

or Prevention Links,
ur my favt teacher
year please
leave yet!!!
k you for teaching
oo much
+ knew
back to
guys



You're The Best!

You were the best teacher to show us a lot of good things what not to do I really wish you were a teacher and we all going to miss you.

Foster
Empower
Sustain

om: Lendy
will miss you
can believe you
leaving th
l. Me and
ave go
S YOU.

 PREVENTION LINKS

Building Links to a Brighter Future.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Fostering healthy, sustainable communities by empowering people through education, collaboration and by serving as the linkage to lifesaving resources.

WHO WE HELP

Any person, family and community that needs us. By providing and connecting people to vital health & educational resources, we combat the negative impacts of drugs, violence, and inadequate educational and health institutions in our communities.

WHAT SETS US APART?

A combination of genetic, environmental, and developmental factors influences risk for addiction & mental health issues which is why we address all three. We set ourselves apart by approaching prevention and addiction efforts *holistically*, addressing each individual's, family's & community's needs at every age and every stage of life using *evidence-based strategies that work*. Our services both *tackle root causes* of addiction to prevent it, and fight addiction by *widening the doorway to recovery*. By offering education and connecting people to resources, we empower entire communities to *be the solution* to the addiction crisis - **because we know they are.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Story	1	Their Stories	9
Executive Letter	3	Locations	11
Our Impact		Financials	12
Community Prevention	5	Give Back	13
Family Success	6	Corporate Partners	14
Recovery Services	7	Our Supporters	15

OUR STORY



The story of how Prevention Links came to be is just one small part of a much larger public health movement that happened, and is still happening, in our country.

1944

Marty Mann, the first woman to achieve sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous, establishes the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) to combat addiction stigma & misinformation, in addition to providing community-based addiction services.

1969

President Johnson signs the "Public Services Amendment Act of 1968" which provides \$22 million in federal matching funds to build and staff specialized facilities in community mental health centers for the prevention and treatment of alcoholism and other drug addictions.

✿ 1971

Prevention Links officially establishes as an NCADD affiliate office in Union County's town of Westfield, New Jersey, following the model created by Marty Mann.

1981

The agency operates largely with the help of volunteers & a minuscule budget.

1998

The agency is awarded one of the first Drug-Free Communities Grants in the US which allowed us to establish the Health & Wellness Coalition (HAWC) and host the first county-wide substance use prevention event in Union County, Red Ribbon Day.

2014

We open the first Recovery High School in the state - The Raymond J. Lesniak, Experience, Strength to & Hope Recovery High School. This is our first step in providing direct recovery support services to the community.

