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## OUR RESULTS

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We are making an Impact in Fairfield County!

At Impact Fairfield County (Impact FFC), our mission is to empower women engaged in local philanthropy through deeper knowledge and active participation in grantmaking. We unite women by pooling membership funds to provide large, transformational grants to local nonprofits.

- In 2023, our 8<sup>th</sup> year of giving, 264 women from Fairfield County joined as members; over 150 women participated in the grant application review process, evaluating 65 grant proposals.
- Since our initial grant year in 2016, Impact FFC has awarded nearly \$1.8 million of grant funding to nonprofit organizations throughout Fairfield County, including fourteen \$100,000 Impact FFC Grants, a 5-Year Anniversary Grant of \$50,000 and significant general operating support to our other finalists.
- Each \$100,000 Impact FFC Grantee has implemented a transformational and sustainable program serving an unmet need in Fairfield County.

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**CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF BRIDGEPORT** [catholicacademybridgeport.org](http://catholicacademybridgeport.org) \*in progress\*

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2023  
Bridgeport, CT

**Project Funded:** The Happy Hollow Outdoor Learning Center. Impact funds will provide a new playground and an outdoor classroom for PreK-3 grade students at St Raphael Academy. Equipment will include a climbing playground structure, a multi-purpose sports space, and an outdoor classroom. Security fencing will be installed to ensure a safe play area for over 240 young students and faculty.

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**THE CENTER FOR EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION** [thecenterct.org](http://thecenterct.org) \*in progress\*

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2023  
Danbury, CT

**Project Funded:** Campus Advocacy, Prevention Education and Training Program. Impact funds will be used to pay educators and enhance materials to improve prevention and education programs. Impact funding will enable increased outreach and training to expand prevention and education programming to more schools and community programs with the goal of breaking the cycle of interpersonal violence.

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**NEW REACH** [newreach.org](http://newreach.org) \*in progress\*

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2022  
Bridgeport, CT

**Project Funded:** Expansion of Stable Families Program. Impact funds will help low-income tenants to stabilize and avert eviction. The Stable Families Program (SFP) will provide case management, social work, and access to legal services families facing eviction in Greater Bridgeport.

SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

- With Impact funding, New Reach hired a new caseworker in December 2022 who will help the program reach an estimated 40 more families during the grant period.
- To date, the Impact funds have helped provide services to 14 families, all of whom were able to avoid eviction, representing a cost savings of \$154,000 in eviction costs.

**NOURISH BRIDGEPORT** [nourishbpt.org](http://nourishbpt.org) \*in progress\*

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2022  
Bridgeport, CT

**Project Funded:** Indoor Urban Farm. Impact funded growing and refrigeration equipment for a new indoor hydroponic farm, which opened in June of 2022. The farm will increase the availability and accessibility of fresh produce to the Bridgeport community to help alleviate food insecurity.

SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

- Impact funded a refrigerated delivery truck, 10 Grow Rack Rigs, and 3 Fork Farm System Units. In the first year of the grant, nOURish BRIDGEPORT has harvested 15,210 pounds of fresh produce, including 22 crop varieties.
- nOURish BRIDGEPORT partnered with the Connecticut Food Bank to distribute its fresh produce to 14 food pantries in the Bridgeport area, bringing in \$17,000 in revenues. Food is also distributed through farmers' markets and its own pantry which provides food to 800 families a week.
- The indoor farm has greatly increased awareness and publicity for nOURish BRIDGEPORT which has helped the organization reach new donors and volunteers and develop new partnerships.

**HALL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE** [hallneighborhoodhouse.org](http://hallneighborhoodhouse.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2021  
Bridgeport, CT

**Project Funded:** On-site dental clinic. Impact funds helped cover start-up construction and equipment costs. Clinic will help to increase access and improve the health outcomes for HNH community and residents of Bridgeport's East Side that otherwise are lacking access to basic healthcare needs.

SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

- The Dental Clinic, after significant construction and permit delays, opened in September of 2022. To date, the clinic has treated 137 patients. Hall has partnered with Southwest Community Health which, once licensed, will provide additional hygienists and a dentist, enabling the clinic to be open for more hours and to provide dental care beyond cleanings.
- Hall hired a new health coordinator who oversees outreach and scheduling which will help to enroll additional patients from the Bridgeport community. Hall recently received a multi-million-dollar federal grant to expand the facility. A separate and secure access to the dental clinic will be built to allow the general public to enter the facility without disrupting the children's program and will increase use from the community at large.

