



# Reaching New Heights

2022 Annual Report



**Strengthening  
Families Since 1987**

Serving Eastern  
Connecticut

# Greetings Friends and Supporters of Madonna Place



Claire Silva  
Executive Director



Michael L. Anderson  
Board President

## **2021-2022 has been a year for moving forward and “reaching new heights.”**

Like our community, our agency has worked hard to raise itself up from the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, but the health, mental health, and societal effects on parents and children have been longer-lasting.

**Madonna Place** has spent the past year reaching out to existing clients as well as new individuals and families with services and resources they have needed to move forward. Not only did we maintain our three main agency programs, but we added new components and programs to help meet families where they are now due to the realities of COVID and the many risk factors they face. We could not be prouder of the staff and volunteers at Madonna Place for all they have achieved.

A new outreach effort has been added to our **Great Beginnings** program through a grant from the Office of Minority Health and the Eastern Health Collaborative. These funds have allowed Madonna Place to improve maternal health and access to prenatal care, as well as reduce health disparities for underserved minority mothers in Eastern CT. Another new outreach effort was made possible through CDC funding which allowed Madonna Place to offer COVID Immunization Clinics (by partnering with Uncas Health District), and educational information in several languages regarding the safety of COVID

Immunizations to our community. The impacts of this have been evident with our **Family Support Center** and Bilingual Community Health Worker increasing access and decreasing health inequities for previously underserved, isolated, and vulnerable members of our community who have limited English proficiency.

Our partnership with the Eastern CT Alliance for Family Support has decreased duplication, provided choice of providers, and increased access to serve new and expectant parents regionally with free home visiting services to help improve birth outcomes, maternal health, early childhood development, parent-child bonding, and overall parenting skills. Ongoing partners for the initiative with Madonna Place's Great Beginnings Program include the lead agency TVCCA, the VNA of Southeastern CT, Backus Hospital, Day Kimball, Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, and other collaborating medical offices.

**82.5 cents of  
each dollar  
received goes  
directly to  
supporting  
children and  
their families**

Our newest program, **COPE (Community Outreach Plus Education)**, is dedicated to assessing individuals and families for mental and behavioral health needs, substance abuse prevention, domestic violence prevention, and providing case management, referrals, and other resources. A new grant from DMHAS has strengthened our **Fatherhood program** to assess fathers' needs and connect them to internal and external programs and services that provide mental health and substance abuse prevention supports for fathers.

**These additional outreach efforts have helped to strengthen families, promote health, and prevent child abuse and neglect.** From 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022, Madonna Place served 1535 unduplicated individuals (691 parents and 844 children) and has excellent program outcomes to share. Our positive results would not have been possible without the generosity of many foundations and contributors, the tremendous response from individuals and businesses in the community, our self-less volunteers, and the leadership and support of our Board of Directors.



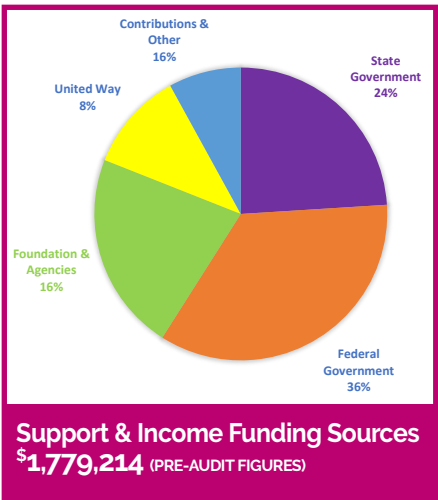
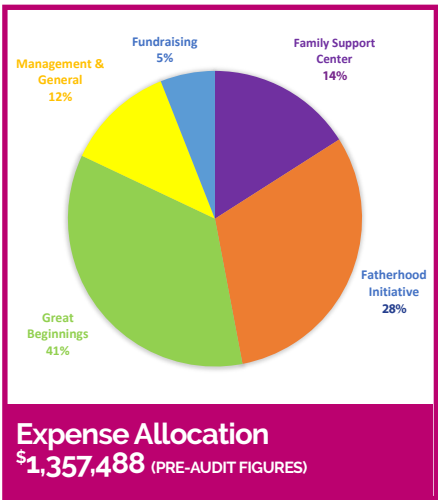
We would like to thank the dedicated staff of Madonna Place who have done an amazing job during the past year of stabilizing and supporting families, expanding programming and services, and meeting the needs of the community.

