

# Our Vision

**THRIVING NEW JERSEY  
COMMUNITIES FREE  
FROM THE DEVASTATING  
EFFECTS OF ADDICTION**

2024 Annual Report





**28,122**  
**people served**

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

This year, Maria was living in a 90+ degree apartment with no fridge, air conditioning, mental health care, or hope for permanent housing. Today, she has all of those things, and our team is working on finding her a place to call home. Stories like Maria's are why we do what we do at Prevention Links. They remind us of the profound impact we can make when we come together to build healthier, more resilient communities.

This past fiscal year, we reached **28,122 individuals** through our programs and services—an increase made possible by the unwavering support of our partners and community. We also expanded our recovery services, providing **40% more** people with critical support and delivering **over 9,700 recovery coaching sessions**.

These numbers represent lives changed, families supported, and futures brightened.

With the expansion of new programs like the NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) and Recovery Management Checkup programs, alongside the growth of our long-standing Family Success Centers and Recovery Community Centers, we've touched more lives than ever before. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our incredible team and the invaluable contributions of our community of supporters.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also embrace a pivotal moment of transformation for Prevention Links. This year, we refined our mission to more clearly reflect our focus and aspirations:



**“PREVENTION LINKS PROMOTES HEALTHY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, FAMILY STRENGTHENING, AND ADDICTION RECOVERY SUPPORT.”**

Our mission is complemented by a vision of **“thriving New Jersey communities free from the devastating effects of addiction”** and a set of core values:

**Accessibility,**  
**Compassion,**  
**Creating Community,**  
**and Lived Experience.**

These values guide our work, helping us eliminate barriers, honor diverse cultures and experiences, and foster meaningful connections within the communities we serve.

This reflective process has strengthened our resolve to address the complexities of addiction and substance misuse with compassion and evidence-based strategies. With your continued partnership,

we will build on this foundation to expand our reach, enhance our programs, and continue making a profound impact in the years ahead.

As we look to the future, we invite you to join us—whether by volunteering, attending our events, or sharing our story. Together, we can ensure that every individual and family has access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. Together, we are a link to brighter futures.

With immense gratitude,



Morgan Thompson, MSW  
She/Her  
CEO, Prevention Links



**Scan here for an interview with our CEO & Board President**

# OUR IMPACT | COMMUNITY & SCHOOL PREVENTION



## 12,338

students served through Prevention Education programs.



## 15,426

children, parents, & educators served through prevention events on topics like mental health, bullying, & more.



## 1,436

in-school prevention education presentations to students & staff.



## 1,251

boxes of nutritious food distributed to community members.



## 60

seniors provided with comprehensive health & wellness education.



## 80

students provided with brief mental health counseling and treatment placement.



## 100

families were provided with holiday meals in November.



## 200

families were provided with holiday meals in December.

Since 1971, our prevention programs have been a key part of our mission. We work in Union County and nearby areas to prevent addiction, overdose, substance misuse, violence, and support youth mental health. We use proven strategies to help people learn about health and build stronger, safer communities. Our work includes giving drug prevention talks in schools, sharing health tips with seniors, and offering free counseling to youth, all to create a brighter future for everyone.

# OUR IMPACT | FAMILY SUCCESS



**1,091**

parents/caregivers attended one of our **157** parent education workshops.



**3,671**

families attended one of our **266** parent-child bonding activities.



**5,284**

community members reached at one of **88** outreach events.



**809**

backpacks full of school supplies provided to students.



**268**

children attended our afterschool Homework Club sessions.



**1,024**

families provided with children's presents for the holiday season.



**330**

families provided with nutritious food for the holidays and otherwise.



**34,360**

baby supplies items gifted to families with young children.

We believe healthy, happy families are the heart of strong communities. Families and communities help shape who we are and teach us to make a difference in the world. That's why supporting families is a big part of our mission. Our five Family Success Centers provide free services to help children and families, no matter their background or income. *By offering support before problems grow*, we help children feel loved, supported, and ready to make a positive impact on the world.

