

IMPACT REPORT 2025

each act of generosity is multiplied...

...each kindness carries itself forward...

...each hand held out lifts another.



68,332
people served

A 143% increase from FY2024.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

This past year has brought both encouraging progress and pressing challenges across the landscape of substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. At Prevention Links, we remain guided by our mission to strengthen communities and transform lives by preventing substance misuse, supporting those impacted by addiction, and building recovery capital. Connection is at the heart of everything we do — and in a year defined by both hope and urgency, that commitment has never been more vital.

We are heartened to share that, for the first time in decades, drug overdose deaths in the United States have declined substantially. Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show a nearly **27% decrease in overdose deaths in 2024 compared to 2023 — the largest single-year decline ever recorded.** Approximately 80,000 lives were

lost in 2024, down from about 110,000 the year prior, due in part to expanded access to naloxone, increased treatment availability, and greater investment in prevention and recovery support services. This progress represents real lives saved and offers cautious optimism amid a crisis that has deeply impacted families and communities nationwide. Yet context matters. Even with this decline, overdose deaths remain significantly higher than before the modern opioid epidemic, and drug overdoses continue to be among the leading causes of death for Americans ages 18 to 44.

At the same time, substance use patterns are evolving — particularly among young people. Latest CDC data states that cannabis use among adolescents remains widespread, with roughly 30% of U.S. 12th graders reporting past-year use and more than 6% reporting daily use. While cannabis

OUR VISION

We are building thriving New Jersey communities free from the devastating effects of addiction

OUR MISSION

We exist to promote healthy, resilient communities through education, family strengthening, and addiction recovery support.

is not driving overdose deaths in the same way opioids are, increased availability and reduced perceived harm present new challenges for youth prevention, academic success, and mental health.

Here in New Jersey, changing policies and availability further underscore the importance of strong, responsive prevention systems. Progress in one area cannot overshadow the need for sustained, comprehensive efforts across the full continuum of care.

This year, Prevention Links **reached more than 68,000 people** through prevention education, peer recovery support, treatment linkage, and community-based services. Yet even with this expanded reach, the need remains profound. Too many individuals and families continue to face isolation, stigma, and barriers to opportunity.

To truly turn the tide, we must keep building recovery capital — strengthening prevention, engaging youth, expanding access to care, and ensuring long-term recovery support rooted in connection and community.

Thank you to our partners, staff, volunteers, and the individuals and families who inspire us every day. Your support fuels this work, and together, we will continue to meet this moment with compassion, resolve, and hope.

In Service,

Morgan



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MThompson'.

Morgan Thompson, MSW
She/Her
CEO, Prevention Links



MEETING LUIS

*This story is a composite, shaped by the real experiences of thousands of people who turn to Prevention Links each year. We share it this way to respect the privacy of those who trust us with their stories, and the courage it takes to seek help in a world where stigma still exists. **Content Warning: Overdose***

When Luis finally got his kids back, he expected the apartment to feel full again. Instead, it felt fragile. His teenage daughter, Elena, stayed in her room most nights, headphones on, door half closed. His younger son, Mateo, followed him everywhere, asking questions that circled the same worry: Are you going to be okay?

Luis was relieved they were home. Grateful. Proud he had made it this far. And he was drinking again. At least it wasn't heroin. Not reckless, he told himself. Just enough to take the edge off the pressure of being a parent again after everything they had been through.

Just enough to quiet the memories he didn't want to revisit. But they were there anyway.

That night, after his kids were asleep, Luis sat alone at the kitchen table with his phone. The house was quiet in a way that felt heavier than noise. He typed a few words into Google: peer support near me. Something the hospital staff had mentioned.

He didn't know what he was looking for exactly. He just knew he couldn't pretend this hadn't happened. The overdose was years earlier, before his kids were placed in foster care.



COMMUNITY PREVENTION

Prevention Links works upstream — in schools and communities — to support mental health, build resilience, and reduce addiction risk before challenges become emergencies. Through prevention education, youth mental health support, family programming, and community wellness initiatives, we reach children and families early, when support can make the greatest difference.

“The programs have helped students develop essential life skills...crucial for their success.”

— School partner

41,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED

Luis didn't remember the moment itself. What stayed with him was waking up afterward and realizing how close he had come to leaving his children behind for good. At the time, he wasn't ready for help. He walked out of the hospital and went back to surviving. Now, with his kids asleep down the hall, that memory felt heavier.

Elena barely talked to him about what she'd been through. But her anxiety showed up in other ways. Panic before school, sudden anger, long silences. Mateo startled easily and needed constant reassurance. Luis knew love wasn't enough. He needed support, maybe just someone to talk to.

