Robert O'Neil
Denise Paradis
Susan Parillo
Steve and Diane Parrish
Deborah J. Parsons
Frances Pascale
Toniann Pasquale
Kristi Patterson
Anthony and Lynn Patti
Crystal Paushter
Theresa Pellegrino
Sue Pellowe
Joan Pendergast
Louise Perkins

Kathryn Pesavento
Joseph R. and Lillian Pesce
Leonard & Caroline C. Peterson
Bridgette Phidd-Somers
Marybeth Pirrie
Ann Marie and Edward Polito
Pomperaug Elementary School
Andrea and Peter Porrino
Arthur and Alexandra Potts
Elizabeth Manente-Power
Robyn D. Proto
Linda and David Pryde
Denise M. Puglia
Dave and Cathie Rabinove
Audrey B. Rabinowitz
Janett Ramirez
Daniel and Evelyn Rappaport
Ricki Reiner
Mary Reinhardt
Morton and Zelda Reinhart
Peter Reiss
Diana Remmell
Henry J. and Elynor Renk
Susann Gill Riley and Arthur Riley Jr.
Katherine Roberts
Asante Robinson
Celie G. Rosenau
Julie and Howard Rosenbaum
Rick & Marjorie Rosencrans
Susan Rothwell
Stanley Rottell
Lynne Rozsa
Jeffrey M. and Susan Rubin
Martha S. Lomonaco and Karl G. Ruling
Katherine Rust
Ryan Ryan Deluca LLP
Terence Sabol
Edward Sean Sabol
Connie Sadowski
Donna Saia Davis
Diane Salerno
Jennifer Sanchez
Jane T. Santa
Diane Santilli-Coleman
Kassandra Savicki
Mirta Sawicki
Maureen and Scott Sawyer
Thomas Schaffler
Johanna Schiller
Barbara Jean and Paul J. Schmidt
Paula and Ronald Schooler
Jon Schroeder
Barbara Schroeter
Karen and Bob Scott
Denise Scott
Shireen Scott
Susan Seath
Joseph and Barbara Sedensky
Crystal Paushter
Theresa Pellegrino
Sue Pellowe
Joan Pendergast
Louise Perkins

John Shaker
Deborah Shaw
David and Carol Shaw
Caroline Sherman
Kim Sherwood
Shpend Shyti
Steven K. Wendt and Michelle M. Sideleau
Martha R. Siderowf
Mayra Silva
Rita E. Skog
Laurence J. and Joanne Smith
Maureen Smith
Susan Smith
Jane Smith
Joanna Vincent and Gordon Smith
Keeley Snell
Bernadette Dunne Sobel
Audrey Solnit
Jonathan and Cleo Sonneborn
Kathleen Spaine
Christopher Speer
John Speer
Virginia A. Spencer
Melanie Spencer
Jane Stadler
Ken Staffey
Steve Stavrides
Brenda and Rod Steensma
Bengt and Catherine Stenbeck
John Stepanowski
Jill Stern
Connie Fitzgerald and Jay Stelman
Robert and Alison Stevens
R. Douglas and Ellen H. Stevens
Jean and Alec Stevens
Jonathan and Susan Stone
Stop and Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program
Stephen A. and Jeraldine A. Sulik
Dr. Dharini Sun
Robert and Anne Svensk
Paula B Sweeley
Paul and Eileen Sweeney
Peter Swift
Leonard M. and Ann P. Szczesny
Susan Tabachnick
Gary and Barbara Takavitz
Ann Tappert
Stephan and Gesa Taranko
Peter J. and Maureen Tarrant
David and Nhi Thal
The Allstate Foundation
The Joyce & Bernie Zimmerman Foundation
Barbara Thistle
Mike and Laura Thumel
Barbara Thumm
Joyce Tinkler
Lynne Todisco
Robert and Mary Trefry
Michele Trichter
Regina Trimble

Trumbull Democrats Committee
Trumbull Community Women
Jeanne Tummel
Milan and Margot Turk
Kimberly Ulmer
Diane H. and Robert G. Ulmer
Roger Van Voorhees
Kira Vanderwert
Peter vanEsselstyn
Mary Helen Veronesi
Dorothy Viets
Julie Vlosky
Alexia Vlosky
Kathryn Vogt
Harvey and Janet Wahnquist
Karen C. and Robert J. Waldvogel
Donald J. and Eleanor A. Walker
Sara and Bill Wallace
Michael Walpole
Kevin and Denise Walsh
Sheila Ward
Barclay and Joan Ward
Lindsay Wyman and Kevin Waters
Stephanie Weaver
Edward and Joan Weaving
Jennifer Webb
Charles and Mary Welch
Katherine R. Wellington
Joseph Scordato and Karen Wendell
Louis M. and Mary Ann Weverbergh
Fran White
Michael and Laura Wilhelm
Kelsey and Geoffrey Wilkes
Fiona Wilkes
Nancy Wilson
Katherine Wilson
Emily Wilson Burns
Shannon Wright
Debbie Wunder
Sylvia B. and Robert S. Yasner
Stephan and Janice Yost
Maggie Young
Lynn Young
Frank and Dale Beth Zaino
Susan Zaveruha
Stephen Zeldes
Paula Ziobro
Ann and Michael Zucker
Beth and Richard Zucker