# OUR IMPACT | RECOVERY SUPPORT



## 2,590

individuals provided with free recovery services.



## 137

families provided with family addiction recovery support.



## 4,170+

hours of one on one peer recovery support provided.



## 9,760

free recovery coaching sessions provided.



## 36

outreach events attended in the community.



## 51

free sober social events offered to the recovery community.



## 196

participants received workforce support services & internships.



## 675

mutual aid meetings, offering multiple pathways to recovery.

Every year, over 178,000 people die from alcohol use (NIH), and 105,007 lives were lost to drug overdoses in 2023 (CDC). These numbers remind us of our slogan: "Everyone knows someone. Help prevent the next one." They push us to grow our recovery services so no one has to face addiction alone or lose a loved one to it. We work to bring hope, healing, and support through services like treatment guidance, job coaching, resource referrals, mutual aid meetings, family support sessions, recovery events, and simply being there to listen. *Our support is always free from shame or judgment.*





2024 "WHAT'S MY ANTI-DRUG" POSTER CONTEST WINNER

# TESTIMONIALS

"This is where it all started...Recovery Junction. I was actually the first participant, and Tracy was the one who took me under her wing.

I don't wanna start crying but, I was homeless and I ran into my son...that's when I said 'no, I gotta change.' Once I got better and got on my feet, my son actually looked at me and said 'Dad, I'm proud of you.' and when he said that, I'm like...I must be doing something good."

## -Billy Selgado

Recovery Junction Recovery Center Participant



**Listen to Billy's Story on Youtube**



"We've been coming here for 4 years... they come here, especially for the youth program. Sometimes, I feel like I don't know what to do...I wish I could help them out more.

I came here, I didn't know nobody. But my first time, I saw it was going to be good for my kids, to learn something new. They learn a lot and all the peers are willing to help you... it's a friendship too. It's been positive for me."



**Listen to Maria's Story on Youtube**

## -Maria Artiaga

Elizabethport Community Center Participant



"I'm afraid that I'm going to lose my son"

"My son, he was like most young men, started out drinking occasionally with friends but over the years, the drinking accelerated. ...He had a beautiful life, and it all went down the tubes...It was horrifying for me. I googled with my cellphone and I came up for some reason with this Support Center. I got Rosa on the phone...I told her my troubles. I could see it was a good program. I wanted to be able to reach him to see what I could do to truly help him."



**Listen to Kelly's Story on Youtube**

**-Kelly**

Family Support Center

"It's like you're in a boxing ring...and you just keep going. Then I met Lesly. Their help is amazing. Whoever made this agency come to life...it should be spread out throughout the world. To have gone through everything I have gone through, and then in the middle somehow, here comes Prevention Links."

**-Maria Y.**

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program



To have gone through everything that I've gone through



**Listen to Maria's Story on Youtube**



# MAJOR NEWS

## January



The New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) was launched in September 2023, and started serving the community in 2024. NJ4S is a comprehensive program designed to provide students with critical mental health, social-emotional, and academic support across the state.

## May



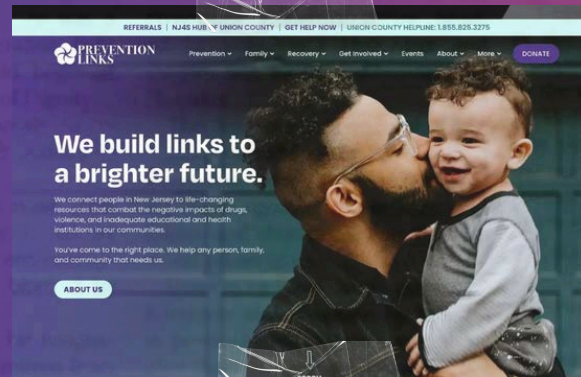
The Rise Up Community Center, opened in May 2024, offers a wide range of resources, including recovery services, harm reduction resources, educational programs, workforce development, and community engagement opportunities.