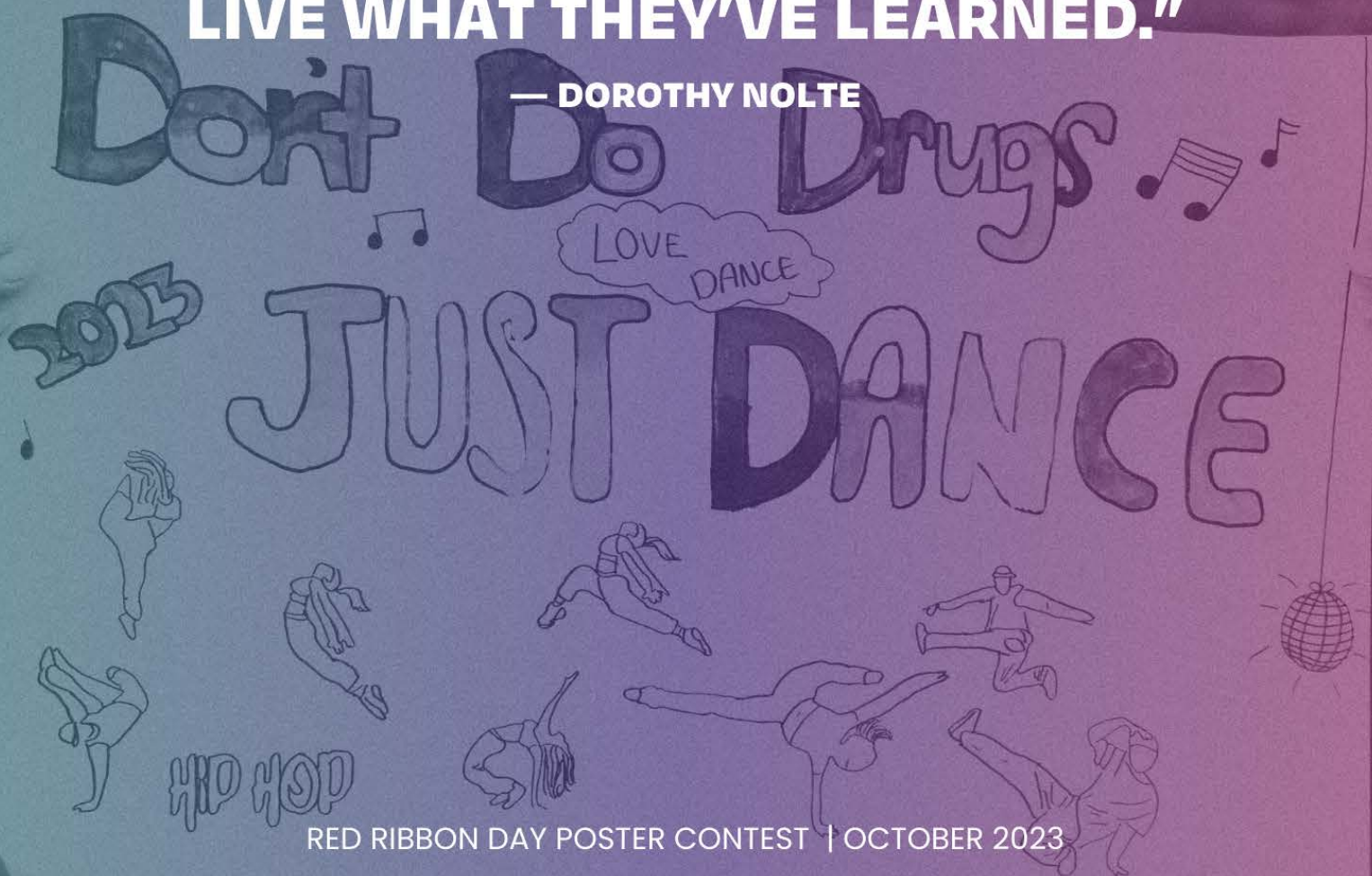
2023

The agency expands, employing a total of 115 staff members; establishes a new headquarters in Kenilworth; hosts 12 locations, all serving the community; begins offering mental health support services; and breaks our level of service record with

20,687 PEOPLE SERVED.

**"CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY
LIVE. THEN THEY GROW UP TO
LIVE WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED."**

— DOROTHY NOLTE



RED RIBBON DAY POSTER CONTEST | OCTOBER 2023

A YEAR OF IMPACTFUL CONNECTIONS AND BOLD STEPS

At the heart of everything we do at Prevention Links, there's one word that sums it up: connection. Every day, we extend a helping hand to those in our community facing unique challenges. It's about understanding the intricate weave of complex systems, building strong bonds with community partners, and being the support that keeps people afloat during their toughest times. We celebrate the incredible resilience and achievements of those we serve. Their milestones are our motivation.

This year has been a whirlwind of change, a testament to our deep commitment to our community. **Our expansion is more than just growth; it's a stride towards long-term sustainability.**

Faced with a severe mental health crisis among our youth, we took a bold step. We applied for our largest grant ever, aiming to double our operating budget and grow our team by 35 people in just three months. This decision, fueled by belief and necessity, was about prioritizing our youth and the future of our organization. **The alarming increase in adolescent overdose deaths** – a staggering 109% rise from 2019 to 2021, according to the National Governor's Association – only underlines the urgency of our mission. We are determined to bolster protective factors and enhance youth mental health services to prevent these tragedies.

Our continued goal is clear: **to make Prevention Links a household name**, ensuring that when someone needs help, they know where to turn. We are here to be that vital link to a brighter, more hopeful future.

