

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



JULY 2025

BRIDGEPORT & NEW HAVEN 160 YEARS OF PROGRESS

"NO ONE IS USELESS IN THIS WORLD WHO LIGHTENS THE BURDEN OF IT FOR ANYONE ELSE." – CHARLES DICKENS

Since 1884, the YMCA has stood as a cornerstone of support, service, and opportunity in the City of Bridgeport, and since 1859, we have proudly served the City of New Haven, strengthening children, families, and neighborhoods for **over 160 years**. In 1992, we deepened our commitment in Bridgeport with the launch of Alpha Community Services YMCA, expanding our reach to support families experiencing homelessness.

The Y remains deeply committed to the people of Bridgeport and New Haven—two vibrant cities with tremendous strength, resilience, and opportunity.

Yet, both communities face significant challenges:

- In Bridgeport, **over 22% of residents** live below the poverty line.
- In New Haven, nearly **25% of residents** experience poverty, including **over 30% of children** under age 18.
- Many families face barriers to affordable childcare, safe housing, academic support, and healthy living resources.

In response, the Y serves as a vital safety net and community anchor. Each year, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA supports **more than 3,500 children** and youth in Bridgeport and New Haven, providing:

- High-quality early childhood education to prepare children for kindergarten and lifelong learning.
- School-age enrichment and academic support, helping kids succeed beyond the classroom.
- Youth development and leadership programs, creating pathways to brighter futures.
- Affordable housing and supportive services for **more than 400 individuals and families** experiencing homelessness annually through Alpha Community Services YMCA.
- Health and wellness programs designed to address chronic disease, mental well-being, and community connection.

The Y is a partner in addressing the most pressing needs of both Bridgeport and New Haven. Our mission—to strengthen the foundations of community—is lived out daily in every neighborhood we serve.

But this vital work cannot continue without the support of people like you. **Together, we can ensure that every child, every family, and every individual in Bridgeport and New Haven has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.**

We invite you to join us in this important work—whether through volunteering, advocating, or making a contribution to support our programs and services. Your partnership makes a meaningful difference.

Thank you for being a champion of community.

–Tim Bartlett,
CCC YMCA President & CEO



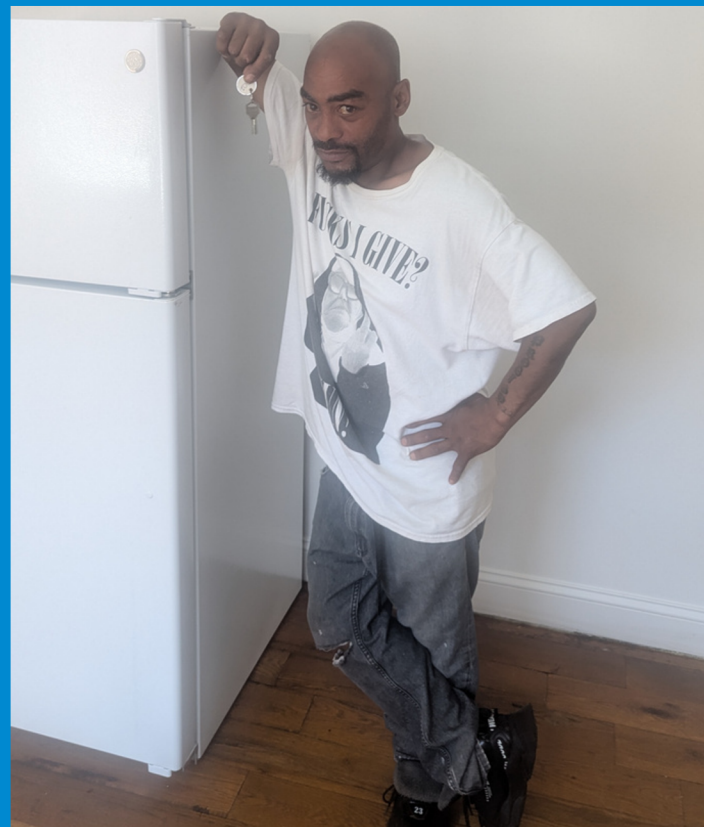
BEYOND SHELTER HOW ALPHA COMMUNITY SERVICES YMCA SUPPORTS GROWTH, STABILITY & HOPE

While summer brings sunshine and campfire stories, the Y's commitment to helping individuals thrive extends far beyond the season—and beyond the classroom. This past winter, Alpha Community Services YMCA **provided life-changing support to 164 individuals** experiencing homelessness through the SECC Warming Center in Bridgeport. More than just a place to stay warm, the center offered hot meals, showers, clean clothing, and hygiene supplies—**restoring dignity and stability during times of crisis**.