With Hope,

Claire Silva  
Executive Director

Michael L. Anderson  
Board President

## 35 years of strengthening families



## Great Beginnings:

**158** parents and children served

**100%** of children are currently up-to-date with immunizations and well-child care

**546** home visits conducted

**100%** of families had no new substantiated child abuse or neglect while enrolled

**100%** of mothers received prenatal care and delivered healthy babies



## Great Beginnings

**Great Beginnings (GB)** uses Parents as Teachers, an evidence-based parent education and support home visiting model. Following the Healthy Families model, Great Beginnings provides pregnant women and their families with information, support, skills, and encouragement to help reduce the risk of poor birth outcomes and provide infant care that supports optimal child development during the crucial early years of life. There is a focus on preventing health disparities and increasing access to services for underrepresented populations. Weekly home visits are conducted and learning materials, books, food, diapers and other support resources are made available to empower families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

## Fatherhood Initiative

The purpose of the **Fatherhood Initiative** program (**FHI**) is to increase positive involvement and interaction between fathers and their children. We work with fathers to help them improve their ability to meet their parental responsibilities of providing social, emotional, medical, educational and financial assistance to their children. A program expansion in full collaboration with DCF helps any fathers involved in the courts and DCF to increase positive outcomes through the support of our Fatherhood Engagement Specialists. Madonna Place has the only Certified Fatherhood Program east of the Connecticut River.

### Fatherhood Initiative:

**351** fathers and children served

**60%** of fathers increased involvement with their child(ren)

**86%** of fathers are highly satisfied with the results of their experience in the Fatherhood Program



# 1535

unduplicated  
parents & children  
were served by  
Madonna Place  
last year



## Family Support Center

The **Family Support Center (FSC)** provides family friendly, “one-stop” comprehensive services for at-risk families. This unique program helps families to increase their parenting skills, receive emotional support and mentoring, obtain basic and emergency needs items (such as diapers, formula, school supplies, toiletries, books and educational toys), and improve access to information and resources to make-ends-meet. The Family Support Center also provides food distributions, an “open kitchen” for families to enjoy free meals together, developmental screenings for children, English as a Second Language classes for adults, playgroups, and numerous educational and enrichment programs for families. Our children’s programming is run year-round and includes a weekly story time, playgroups and an academic Summer Connections Program for children.



## Community Outreach Plus Education (COPE)

The new **Community Outreach Plus Education (COPE)** program began in late spring 2022, and will report its first full outcomes in our 2022-23 Annual Report. This program provides community outreach, and case management support services for current and new clients. Our drop-in services include assessment, case management, and referrals for mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse disorders, educational programs, basic needs and other supports. Care is provided with a trauma-informed focus on mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse and/or domestic violence issues. COPE provides a proactive approach of early intervention that helps prevent crisis situations from escalating.

### Family Support Center:

**1158** parents and children served

**16440** meals or snacks provided

**582** families received emergency  
diapers or formula

**98** parents completed a  
parenting class

**52** parents and children received  
vaccinations on-site for COVID  
through Uncas Health clinics



# Reaching New Heights

**F**or the past 35 years, Madonna Place has been a light in the darkness for many families in Eastern CT. We are always adding and adapting programs based on the needs of clients and the communities served. Our mission to provide programs that strengthen families, support health, and prevent child abuse and neglect has been critical. In the past year we have accomplished many things, despite the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Needs assessment has driven the direction of our work, including:

- **Family Support Center** continued to provide daily basic needs supplies, resources, and support that parents needed to help

their families thrive. This included the addition of a Bilingual Community Health Worker who provided outreach to at-risk, and underserved populations.

**“Through support from various community resources and partners, we have increased access for underserved populations and found ways to safely and effectively meet the needs of our most vulnerable families and children in the community.”**

— Claire Silva, Executive Director

- **Great Beginnings** expanded home visiting through the entire Eastern CT region by participat-



# nts at Madonna Place

ing in the new Alliance for Family Support. This partnership is led by our collaborative partner TVCCA, includes all hospitals and home visiting programs in Eastern CT, and ensures the best care possible to serve all expectant and new parents without duplication.

• **Fatherhood Initiative** added a prevention component to support fathers who may be struggling with substance abuse or mental health disorders and connects them with regional local and state-wide supports. Though there are other Fatherhood Initiative programs in the state, Madonna Place has the only state certified Fatherhood Program east of the Connecticut River.