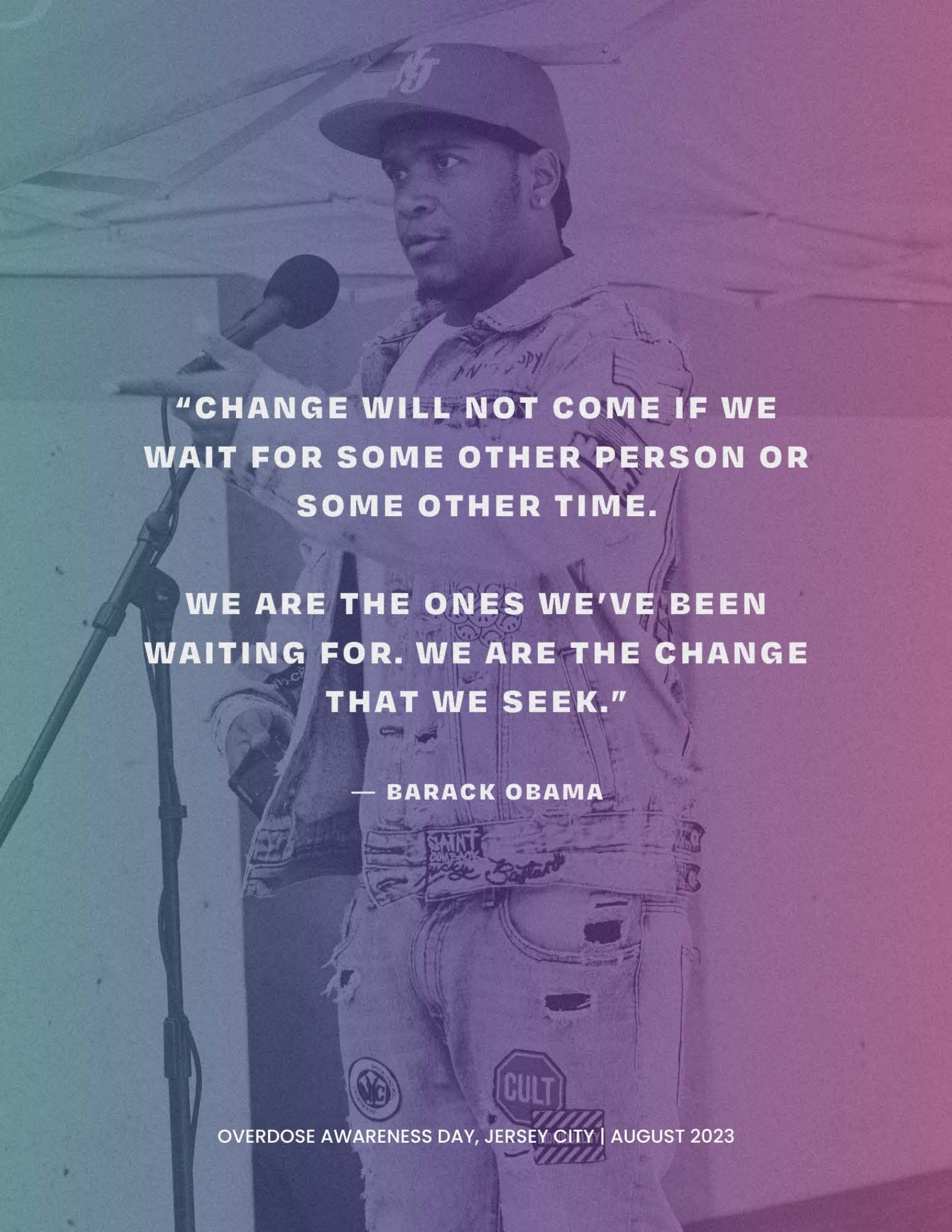
In this fiscal year, **we served a record-breaking 20,687 community members.** This transformative journey is a collective endeavor, made possible by the unwavering dedication of everyone in the Prevention Links family. From our participants and their families to our staff, leaders, Board of Directors, funders, and partners – your stories, shared in this annual report, are filled with hope, inspiration, and significant impact. We are deeply grateful to each of you for being an integral part of this journey. Together, we look forward to making an even greater impact in the days ahead.

With gratitude,



Morgan

Morgan Thompson, MSW
She/Her
CEO, Prevention Links

A photograph of Barack Obama speaking at a microphone. He is wearing a baseball cap with a logo, a denim jacket with patches, and denim jeans with patches. The image has a purple and blue color overlay.

**"CHANGE WILL NOT COME IF WE
WAIT FOR SOME OTHER PERSON OR
SOME OTHER TIME.**

**WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR. WE ARE THE CHANGE
THAT WE SEEK."**

— BARACK OBAMA

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY, JERSEY CITY | AUGUST 2023

OUR IMPACT | COMMUNITY PREVENTION



10,786

students served through Prevention Education programs.