But the impact didn't stop at meeting basic needs. Guests also received access to vital social services, including housing referrals, healthcare, mental health support, and employment assistance. These wraparound services are a powerful example of how the **Y supports individuals** on their journey toward independence and self-sufficiency.

The South End Community Center (SECC) also serves as Bridgeport's HUB for those facing or at risk of homelessness. Through the Coordinated Access Network (CAN), trained Navigators meet with individuals and families to explore safe housing alternatives, mediate with landlords, and connect them to transportation, vital documents, and community resources. It's a first step toward long-term stability—and **a testament to the Y's role in supporting youth and families beyond traditional programming**.

At Alpha Community Services YMCA, every person is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of background or beliefs. Whether it's through a warm meal, a mentoring moment, or a path to permanent housing, the Y is helping people learn, grow, and thrive—**one life at a time**.



SUMMER AT THE BRIDGEPORT Y WHERE LEARNING, LEADERSHIP & LIFELONG MEMORIES BEGIN

This summer, the Bridgeport Y and Ralphola Taylor Community Center are buzzing with energy, laughter, and purpose as 110 youth dive into a season of discovery, growth, and connection. Whether they're exploring new ideas, building friendships, or learning to swim, every moment is designed to help them thrive beyond the classroom.

Learning That Lasts All Year

To keep young minds active, campers participate in weekly visits to the local library, where they engage in fun, literacy-rich activities that support reading skills and spark imagination. These experiences are part of our commitment to summer learning and academic support—ensuring that every child returns to school confident and prepared.

Confidence in Every Stroke

All campers take part in the Y's Learn to Swim program, gaining essential water safety skills while building confidence and resilience. For many, it's their first time in the water—and a powerful reminder that growth often begins with a single brave step.

Hands-On Environmental Leadership

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with NAMEPA (North American Marine Environment Protection Association), campers are learning about ocean conservation through immersive, hands-on activities. This year's theme, "Change One Habit, Change the World," encourages kids to adopt simple, sustainable habits—like using reusable water bottles—that make a real difference for our planet.

Empowering Girls Through Leadership

New this year, the Girl Scouts of Connecticut have joined us as our 2024 Adult Volunteer partner, offering a girl-led leadership series that helps campers build confidence, form healthy relationships, and take action in their communities. Through skill-building and self-discovery, girls are learning what it means to lead with courage and compassion.

A Community That Lifts Every Child

Behind every campfire story and swim lesson is a community that believes in access for all. As of June 30, the Bridgeport Y has provided over \$630,000 in financial assistance, ensuring that every child—regardless of background—can experience the joy and growth of summer camp.

And we're celebrating a major milestone:

72 preschoolers are graduating this year, ready to take their next big step with confidence, curiosity, and a strong foundation built at the Y.





YMCA CITY OF BRIDGEPORT IMPACT REPORT

2024

FOOD SERVICES

119,455
MEALS



+99,119
INDIVIDUALS SERVED

SEASONAL & EMERGENCY SUPPORT

163
INDIVIDUALS
SERVED AT THE
COOLING &
WARMING
CENTER

75
PEOPLE
AVERAGE
NIGHTLY
ATTENDANCE



HOUSING



46
HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED
AT THE BROOKS STREET
SHELTER
28
TRANSITIONED TO
PERMANENT HOUSING

1,617
CAN APPOINTMENTS
FACILITATED BY CASE
MANAGERS

26
HOUSEHOLDS
MOVED FROM PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)
INTO INDEPENDENT
COMMUNITY HOUSING

70
NEW INDIVIDUALS
WELCOMED INTO PSH
PROPERTIES

120
FAMILIES ASSISTED
THROUGH OUR NEW FAMILY
STABILITY PROGRAM

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS



389
CAMPER WEEKS PROVIDED IN
BRIDGEPORT

150
YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN
SUMMER PROGRAMS ACROSS
BRIDGEPORT

72
PRESCHOOLERS GRADUATED
THIS YEAR

328
CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH
CHILDCARE PROGRAMS

838
PARTICIPANTS AGED 12 AND
UNDER ENGAGED IN YOUTH
PROGRAMS

320
CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN
SAFETY AROUND WATER
PROGRAMS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