## October



Red Ribbon Day on October 12th was an overwhelming success for both the community and our organization. Together, we raised a record-breaking \$58,652.84 to bolster our free services. Various people were awarded for their commitment to our communities, including Community Impact Awardee, Tiffany Wilson, and Community Empowerment Awardee, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ.

## September

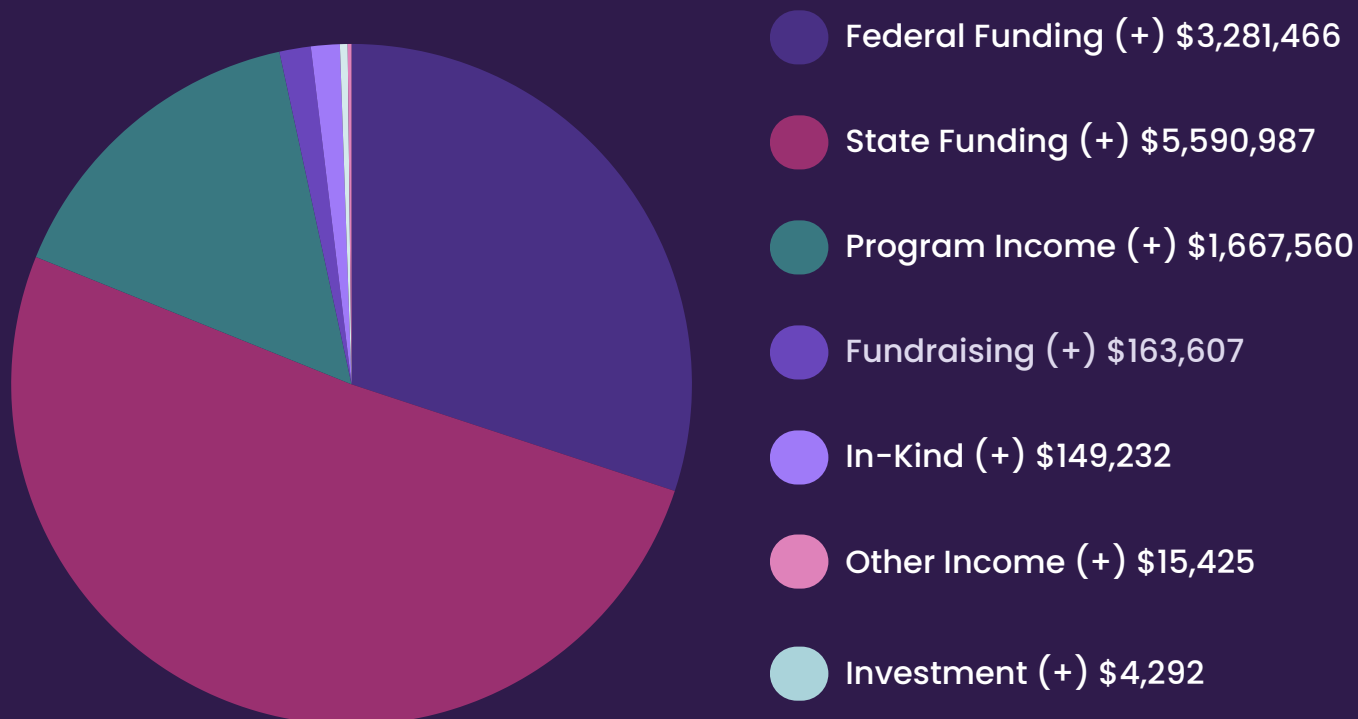


In September, we launched our brand new website to make our life-changing resources more accessible with the help of Trillion Creative. You'll find that this new site is much more user-friendly, with enhanced navigation, vibrant visuals, and a larger focus on our mission. So much work went into this project, and we have already gotten an overwhelming amount of positive feedback since launching. Let us know your thoughts!