One night, after both kids were asleep, Luis sat at the kitchen table scrolling through his phone.

He didn't search for rehab or treatment — he already tried that in the past. This time, he searched for peer support. He needed someone who wouldn't judge him for not being “ready enough.” Or someone who would try to coerce him into a program. Someone who understood what it meant to love your kids deeply and still struggle.

Someone who could sit with the truth: that he wanted to change, and that he was scared. That's how he found Prevention Links.

FAMILY SUCCESS

Family Success Centers are trusted, neighborhood-based spaces where families find connection, resources, and support during times of stress. Parents build skills and confidence, children engage in safe and enriching activities, and families access essentials that help stabilize daily life. For many families, these centers are the first place they turn — and the place they continue to return.

“It really is an indescribable feeling – when you come here, and your whole life changes.”

— Parent participant

**2,257 COMMUNITY
MEMBERS SERVED**



When he called, a peer recovery specialist named Ramona answered. She didn't rush him or ask him to make promises. Ramona was in recovery and had kids too. She listened as he talked about the overdose, the foster care system, the fear of losing his kids again. For the first time in a long time, Luis didn't feel like he was hiding.

With Ramona's support, Luis began taking steps toward recovery at his own pace. Harm reduction came first — staying alive, staying connected, staying honest. Together, they talked through next steps, treatment options, and what stability could look like without pressure or shame. At the same

time, Luis started bringing his kids to a Prevention Links Family Success Center.

At first, it was about structure, somewhere safe after school, familiar faces, consistency. Elena was connected to youth mental-health support where she could work through anxiety and trauma in ways that felt safe and respectful. Mateo found stability in routines and activities that helped him feel secure again. Over time, it became a place of growth.

Luis enrolled in and completed a family-focused program at the center — learning about communication, emotions, and how to build trust.



RECOVERY SUPPORT

Connection Saves Lives

Recovery is built through connection. Prevention Links provides peer-led recovery support that meets people where they are — without pressure, judgment, or conditions. Through community outreach, coaching, phone support, and group connection, people find support during moments of crisis and beyond. Every conversation is a reminder that no one has to navigate recovery alone.

"This program helped bring me back to life"

— Case management participant

**24,361 COMMUNITY
MEMBERS SERVED**

Sitting in those sessions, he realized he wasn't the only parent trying to undo years of pain with patience and effort. **They weren't alone.**

There was no moment when everything suddenly felt fixed. But there were fewer crises. More conversations. More days that felt steady.

Luis is still navigating recovery. Elena still has hard days. Mateo still asks questions. But they have support now, they have community, people who know their names, who understand their story, who don't disappear when things get complicated.

Luis's story is a composite, drawn from the lived experiences of tens of thousands of individuals and families served by Prevention Links each year.

We share it this way to honor the many people who choose to remain anonymous — often because of stigma, cultural realities, or fear surrounding addiction, overdose, mental health, and child welfare involvement.

Prevention Links supports the whole family. We meet people where they are. We stay for the long work of healing.

AT-A-GLANCE IMPACT

68,000+

reached across New Jersey



1,000

prevention education
sessions delivered

4,100

parent-child
interactions
fostered



285,000

hours of recovery
coaching provided

40%

increase

in food distribution to
combat rising food costs

39,500

students reached
through prevention
education & early mental
health supports

55%

increase

in after-school programs for
youth i.e. homework help



1,100

parents and caregivers
engaged in education
programs

24,300

individuals received addiction
recovery support services



10,100

recovery support
phone calls
answered

A CLOSER LOOK

Prevention

40

families graduated from parenting and family programs

400

seniors engaged in wellness & nutrition education

2,000

food boxes distributed to families

300

winter holiday meals provided

Family Essentials

5,800

people received free essential items during one of 96 distribution events

2,800

people received diaper & baby supplies at one of our 48 baby essentials events

1,100

children received toys for the holidays at one of our 7 holiday parties

1,000

students received backpacks stocked with school supplies

415

youth attended afterschool Homework Club

150

people received Thanksgiving Turkeys

600

women provided with women's health & hygiene products through the women's health closet