\$630,584+
IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
PROVIDED BY THE
BRIDGEPORT Y AS OF
JUNE 30, 2025

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1,000
YOUTH SERVED THROUGH AFTERSCHOOL
PROGRAMMING



NUMBERS IN THIS
REPORT PROVIDED
BY:

- ALPHA
COMMUNITY
SERVICES YMCA
- RALPHOLA
TAYLOR
COMMUNITY
CENTER
- KOLBE
EDUCATION
CENTER
- BRIDGEPORT
YMCA

GROWING TOGETHER HOW THE NEW HAVEN YMCA YOUTH CENTER BUILDS BRIGHTER FUTURES

At the New Haven YMCA Youth Center, growth doesn't take a summer break. From toddlers to young adults, our programs are designed to nurture the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—while strengthening the families and communities around them. With programming for youth ages 1 to 21, we're proud to be a year-round hub for learning, leadership, and lifelong impact.

Partnerships That Power Possibility

We believe that strong communities are built through collaboration. That's why we've cultivated a network of dedicated partners who help us expand our reach and deepen our impact:

- **Girl Scouts of Connecticut** – Over a decade of empowering girls through leadership and service.
- **New Haven Tutoring Initiative & New Haven Reads** – Focused on closing the achievement gap through literacy, fluency, and a love of reading.
- **Miss Terry's Weekly Art Program** – Now in its third year, sparking creativity and self-expression.
- **Birth to Three** – Supporting children with diverse developmental needs.
- **Integrated Wellness Group** – Helping children and families grow emotionally and socially.
- **SNAP Education Program** – Monthly workshops that teach families how to prepare healthy, affordable meals.
- **Dwight Community Fridge Group** – Alongside Haven's Harvest, Women of the Village, and Yale's Community Farm, this team keeps our community fridge stocked with fresh produce and essentials.
- **Gateway Community College MMA Club** – Students and faculty volunteer weekly to mentor and engage our youth.
- **Em' Press Social Club** – Providing healthy snacks and treats for events like Healthy Kids Day, Easter, and our Fall Festival.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our Early Learning, School-Age Child Care, and Camp programs serve children ages 1–15, offering safe, enriching environments where kids can explore, create, and grow. Teens and young adults engage in our Walk-In Program and Learn to Swim, Learn to Guard initiative, gaining life-saving skills and leadership experience that can open doors to future employment.

Summer That Shapes the Future

Each summer, we welcome **over 125 youth** into our camp programs—thanks in large part to the generosity of donors and community partners. Camp is more than just fun in the sun; it's a place where kids unplug, build friendships, develop confidence, and learn to be safe in and around water. It's where character is built, one splash and one smile at a time.

At the New Haven YMCA Youth Center, we're not just providing programs—we're creating pathways. Together with our partners and supporters, we're helping every child learn, grow, and thrive beyond the classroom.



HELP US BUILD HOPE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Be a Force for Good in Our Communities

When you get involved with the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA, you're helping create safer neighborhoods, stronger families, and brighter futures in cities like Bridgeport and New Haven. Your support fuels programs that provide housing, meals, childcare, and life-changing opportunities for individuals and families. Together, we can build a more resilient and connected community.

Join us today—volunteer, donate, or partner with us to make a lasting impact.

To get involved contact:

Amy Wiltsie at awiltsie@cccymca.org



WAYS TO SUPPORT: UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The YMCA plays a vital role in strengthening our communities. Your support helps us provide essential programs like child care, STEAM education, aquatics, summer camp, homeless outreach, food assistance, and more.

These services make a difference everywhere we serve—but the need is especially great in our cities.

Join us in making an impact.

Text CCCYMCA to 53555
to support our mission.

FOLLOW US:



@CentralConnecticutCoastYMCA



@CCCYMCA



@Central Connecticut Coast YMCA

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA
1240 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT 06511
203-777-9622 | info@cccymca.org | cccymca.org