50

community members participated in the The Eport Nutrition and Food Security Program, receiving a total of...



700

in-school prevention education presentations to students & staff.



1,281

...boxes of nutritious food distributed to community members.



53

seniors participated in the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education program.



37

families graduated from one of our parenting & family programs



55

families were provided with holiday meals in November.



120

families were provided with holiday meals in December.

Our Community Prevention initiatives, launched in 1971, are integral to our mission. Focused on Union County and neighboring areas, we aim to prevent addiction, overdose, substance misuse, violence, and related health issues. We achieve this through targeted, evidence-based strategies that effectively enhance health literacy and foster prevention-focused communities. Our efforts range from drug prevention presentations in schools to offering health tips to seniors and supporting families with holiday meals, all to ensure a brighter future for our communities.



1,413

parents/caregivers attended one of our **165** parent education workshops



2,777

families attended one of our **235** parent-child bonding activities



2,090

community members reached at one of **78** outreach events



938

backpacks full of school supplies provided to students



263

children attended our afterschool Homework Club sessions



1,141

families provided with children's presents for the holiday season



710

families provided with nutritious food for the holidays and otherwise



1,928

individuals received baby supplies at one of our **28** distribution events

We believe healthy, happy families are vital to thriving communities. Families and communities shape our worldview and teach us to contribute to something greater than ourselves - this makes our commitment to families central as we work towards a brighter future. Our five Family Success Centers aim to *empower children and families*, offering free services that ensure accessible support for all, regardless of socioeconomic status or background. By proactively preventing crises, we nurture children who feel loved, supported, and inspired to positively impact the world.

OUR IMPACT | RECOVERY SUPPORT



1,851

Individuals provided with free recovery services.



132

families provided with family addiction recovery support.



2,780+

hours of one on one peer recovery support provided.



3,297

free recovery coaching sessions provided.



140

outreach events attended in the community.



96

free sober social events offered to the recovery community.



498

participants received workforce support services & internships



624

mutual aid meetings, offering multiple pathways to recovery.

Over 140,000 people die annually from excessive alcohol use, and 106,699 lives were lost to drug overdose in 2021 in the U.S. (CDC). These sobering figures reinforce our slogan, "everyone knows someone, help prevent the next one," and motivate us to expand our recovery services. We strive to ensure no one faces addiction alone or loses a loved one to it. We're dedicated to providing *hope, healing, opportunity, and community support*. Our services range from treatment guidance and job coaching to community resource referrals, mutual aid meetings, family support sessions, recovery events, and a listening ear. We offer support without shame or stigma at every step.



**"I CAN BE CHANGED BY
WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.
BUT I REFUSE TO BE
REDUCED BY IT."**

— MAYA ANGELOU

THEIR STORIES

"Your services for the community provide resourceful information and amazing help. The staff is friendly courteous warm. Eport staff welcomed me personally - I was comforted in many ways. Emotionally, Physically as well as spiritually. This facility was everything. God bless it always."
-Wallace



My children have all enjoyed the programs offered. It helps them engaged with peers. Challenge their way of thinking. Keeping them out of the streets/trouble. My children have grown love for their mentors as well.

-Rachel



The most beneficial decision I have ever made was to come to Prevention Links. From the 1st phone call to the 1st meeting with my case manager, Manny. He has truly led me to a path of recovery and helped me get myself out of the addictive state I was in. He gave me the tools & resources I needed when going out into the real world. I have developed a new set of beliefs and I am very happy with my progress. My experience with Prevention Links was Life Changing. I am forever Grateful. I highly recommend them!!!

-Patricia





"Bayway Family Success Center has been such a big help to me and my family, especially as a new mom. If it wasn't for them, I would not be able to get formula and diapers for my baby. Their kindness, helpfulness, and dedication to families is amazing. I am so grateful for all that they do." - Ledy

I absolutely love the To Be Me is to Be Drug Free Program! I am always looking forward to coming on Thursday. I learn a lot of new things when coming. I also love the food. I be eating all of that up in 5 seconds. -Selena



As a non-native English speaker, signing up for SNAP benefits seemed impossible until the Family Success Center. They helped me understand what documents I needed and helped me through the whole process. By the end, I was signed up and felt confident enough to do it by myself in the future. I am grateful for the staff because they empowered me to advocate for myself and gave me the guidance to do that. Thank you! -Ms. "B"