100

individuals provided with clothing

150

children received storytime books and young adult novels

Recovery

14,700

recovery coaching sessions

10,000

mutual aid & recovery meetings

6,700

recovery-focused community events

2,500

outreach events in the community

200

provided workforce support and job training

TESTIMONIALS

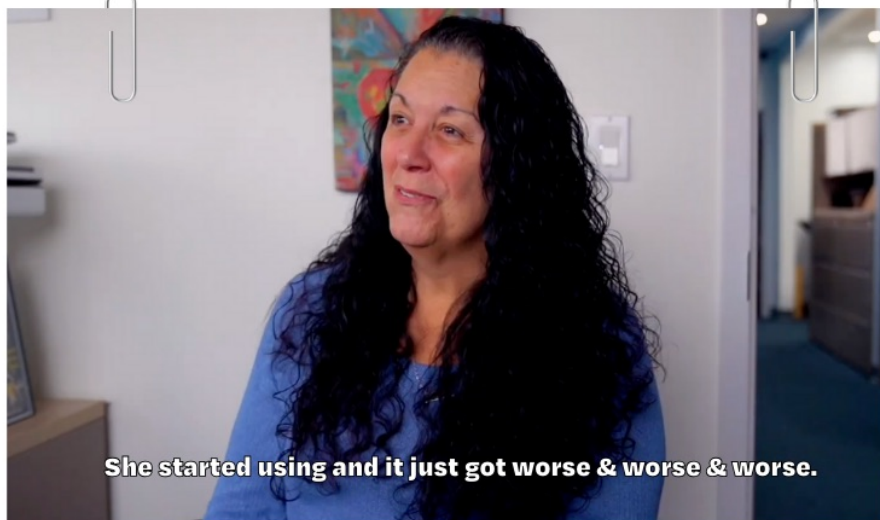
"From having a child that's an addict, you learn things that you never really wanted to know...but, now that I know it, I'm trying to help other people who don't.

It's very easy to judge somebody...if that was my daughter, laying on the floor, would somebody ask her if she needed a bottle of water?

So I volunteer, and I try to do things to make the world a better place."

-Maria Miccio

Volunteer & Family Support Center Participant



Listen to Maria's Story on Youtube



Listen to Mary's Story on Youtube

"I was alone, I didn't want to talk to anyone. Instead, I was always on the phone with my mom. Then once I started to get to know Palisades Family Success Center, I started to feel a familiarity like the one I felt back at home. You guys help us a lot."

-Mary

Palisades Family Success Center



My home became a battleground.



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

"We had to put her in a completely different environment where she had to learn to live as a clean and sober person...that's what the Recovery High School gave her..."

There's plenty of people out there that say they wanna help you - if you can pay for it. No one ever has to pay a dime for any of this.

For any parent that's out there - have confidence that if they're bringing their kid to the recovery high school, it's the right decision."

-Sue Kline

Family Support Center Participant, Board President

"Each area of my life has been in line to help someone. I'm here to spread love everywhere I go...Do I get times where I get overwhelmed? Yes. We all do. But the biggest thing is getting back up."

-Simeria Dewalt

Pathways to Success Employment Program



Going to prison changed everything.



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

Federal Funding is at Risk

Community Support Matters More Than Ever

Shifting federal priorities and funding delays are creating uncertainty for prevention and recovery services nationwide. While funding sources may change, the needs in our communities do not.

Prevention Links is committed to **keeping all services free, accessible, and available** — especially during times of instability. Community support plays a critical role in making that possible.

When you give, you help ensure:

- no interruption in recovery support
- no cost to families seeking help
- no barriers for students, parents, or seniors

Donate using the QR code or visit



plnj.org/donate

Questions?

Contact Madeline Desrosiers at madesrosiers@preventionlinks.org



Recovery High School
Graduate, 2025

ONE-TIME DONATIONS

Make an immediate impact with a single gift that supports programs where the need is greatest.

MONTHLY GIFTS

Provide steady, reliable support that helps keep services prepared & accessible year-round.

CORPORATE MATCHING

Ask your HR department if you can double your impact by having your employer match your donation.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Recommend a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund to support Prevention Links' mission.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Donate goods or services that directly support individuals, families, and programs.