# FINANCIAL\$

FY 7/1/2023-6/30/2024



## REVENUE \$10,928,968



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

Every act of kindness, no matter how small, creates ripples that transform lives.

At Prevention Links, we are committed to ensuring that every individual has access to the resources and support they need to thrive—whether it’s finding a pathway to recovery, strengthening a family, or fostering resilience in our communities.



This past year, we expanded our reach to over 28,000 people, launched groundbreaking programs like NJ4S, and celebrated milestones like the grand opening of the Rise Up Community Center. But there is still more work to be done.

Your support fuels this mission. When you give, you’re not just making a donation—you’re creating a future where hope, recovery, and opportunity are within reach for everyone.

**Join us in building a healthier, stronger tomorrow. Every dollar you give creates a ripple of impact that changes lives.**

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.

[preventionlinks.org/donate](https://preventionlinks.org/donate)



# THANK YOU TO OUR BRIGHTER FUTURE PARTNERS



**Horizon**



**CHAMPION  
PARTNER \$25,000+**

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield 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. They are our champion.

**INITIATIVES FUNDED:** Toy Drives, LEAD food, Greenway Women's closet, Holiday Hope Kits, Red Ribbon Day



**NFP**

**HOPE**

**PARTNER \$5,000**

NFP has been with us for a second year in a row and we couldn't be more grateful for their continued support. Their connection to our cause makes their contribution extraordinarily meaningful.

**INITIATIVES FUNDED:** Red Ribbon Day, statewide coalition.

## COMPASSION

**PARTNERS \$2,500+**



**JACK HARRIS  
MEMORIAL FUND**



**BAYWAY REFINERY**  
Linden, NJ



**INITIATIVES FUNDED:** Red Ribbon Day, Recovery Community Center events & supplies

## ADVOCATE

**PARTNERS \$1,000+**



**Columbia  
Bank**



**INITIATIVES FUNDED:** Red Ribbon Day

## SUPPORTER

**PARTNERS \$500**

Urban Workforce Advantage  
GenPsych  
Allstate Insurance Jose Espejo Agency  
Family Martial Arts Center  
Hot Yoga Revolution  
Lifeline Technology Solutions  
Crossroads Treatment Centers  
Inroads to Opportunities  
Your Healthy Reality  
Ellie Mental Health Cranford  
Mosaic Counseling and Consulting  
Trillion Creative  
Banyan Treatment Center

## FRIEND

**PARTNERS \$250**

ShopRite of Union  
New York Life Insurance Company  
Susan Hairston Consulting  
High Focus Centers  
GameChanger Gym of Garwood



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS/FUNDRAISERS

who have supported us through their 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 - \$17,050 raised**

"Finding Prevention Links was purely an 'accident,' but an accident I am so grateful for. Their team has shown that they are here to offer support, education & hope - and for that I consider myself lucky...I am privileged to do my part in raising funds that will further help support building stronger recovery communities."

## \$1,000+ DONORS

The Kline Family  
The Steinbaum Family

## \$500+ DONORS

The Biggam Family  
The Chamama Family  
The Gray Family  
The Greenagel Family  
The Laaraj Family  
The Landriau Family  
The Ross Family  
The Sommerhalter Family

## \$250+ DONORS

The Capuano Family  
The Desrosiers Family  
The Gallo Family  
The Gonzalez Family  
The Naegele Family  
The Newton Family  
The Spiridellis 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)  
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*Treasurer*

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

**Contact Madeline at [mdesrosiers@preventionlinks.org](mailto:mdesrosiers@preventionlinks.org) to start your fundraiser today**



## PREVENTION LINKS FAMILY



## OUR MISSION

Prevention Links promotes healthy, resilient communities through education, family strengthening, and addiction recovery support.