LOCATIONS



UNION COUNTY

Bayway Family Success Center

10 1st St, Elizabethport, NJ 07206

☎ (908) 289-0136 ✉ bayway@preventionlinks.org

Elizabethport Community Center

250 2nd Street Elizabeth, NJ 07206

☎ (732) 381-4100 ✉ eport@preventionlinks.org

Prevention Links Headquarters

385 Market St, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

☎ (732) 381-4100 ✉ info@preventionlinks.org

Raymond J. Lesniak ESH Recovery High School

121-125 Chestnut St, Ground Floor, Roselle, NJ 07203

☎ (732) 381-4100 ✉ rhs@preventionlinks.org

Rise Up Recovery Center

121-125 Chestnut St, Suite 104, Roselle, NJ 07203

☎ (732) 381-4100 ✉ riseup@preventionlinks.org



HUDSON COUNTY

Liberty Family Success Center

341 Kearny Avenue, Kearny, NJ 07032

☎ (201) 622-2210 ✉ liberty@preventionlinks.org

Palisades Family Success Center

1408 New York Avenue, Union City, NJ 08087

☎ (201) 758-8792 ✉ palisades@preventionlinks.org

Recovery Junction Recovery Center

35 Journal Square Plaza, Suite 500, Jersey City, NJ 07306

☎ (551) 220-1150 ✉ recoveryjunction@preventionlinks.org

Skyway Family Success Center

35 Journal Square Plaza, Suite 501, Jersey City, NJ 07306

☎ (201) 884-2224 ✉ skyway@preventionlinks.org



MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Greenway Family Success Center