• **Community Outreach Plus Education (COPE)** started. COPE is our newest program which provides community outreach, assessment, case management, resources, and referrals for mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse and domestic violence prevention. This new emergency outreach program is unique in Eastern CT in its holistic and preventative approach to serving the most vulnerable, and hard to reach populations.

**With the help of the program staff, funders, and collaborative partners, Madonna Place is reaching new heights in the community!** We look forward to continuing and expanding upon this success in the years to come.

# Thank You to our Contributors

July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

## SUSTAINING PARTNERS

**\$100,000 and up**

Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

State of Connecticut

United Way of Southeastern Connecticut

## PATRONS

**\$10,000 – \$99,999**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Charles B. Allyn Foundation

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Connecticut Department of Social Services

Office of Minority Health

Salmon Foundation

The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation

The Hillery Company

## SPONSORS

**\$2,500 – \$9,999**

Backus Hospital, Hartford Health Care

Berkshire Bank Foundation

Centreville Savings Bank Charitable Foundation

Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation

Chelsea Groton Bank

Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation

City of Norwich Community Development Block Grant

Dime Bank Foundation

Jean Dixon

Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

Eastern CT Health Collaborative-UW-Office of Health Strategy

Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank

Foxwoods Resort Casino and Foxwoods Tribal Nation

Carol and P. Michael Lahan Liberty Bank Foundation

George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation

Mathieu Family Fund of the Seattle Foundation

Nordson Corporation Foundation

Norwich Roman Catholic Diocese

Peoples United Community Foundation

Ray & Pauline Sullivan Foundation

R.S. Gernon Trust

The Brownington Foundation

The Elsie A. Brown Fund

Town Fair Tire Foundation

Verizon Foundation

## FRIENDS

**\$500 – \$2,499**

AHEPA

Altrusa International Northeastern Connecticut Foundation

American Landscape and Lawn Science

Anderson Trial Lawyers

Anonymous

Kimberlee Beagle

Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation

Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation

Joan Butler

Centreville Savings Bank

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Children's Dental Associates of New London County

Colchester Federated Church

Susan Corrice

Robbin A. Desrochers

Dime Bank

Diversified Group Services

Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors

Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank

Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank Foundation

Edwin R. Muenzner, CPA

Sandra and Ronald Eichelberg

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Eileen Engel

Fifth Generation, Inc. Love, Tito's

Lisa Griffin

Lisa and Jason Guyot

Jacqueline Hoyt

IM Technology

Lawrence and Memorial Hospital

Lifelong Learning Corporation

Lord Family Partnership

Susan Macione

Mohegan Sun

Mutual of America



Mystic Congregational  
 Church Women's Fellowship  
 Mystic Congregational  
 Church Mission Committee  
 Mystic Woman's Club  
 New London Kiwanis Club  
 Norwich Public Utilities  
 Norwich Rotary Club  
 Foundation  
 Order of Malta American  
 Association of Eastern CT  
 Pfizer Foundation  
 Rotary Club of Mystic  
 Charitable Fund  
 Rotary Club of Niantic  
 Charles and Susan Seeman  
 Andrew Senuta  
 Southeastern Council  
 on Alcoholism and Drug  
 Dependence  
 United Way of  
 Massachusetts Bay and  
 Merrimack Valley  
 United Way of Middlesex  
 County  
 Dave and Lauren Waldo  
 Walmart Store #2200  
 Jeanne Wezner

## **CONTRIBUTORS** **\$100 – \$499**

Ginny Aldajani  
 Muhammad and Brenda  
 Alrijleh  
 Donald and Ada Amaro  
 Tina M. Anderson  
 Anonymous  
 David & Donna Armstrong  
 Elizabeth Aube  
 Joseph and Kate Beauparlant  
 Jacqueline Beckwith  
 Alan and Judith Bennett  
 Bill Bennett  
 Big Y  
 Robert Bisbee Sr.