## INTEMPO [intempo.org](http://intempo.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2021  
Stamford, CT

**Project Funded:** Music program for children who are new arrivals/English language learners (ELL). Intempo's mission is to engage, educate and enrich the lives of children by making music relevant, inclusive and accessible, and to help close the achievement gap. Intempo partners with ELL teachers to provide research-based curricula to engage students and increase English proficiency.

### SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

- Since inception through December 2022, Intempo served 254 newly arrived children/ English Learners at two Stamford public schools (Davenport Ridge and Toquam) and one school in Norwalk (Jefferson). The program has provided 925 hours of instruction; 90% of the students attend class regularly. Students in the program advanced English language comprehension and speaking abilities, socioemotional learning, and connection to school. Across all programs, Intempo served more than 700 students this year.
- After the expiration of Impact's grant, Intempo secured funding from Norwalk's Jefferson School to continue the program and to extend it to an additional grade. Intempo also obtained a funding commitment from the Stamford Public Schools to continue programming at Toquam and Davenport Ridge and to expand to Stark Elementary School.

## ALL OUR KIN [allourkin.org](http://allourkin.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2020  
Danbury, CT

**Project Funded:** Expansion of affordable family child care in Danbury. Program provided educational coaching and business support to Danbury-based child care providers. All Our Kin is actively working with state officials to help redesign early childhood systems to best serve Danbury educators and families.

### SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

- All Our Kin provided professional development programs to 77 educators and helped 13 Danbury-based providers obtain licensing, resulting in 78 additional child care spots in Danbury.
- 15 Danbury-based educators graduated from business series classes which consisted of 30 hours of content and technology support across a 10-week period. Through its Education Coaching Program, All Our Kin engaged educators in regular, in-depth, one-on-one coaching designed to enhance participants' ability to nurture children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.
- During COVID, All Our Kin began providing virtual programming, a significant shift that now enables them to reach more providers across multiple cities.
- Over 90% of family child care programs that engage with All Our Kin remained open during the pandemic. The Impact grant played an important role in keeping Danbury family child care programs afloat.

## CAREER RESOURCES INC [careerresources.org](http://careerresources.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2020  
Bridgeport, CT

**Project Funded:** Entry Point Staffing (EPS). Temporary staffing agency will provide returning citizens (from incarceration) with intensive work-readiness skills, access to work experience, and ability to earn wages. Program will provide a support network that aims to lead to permanent employment and reduced recidivism.

**SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:**

- During the Impact grant term, EPS reached out to 137 organizations, signed service contracts with 16 employers and placed 27 returning citizens in jobs. 80% have retained jobs for more than 90 days. None of the clients that have worked with EPS has returned to prison.
- More than \$180,000 in revenue has been generated by job placements; the program will be sustainable and revenue-generating for CRI.
- The success of the Impact-funded program allowed CRI to obtain two large grants to expand this model into the Hartford and Stamford areas.

**BUILDING ONE COMMUNITY** [building1community.org](http://building1community.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$50,000 in 2020 (5 Year Anniversary Grant)  
Stamford, CT

**Project Funded:** Staff Development and Coaching. Building One Community (B1C) developed a leadership program to sustain a culture of learning and professional development and cultivate strong internal leadership through coaching, classes, mentorship and projects. Program will allow B1C to increase employee retention and enhance diversity of its leadership staff.

**SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:**

- In Summer 2020, Leadership Academy was launched, comprised of 7 all-staff trainings, 7 sessions for managers and individual coaching for managers. Topics included organizational values, essential management skills, leading group meetings, building effective teams and strategic planning.
- 90% of staff have attended the trainings and 100% report that they were helpful. Since July 1, 2020, 963% of staff has been retained. 81% report that they learned a new skill and feel more confident in their jobs.
- BIC created a new Operations & Human Resources Director position to manage staff development and implement a path for growth for each employee within the organization. BIC currently has 33 staff members, and retention during the 2-year grant period was 67%.

**KIDS IN CRISIS** [kidsin crisis.org](http://kidsin crisis.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2019  
Greenwich, CT

**Project Funded:** KidTalk counselor at the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich. KidTalk offers “boots on the ground” crisis prevention and mental health support by meeting hundreds of kids in their daily environment; the counselor also connects families to new external resources.

**SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:**

- During the 2-year grant period, KidTalk counselors saw 205 kids between August 2019 – June 2021. 65 of these kids saw the KidTalk counselor more than 8 times. 21% of the families also received counseling services.

- 90% of kids demonstrated an improvement in coping skills and identifying emotions as measured by a "feelings thermometer". The club reports fewer timeouts and suspensions.
- Counselor has provided the additional benefit of training BGCG staff in youth mental health and has empowered staff to directly manage behavioral issues. Counselor has also worked with schools to provide continuity of services. Starting in fall 2021, the Counselor has been employed part time by local elementary school to assist with staff training and provide parent support, which enables KIC to pay a full-time salary to help with retention.
- Kids In Crisis has received funding to sustain program, and other Boys and Girls Clubs are interesting in replicating this successful model.

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### THE CENTER FOR FAMILY JUSTICE [centerforjustice.org](http://centerforjustice.org)

Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2019  
Bridgeport, CT

**Project Funded:** Pro Bono Civil Legal Center for Victims of Domestic Violence (PBLC). Legal staff provides victims of domestic violence in Greater Bridgeport with free legal representation in civil court on matters related to restraining orders, divorce, division of marital assets and child custody/child support. Direct legal representation dramatically increases victims' successful outcomes, which in many cases is the difference between economic and physical safety, and continued victimization.

#### SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

- From its inception in September 2019 to March 2023, the PBLC has served 232 clients and provided 4,105 hours of legal services, saving their clients over \$1.5 million in legal fees.
- 89% of clients reported feeling safe; 81% reported improved financial security; 67% had legal proceedings resolved in their favor and 56% of clients received wrap around services at CFJ.
- Due to successful outcomes of program over the 24-month grant period, CFJ secured additional grants to sustain the Pro Bono Legal Center and to expand by adding a second staff attorney.

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### STAMFORD PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION [spefct.org](http://spefct.org)

Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2018  
Stamford, CT

**Project Funded:** Ready. Set. Shine! summer program. Program provided Stamford children quality summer preschool to ease transition to kindergarten, targeting children and families who are disconnected from the Stamford Public Schools (SPS) and had no prior preschool experience. In the summers of 2018 and 2019, 136 students attended 5-week summer classes to prepare for entering kindergarten. Participants represented nearly 25% of the students who entered SPS kindergarten without a pre-k experience. Nearly 30% spoke a language other than English. Students showed significant gains in following classroom routines and decreased anxiety about entering school. Only 5% of entering students were at or above benchmark assessment; at mid-year of kindergarten, 37% of students were proficient. 100% of parents reported that the program "helped to decrease any anxiety that my child and/or myself may have had about my child starting kindergarten." After the Impact grant was completed in 2020, this program continued and has grown, serving 122 students in the summer of 2022.

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### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING WORKS [shworks.org](http://shworks.org)

Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2018

Bridgeport, CT

**Project Funded:** Vehicle for Change, a Mobile Van to Address Youth Homelessness. SHW's mobile van transforms the way youth and young adults are identified and engaged so they can receive needed services to avert the catastrophic effects of homelessness. The outreach van removes barriers to services such as transportation, limited phone access, shame in asking for help and navigating a complex system. The van served 62 youth in 2019-2020 with 36 youth housed as a direct result of services received on the van. It was highlighted in a request to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development as an innovative response to youth homelessness, helping to secure a \$3 million grant to combat youth homelessness in Fairfield County.

**THE ROWAN CENTER** [therowancenter.org](http://therowancenter.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2017

Stamford, CT

**Project Funded:** Lower Fairfield Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program. The Safe Program was a coordinated effort between The Rowan Center and Greenwich and Norwalk Hospitals to provide timely, trauma-informed sexual assault forensic exams to victims of sexual violence. The program helped serve as a catalyst to establish a new CT state law, requiring all SAFE nurses to be trained by Office of Victim Services.

**INSPIRICA** [inspiricact.org](http://inspiricact.org)

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Grant Awarded: \$100,000 in 2016

Stamford, CT

**Project Funded:** Early Childhood and Parenting Program combined crucial early childhood development for homeless children and essential parenting skills classes for their parents; it served 113 homeless children and 122 parents over the two-year grant period. Children who were not within range developmentally upon entry into the program or at any time thereafter subsequently moved to within range.