1005 Rahway Ave, Unit 1, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

☎ (732) 527-3400 ✉ greenway@preventionlinks.org

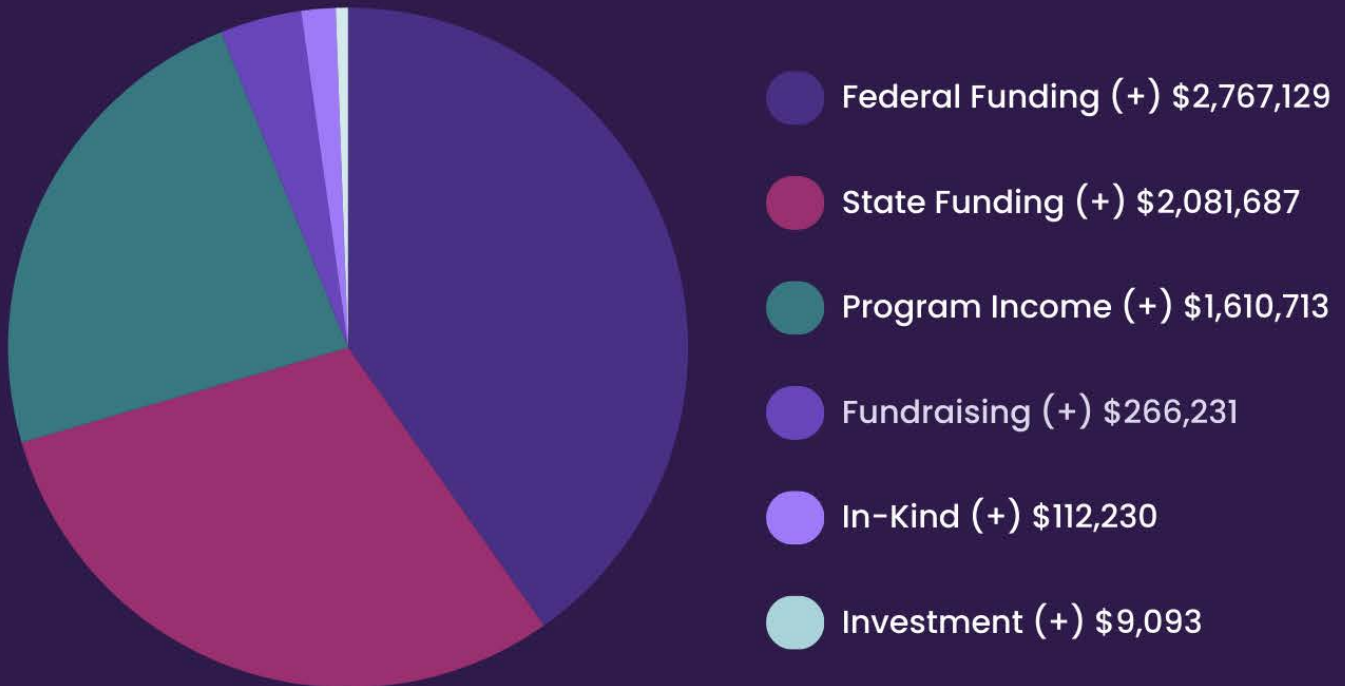
Vision of Hope Recovery Center

97 Bayard St #201, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

☎ (732) 712-2070 ✉ visionofhope@preventionlinks.org

FINANCIAL\$

FY 7/1/2022-6/30/2023



REVENUE \$6,734,853



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LINK TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE?

We know prevention works and we know recovery is possible. We see it in action every day when we empower people with the resources they need. We create the path to prevention. We create a road to recovery.

When you give, you create a link, a life-changing link between yourself, another person, and a healing resource.



LINKS ARE LIFELINES.

Nearly 1 million Americans were lost to overdose between 1999 and 2022 (CDC). It is quite possible that one of them was your friend, colleague, or loved one.

These tragedies are preventable – and the links we provide bring about the healthy future we all deserve.

Will you join us today?

BECOME A LINK TODAY.

We have a Gold Seal of Approval from GuideStar, indicating that we are a transparent and accountable organization. We are committed to using your donation efficiently and effectively to make a positive impact in our community.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your consideration and support.

preventionlinks.org/donate



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

CHAMPION PARTNER \$20,000+



Horizon BCBS has made an incredible impact, donating more than just funds, but also the time of their generous staff to enrich our programming. We are truly grateful to be partnered with a company as committed to health accessibility and equity as Horizon.

HOPE PARTNERS \$2,500+



SUPPORTER PARTNERS \$500

Absolute Awakenings
Acadia Healthcare
Allstate Jose Espejo Agencies
Family Martial Arts Center
Hot Yoga Revolution
Lifeline Technology Solutions
Lifescance Health
NJ Water and Mold
Pinnacle Risk Solutions
Recovery Centers of America
Sharp
Zinnia Health

GIFT PARTNERS \$1,000+



BRIGHTER FUTURE CORPORATE PARTNER PROGRAM

Our corporate partners help sustain Prevention Links operations in a big way, and get big returns on their investment. Is your business interested in making a big impact?



Learn more & join us today.

THANK YOU TO OUR LINKS

who have supported us through your generous donations and extraordinary fundraising efforts. Together, we continue to empower communities in creating a safer, healthier and happier place to call home.

FUNDRAISERS

★ Maria Miccio \$15,000

Madeline Desrosiers \$1,300
 Jessica LeRoy \$1,100
 Sheila Riley \$900
 Amanda Celli \$800
 Mary Landriau \$700
 Jessica Stuart \$600
 Cheryl Tolentino \$600
 Emily Newton \$500

\$250+ DONORS

The Capuano Family
 The Desrosiers Family
 The Gallo Family
 The Greenagel Family
 The Gross Family
 The Kline Family
 The Lachapelle Family
 The Landriau Family
 The LeRoy Family
 The Lindell Family
 The Lumba Family
 The Merren Family
 The Poland Family
 The Riley Family
 The Rosenberg Family
 The Ross Family
 The Spiridellis Family
 The Steinbaum Family
 The Thompson Family

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Landriau (She/Her)
President
 Clinton Miller (He/Him)
Vice President
 Susan Kline (She/Her)
Vice President
 Vincent Tese (He/Him)
Secretary
 Sheila F. Riley (She/Her)
Treasurer
 Leonard Grayson (He/Him)
 Sarah Lindell (She/Her)
 Stanley Neron (He/Him)
 Maryam Saleem (She/Her)
 Christopher Sorrenti (He/Him)



The work resonates with my heart and personal experiences. I've seen the devastating effects of addiction firsthand, as someone dear to me has struggled with multiple overdoses and the constant battle to stay in recovery. Plus, it's actually something that I am happy to do because I can see firsthand what it's used for.

Every dollar I raise for you guys represents an opportunity to prevent an overdose, and that makes this fundraising journey incredibly meaningful."

—Maria Miccio

PREVENTION LINKS FAMILY



OUR MISSION

To foster healthy sustainable communities by empowering people through education, collaboration and by serving as the linkage to resources.