Wayne A. Boettner  
 Boluch Living Trust  
 Nancy Bordick-Cika  
 William and Patricia  
 Bradbury  
 Bright Funds  
 Vicki Bryan  
 David and Nancy Burnett  
 Bob and Deb Burnside  
 Christine Buscetto  
 Law Offices of Kenneth  
 Caisse  
 Paula Calandrelli  
 Barbra and Dennis Cambria  
 Castle Church  
 Colleen Cauchon  
 Dorothy Chappell  
 Charities Aid Foundation  
 America  
 Chinigo, Leone & Mazuro, LLP  
 John A. Chunis  
 Citizens Charitable  
 Foundation Match  
 Suzanne M. Colaluca  
 Community Therapeutix  
 Sharon-Lee Cook  
 Renee Cooper  
 COSTCO Wholesale Club  
 James and Michele Cronin  
 Gerald Daigle  
 Sara Dambach  
 Joan Damon  
 Julie Davis  
 Robert and Ellen Davis  
 Jayne DeConti  
 Caroline Didomenico  
 Michael and Mary Driscoll  
 James Dyer  
 Barbara Dixon and Donald  
 McKay  
 Chris Elomaa  
 Lori Filiberto

First Baptist Church of  
 Norwich CT  
 Kimberly Fischburg  
 Mary and Thomas Fitzgerald  
 Judith Foley  
 Christopher and Elizabeth  
 Friday  
 Eric Friedman  
 Terry and Steve Friedman  
 Meredith Gentes  
 Nancy and Robert Gentes  
 Debra Gish  
 David Goldstein  
 Michael Gouthro  
 Andrew and Nancy Grant  
 John and Susan Graves  
 William and Patricia Gulley  
 K. and J. Hamer  
 Catherine Hesse-Bader  
 Mae Hills  
 Teri Hochdorfer  
 Pat and John James  
 Lori King  
 Vincent and Christine  
 Kluczewski  
 Jacqueline Kremer  
 Kathleen Laurie  
 Tony Lupinacci  
 Darlene Machnik  
 Ellen Maloney  
 Carla Mamolo  
 Paul and Jessica Mancarella  
 John Mancini  
 Clarence and Judith Merrill  
 MJ Sullivan Auto  
 Kevin Moore  
 Frederick D. Neff  
 Rochelle and Leland Noel-  
 Gray  
 Norwich Ace True Value  
 Hardware  
 Norwich Firefighters Local 892  
 Damien Oliveria

Shawn Pelletier  
 Amy Petrone  
 Barbara and William  
 Piendiadz  
 Nancy Podurgiel  
 Preston City Congergational  
 Church  
 Kenneth Przybysz  
 Marsha Quinn  
 Henry and Sarah Rianhard  
 Michael and Lisa Ritz  
 Dominique Roe-Sepowitz  
 Michelle Roise  
 Rose City Financial Services  
 Sacred Heart School Mission  
 Club  
 Bryan and Robin Sanchi  
 SAVA Insurance Group  
 Bart. A. Sayet, Attorneys at Law  
 Joan Shea  
 Sandra and James Sinkowski  
 Joan Spivak  
 John and Rebecca Starrett  
 Kathleen Stelik  
 Michelle Stolaronek  
 Stonington Middle Shool  
 Employees  
 Stop & Shop Community  
 Programs  
 Margaret Sumner  
 Neurie Testagrossa  
 The Drunkin Palette  
 James Todd  
 Kathryn Tracey  
 Pat and Mac Turner  
 Aimee Wickless  
 Lisa Wilson  
 Therese and James Wilson  
 Wendell Windisch  
 Angie Wisniewski

## **SUPPORTERS** **\$50 – \$99**

Richard Abate

Anonymous  
 Linda Allegro  
 Denise Anderson  
 Beth Augustyniak  
 Stacey Balskus  
 Michael and Nancy Barry  
 Patricia Berthiaume  
 Claire and Natalie Billing  
 Janine Botsko  
 Alexandra Bowman  
 Hull Bradbury  
 Marcia Brennan  
 Maryellen Brousseau  
 Pamela Byrnes  
 Cotter Careers  
 Elizabeth Castaldi  
 Eunice Chan  
 Sara Chapman  
 Salvatore Cherenzia  
 Robert and Mary Cikatz  
 Leilani Coelho  
 MaryAnn Coleda  
 Denise Cormier  
 Sara Dambach  
 Robert and Ellen Davis  
 Michelle Dempsey  
 Caroline Didomenico  
 Dominion Charitable Match  
 Angela Doran  
 Harry Doscher  
 Drs. David and Claire  
 Dundorf  
 Barry Feldman  
 Russell Fenner IV  
 Deborah Fernandes  
 Jo-el Fernandez  
 Mary Ferreira  
 Dolores Galen-Kloepfel  
 Jeanne Gemma  
 Mike and Rosa Goldblatt  
 Joseph Greco  
 Nancy Guerin