In Kind

4Imprint
Allison and Tony Allott
Bina Amin
Anonymous
Alma Aurilio
Jocelyn Barandiaran
Steven and Tammy Barry
Deborah L. Beall and Donald Ehman
Erica Becker

Patrick and Gina Beranek
Gina and Shane Berry
Kari Bley
Sister Eileen Boffa
Bridgewater Associates
Brody Printing Company, Inc
Edwina Cardozo
Mary and Kevin Carroll
Linda R. Cassuto
Children's Community Development Center
Christ & Holy Trinity Church
Church of the Assumption
Cohen and Wolf
Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures
Congregation B'nai Israel
CooperSurgical
Costco
Rachel Cross
Margaret Cunningham
Lindsay Czarniak and Craig Melvin
Carol Demont
Margaret Gibbons Donohue
Mary Dunlap
Nicole and Jorge Eckardt
Elisa and Jack Esteves
Chris and Leslie Fabro
Fairfield Country Day School

“I found a school that made me happy. I started to learn another language, and I made new friends from different countries. This helped me a lot emotionally and made me feel comfortable in an unknown country. Mercy Learning Center, thank you all for helping make my dreams come true and the dreams of many women who want to grow academically in this country.”

- Wendy, 34, Guatemala

In Kind (cont.)

Theanne and Matthew Feldman
First Church Congregational
The Fonteyne Family
Food Rescue USA - Fairfield County
Susan N. Foushee
Holly Franquet
Michael and Lynn Gabriel
Ramsey and Suzanne Goodrich
Greater Bridgeport Retired
Teacher's Association
Green's Farms Garden Club
Greenfield Hill Congregational Church
Leslie Hammer
Janet Haringa
Karen and Gregory W. Hawes
Jennifer Hicks
Mary and Daniel Hoffman
Homes for the Brave
HRP Associates
Michael and Nancy Ian
Jewish Federation of Greater
Fairfield County
Sara LeTourneau and
Michael L. Johnston
Seohee Kong
Brian Saed and Alyse Kramarow
Marigrace Lalli
Beth L. Lazar
Emily Lehrman
Byron and Kara McKenna-Wong
Melissa & Doug
Suzanne and David Mercado
Millie Rae's
Lisa S. and Jeffrey Nable
National Charity League the
Ridgefield Chapter
National Charity League,
Inc. Westport Chapter
Thomas and Rebecca Newman
Fran Nicholas
Lauren and Krishna Nirmel
Jaclyn Noble
Northeast Community Cycles
Karen Orlík
Gwen Palmer
Denise and Adam Pearl
Penny Pearlman
Pequot Library
Phillips North America
Sharon Poole and Mike Bittenbender
Rehabilitation Associates
Ryan Ryan Deluca LLP
Kristine Sabat
Sacred Heart University
Diane Salerno
Paula and Ronald Schooler
John and Stella Seo
Julie and Steve Shapiro
Lisa and Marty Shapiro
Heather Smith

Sound Coffee
Southport Congregational Church
Ellen and Rick Spear
Eric and Linda Speer
St. Joseph High School
St. Pius X Church
St. Rose of Lima
St. Theresa Parish
Staples Service League of Boys
Gaeton and Geraldine Stella
Anita Stepanowski and Tom Miller
Stew Leonard's
Patricia and Richard Stone
Patricia Strain
Sweet Green
Lea and David Sylvestro
Synchrony
Daniela Taborda
Target
Tej Foundation
Susan Telesz
Temple Israel
The Academy of our Lady of Mercy,
Lauralton Hall
The Community at Hollander House
The Post
The Unquowa School
The Westport Library
The Y's Women
Debbie Tobin
Lynne Todisco
Trumbull Community Women
Trumbull Democrats Committee
Trumbull High School French Club
Tzedakah House, LLC
Mike and Anne Van Es
Laurie Watson
James and Julie Whamond
Kathleen and Andy White
Scott and Christyn Whitney
Karin Young



“My life before MLC and the NEDP was characterized by limited opportunities and a sense of stagnation. Attending Mercy Learning Center and working through the NEDP program was a transformative experience. The supportive environment and dedicated assessors helped me rediscover my potential. I learned new skills that not only prepared me academically but also increased my confidence in other areas of life. Earning my diploma was more than just a personal achievement; it symbolized a fresh start and a new chapter.”

- Oneica, 25, Jamaica



Mercy
Learning
Center

Board of Directors

Tammy Barry, **Chair**

Beth Peto, **Treasurer**

Sara Connolly

Regan Cucinell

Christopher Edwards

Barbara Kleban

Stella Seo, **Vice Chair**

Allison Allott, **Secretary**

Sara LeTourneau

Marcia Lim

Denise Scott

Brian J. Wenzel, Sr.

Leadership Team

Lindsay Wyman, **President & CEO**

Jeanette Lizondro, **Director of Operations**

Maria Moreno, **Director of Early Childhood Education**

Kiko Teed, **Director of Adult Education**

Fiona Wilkes, **Director of Development**



Mercy
Learning
Center

637 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 334-6699 | info@mercylearningcenter.org
www.mercylearningcenter.org



Thank you to Brody Printing for their generosity.