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.
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.

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.

_Greetings
dFriends and
Supporters of
Madonna Place_

Claire Silva
Executive Director

Michael L. Anderson
Board President

**35 years of strengthening families**

_82.5 cents of each dollar received goes directly to supporting children and their families_

**Expense Allocation**
$1,357,488 (PRE-AUDIT FIGURES)

**Support & Income Funding Sources**
$1,779,214 (PRE-AUDIT FIGURES)
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With Hope,

Claire Silva
Executive Director

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---

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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.

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.

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

1535 unduplicated parents & children were served by Madonna Place last year

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

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
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- **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.

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

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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.
Reaching New Heights at Madonna Place

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