STOCKS & SECURITIES

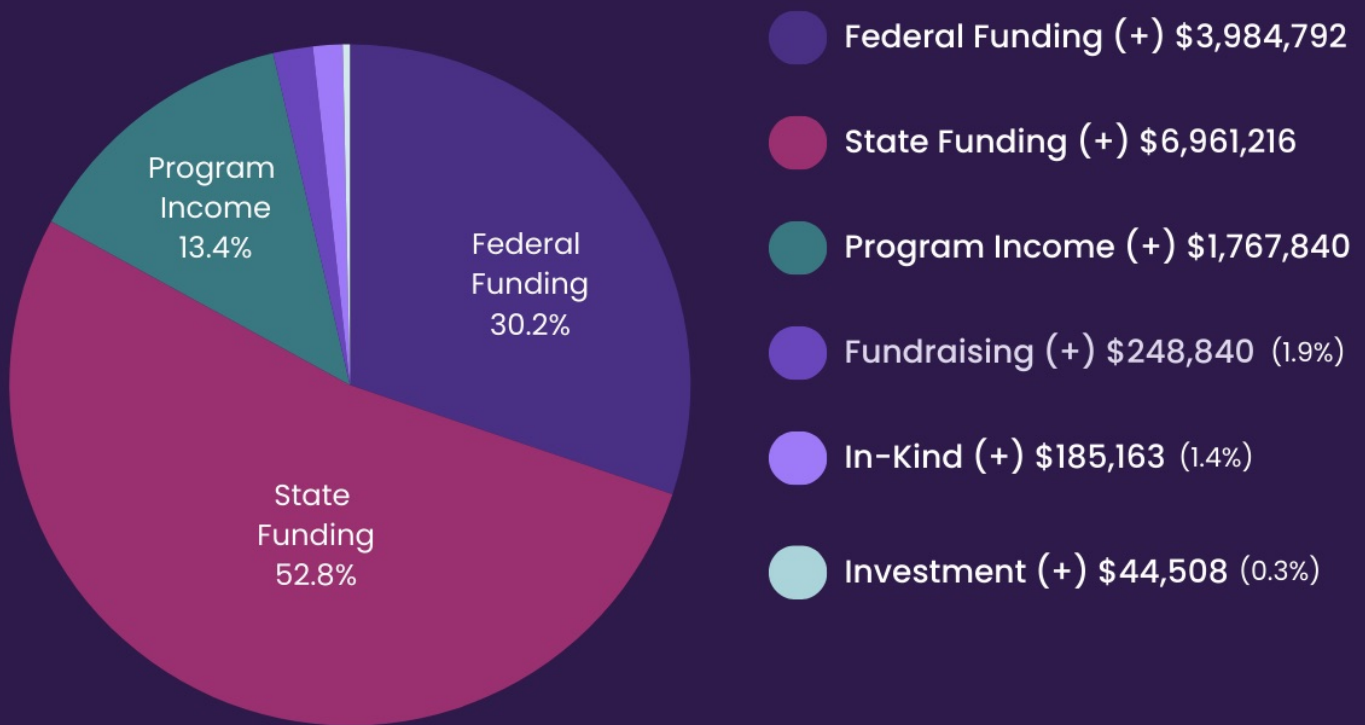
Give appreciated assets to support our work while potentially receiving tax benefits.



LIBERTY FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER – FAMILY PROGRAM GRADUATES

FINANCIAL\$

FY 7/1/2024-6/30/2025



REVENUE \$13,192,977





PALISADES FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER - CAPA MONTH BLOCK PARTY



THANK YOU TO OUR BRIGHTER FUTURE PARTNERS



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 Drive, LEAD food, Women's Health Closet, Holiday Blessing Bags, Red Ribbon Day



HOPE

PARTNER \$5,000

NFP has been with us for a third 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+



BAYWAY REFINERY
Linden, NJ



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

ADVOCATE

PARTNERS \$1,000+



TOSHIBA

INITIATIVES FUNDED: Red Ribbon Day

IN-KIND

PARTNER



**HANCE FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

INITIATIVES FUNDED: Toy Drive

SUPPORTER

PARTNERS \$500

Allstate Insurance Jose Espejo Agency
Butler Printing Company
Castle Point Landscape Design
Columbia Bank
Feldman Brothers Electrical Supply

FRIEND

PARTNERS \$250

Adult and Teen Challenge New Jersey
DynamiCare Health
Family Martial Arts Center
HACE
Healing Reimagined
High Focus Centers
Owen Healthcare
ShopRite of Union
Urban Workforce Advantage



27TH RED RIBBON DAY, OCTOBER 2025

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 - \$30,975 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 Dillonaire Family
The Laaraj Family
The Linde Family
The Newton Family
The Schiffrin Family

\$500+ DONORS

The Bigham Family
The Cordeiro Family
The Desrosiers Family
The Kline Family
The Landriau Family
The Lind Family
The Morgan Family
The Sommerhalter Family
The Stewart Family

\$250+ DONORS

The Aguila Family
The Capuano Family
The Carroll Family
The Chamama Family
The Gonzalez Family
The Lachapelle Family
The Preusser Family
The Przytula Family
The Thompson Family

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Kline (She/Her)

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Maryam Saleem (She/Her)

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Vice President

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Secretary

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Treasurer

Erik Beresnoy (He/Him)

Mary Landriau (She/Her)

Nicole Lind (She/Her)

Clinton Miller (He/Him)

Vincent Tese (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 to start your fundraiser today

PREVENTION LINKS FAMILY



OUR MISSION

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