Norman Herbert  
 Cecelia Hinchey  
 Gerald and Margaret  
 Holmberg  
 Eric Irwin  
 Alexis Kahn  
 Eric and Barbara N. Kanter  
 Lori Kiely  
 Dawn King  
 Gregory Kosma  
 Charles and Gail Lemay  
 Joy Lenares  
 Karen Leslie  
 Camie Lozier  
 Deborah Lychack  
 Melanie Macierowski  
 Carla Mamolo  
 Laurence McHugh  
 Jennifer Mcswain  
 William Michael Jr  
 Melanie Miller  
 Nadene Mills  
 Sheila Milton  
 Janet Minella-Didier  
 Eunice Moore  
 Christina Morgan  
 Sandra and Ronald Nixon  
 Karen Orvis  
 Tom O'Toole  
 Priscilla Provencher  
 Sharon Scarpa  
 Geraldine and Lawrence  
 Shusta  
 Stephen Spiegel  
 Spirit of Dance Performance  
 Arts – Doreen's Dance Center  
 Amanda Starbala  
 Larry Sutherland  
 Kathryn and Henry Talbot  
 Anne M. Tarryk  
 Alexandria Teachworth  
 Mercedes Teachworth

## The Branded Ones

Mary Turano

Allison Valentine

Robert and Rita Volkmann

Greg Whipple

George Wilkinson

Mark Wilson

Gary and Romer Young

Ryan Ziolkowski

## In Honor Of:

Paul Abate

Iris Brassard

Robbin Desrochers

Nancy Gentès

Michael Hills for Christmas

Madonna Place Staff

Jason and Sarah Merced

Jennifer Nicholson, 20th  
Work Anniversary

Erin Staab

The Fatherhood Initiative

Wayne Vojick

Dr. Elizabeth Volkmann

## In Memory Of:

Claire Baldinelli

Lulubelle Beagle

Patty Clausen

Antoinette Couture

Cindy Hellman

Jeffrey Miller

Patricia Orce

Terry Ruffo

Will Silva

June and Joseph Sinkowski

The Mothers of Vincent and  
Christina Kluczewski

Helen Todd and Peggy  
Corrice

Helen Todd

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Michael L. Anderson

### VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Griffin

### SECRETARY

Paul Mancarella

### TREASURER

Chrissy Caplet

Kimberlee Beagle

Suzanne Colaluca

Dale Merrill

Kathryn Tracey

## STAFF DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Claire Silva

### DIRECTOR of FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

Naomi Weinblad

Barbara Moscato

### CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Wendy Yagarich, MA

### FUND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Susan Corrice, MS

### DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Lori King

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pamela Kuba

### FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER PROGRAM MANAGER

Catherine Mikolajczak

### ASSOCIATE MANAGER/ CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR

Sonia DeAndrade

## BILINGUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

Adriana Peralta-Jiménez, CHW

## FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAM MANAGER

Jason Malcolm, M.Ed.

## CASE MANAGERS/ GROUP FACILITATORS

Bryan Geyer

Joseph Ortiz, Jr.

Jean Paul Valenzuela

Randolph Flythe, Jr.

Ismael Carrasquillo-DeLeon  
William Marquez

## GREAT BEGINNINGS PROGRAM MANAGER

Wendy Yagarich, MA

## FAMILY SUPPORT PROVIDERS

MaryAnn Coleda

Sammy Colon

Rosa M. Hernández Veléz

Myra King

Marsha Quinn

Robin Vilchez, CHW

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLUS EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER

Claire Silva

## CASE MANAGERS AND OUTREACH SUPPORT PROVIDERS

William Marquez

All contributions \$50 and above are included. Thank you to all Madonna Place Board Members, staff, and community members for their in-kind donations in 2021-2022 benefiting our clients, programs, and events. We apologize for any errors or omissions.



## Our Mission

Madonna Place provides services which strengthen families, promote health, and prevent child abuse and neglect. We offer four programs that help parents to build strong support systems in their lives.



### **Madonna Place, Inc.**

240 Main Street  
Norwich, CT 06360

Phone **(860) 886-6600**

Fax **(860) 892-5411**

[contact@madonnaplace.org](mailto:contact@madonnaplace.org)

[www.madonnaplace.org](http://www.madonnaplace.org)

