MLC seeks to EMPOWER women through literacy.

"Educate a woman... educate a family"

Mercy Learning Center provides basic literacy and life skills training to women with low income using a holistic approach within a compassionate, supportive environment. All women are welcome without regard for race, religion, color, creed, sexual orientation, or national origin.

From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, Mercy Learning Center served 1,327 women & children.
Mercy Learning Center continues to succeed thanks to the generosity and commitment of so many community supporters. More than eleven hundred women were able to create better futures for themselves and their families. Every single woman who entered MLC’s doors is now better equipped to break the cycle of poverty.

Mercy Learning Center’s students are catalyzing the change that Bridgeport so desperately needs. They commit, each and every day, to juggling work and family responsibilities so that they can meet their academic goals. Increasingly more women are coming to MLC with little or no basic education, and simply desire the opportunity to learn in a safe place. Once women begin their educational journeys, they are often inspired by other students to set new goals. Your support creates the environment to ignite this empowerment.

During the 2018-2019 program year, thirty five graduates celebrated earning their high school diplomas, and fifty five MLC alumnae were enrolled in college certification programs. One graduate earned a bachelor’s degree, four earned associate’s degrees, and three earned college certificates. Further, one hundred and twenty three students reported finding new jobs and nineteen students passed the U.S. Citizenship exam.

Each of these achievements strengthens the Bridgeport community by solidifying family units, creating credentialed professionals, and allowing individuals to access food, safe shelter, clothing, and other necessities consistently and confidently. None of the education or empowerment that MLC orchestrates would be possible without the dedication of our beloved, hardworking, and committed volunteers and supporters. Our 217 tutors and 201 additional volunteers contribute not only time and energy, but true compassion to the students and staff at Mercy Learning Center. These special individuals gifted over 46,800 hours to serve the 1,153 women and 174 children enrolled during the 2018-2019 academic year, which is a gift worth well over one million dollars. Our supporters are critically important. MLC’s nonprofit status means that we are only eligible for a minimal amount of government funding. Without you, we could not accommodate our growing student body.

Thank you for caring enough to foster a place for women to take control of their lives. Together, we will work tirelessly to “Educate a woman... educate a family.”

Dear Friends,

MLC provides a variety of programming for women, including part-time tutoring, full-time classroom instruction, technology education, employment and life skills training, family literacy programs, and enrichment. Holistic support services including case management, childcare, legal counsel, nursing, citizenship application assistance, food, and diapers are freely available to all program participants.

Mercy Learning Center’s educational philosophy maintains that all women are capable of achieving goals when offered comprehensive and caring instruction and support.

What We Do

MLC PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Part Time Tutoring Program
- Full Time Intensive Study Program
- GED® and NEDP® Tracks to a High School Diploma
- Support Services
- Early Childhood Education Program
Literacy & Life Skills Tutoring Program

- Each student is matched with a volunteer tutor to study reading, math, citizenship, or a specialized subject.
- Levels progress from English Language Acquisition to Adult Basic Education (I, II, III) to GED® and NEDP® prep.
- Students with jobs often gravitate toward the Tutoring Program due to its flexibility and the opportunity to cultivate meaningful, multi-faceted relationships with tutors.

Literacy & Life Skills Intensive Study Program

- Students attend MLC Monday through Friday from 9am to 2pm for the duration of the school year and learn in a classroom environment taught by certified teachers.
- Class levels include English Language Acquisition, Adult Basic Education (I, II, III) and GED®.
- Along the way, these students build friendships and knowledge about different cultures.

Technology Instruction

- MLC maintains two computer labs staffed by full-time instructors.
- Students at all levels receive instruction in:
  - Basic keyboarding
  - Microsoft Office
  - Internet usage
  - Employment searching
  - Resume preparation
  - Online courses in math, English, and other academic subjects.
- Students use their technological exposure to prepare for the online GED® test, the NEDP®, college-level coursework, and to successfully navigate technology in the workplace.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM

- 32 years running the program
- 997 women served in 2018-2019
- 4 Hours minimum tutoring per week, or at least 144 hours per year

25-30 women comprise each class level

5 Hours per week of computer instruction

17 Years minimum age for intensive study program

895 women in the program

21,155 total hours of computer training & instruction

265 technology certificates earned

“High School Diploma”

GED® NEDP®

“A massive ‘thank you’ to Mercy Learning Center and their staff, thanks for including me as part of this amazing family. You have given me the opportunity of starting to build my future. The GED diploma is only the beginning of all the accomplishments that are yet to come.”

ALICIA
The majority of Mercy Learning Center students experience financial stress, employment and housing insecurity, complicated family dynamics, and cultural and communication barriers that impede their ability to learn.

MLC provides support services to ensure that students can focus on educational achievement rather than on basic needs. Support services are available to all enrolled women and their families and include:

- CASE MANAGEMENT
- CAREER AND COLLEGE COUNSELING
- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM
- LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Mercy Learning Center provides quality childcare and preschool education to 174 children whose mothers are enrolled in the Center’s Intensive Study Program.

MLC’s Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) is licensed by the State of Connecticut and utilizes holistic curriculum to provide routine-based, age-appropriate, comprehensive education from “cradle to classroom.” The Center’s ECEP is unique for the following reasons:

1. the accountability measures taken to ensure impact,
2. the integrated Family Literacy Program and
3. the Mother/Toddler Reading Program.

MLC ensures accountability by measuring a child’s progress through developmental, cognitive, lingual, and social/emotional assessments. The program has the capacity to serve sixty children at once and is available to families on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Offered freely to women enrolled in MLC’s programs, the ECEP allows mothers to study and learn alongside their children.

According to the Center for Child Care Workforce, “High-quality early childhood education programs result in better reading, writing, and mathematical skills, better social skills, fewer behavioral problems, higher graduation rates, less dependency on welfare later in life and more economic productivity later in life.”

“My dedication to my boys has become my main priority, after finding out my youngest son was diagnosed with autism and is still struggling and non-verbal to this day. I didn’t only want to be present; I also wanted to be involved in their learning process. I knew I had to educate myself in order to be more of help to them for the present but also for their future.”

Maria
Year in Review

ENROLLMENT

- Latina: 76%
- Black/African American: 16%
- Asian: 1%
- White: 7%

**1153** total students educated

**98%** of students are low income

**51** countries of origin

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM (ECEP)

**38,825** total hours delivered

- 42% received 25 hours per week
- 58% received part time care

**98%** of mothers report that the program helped them to be better parents.

**100%** 4-5 year olds were developmentally ready for Kindergarten

FINANCIAL VALUE

**201** volunteers

**217** tutors

**53,020** total volunteer hours

**$31.05/hr** value per Volunteer Hour

$1,646,271 worth of Contribution

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

- **35** High School Diplomas
- **349** Cumulative Diplomas
- **19** US Citizens
- **123** New Jobs
- **55** Enrolled in College
- **19** Grads Began College

**99%** reported being more confident making family decisions

**98%** of tutored students reported that their tutors helped them improve academic skills
Director’s Circle
Anonymous
Allison A. and Anthony Allott
Steven and Tammy Barry
David and Eunice Bigelow
Therese Cenzullo
Hayes B. and Clare Clark
Mary Beth Clayton
Betty Dunne
Theanne and Matthew Feldman
Michael and Becky Goss
Matthew and AnnMarie Massie
Patrick J. McDonough and Nella Domenici
James and Jeanne Maye
John and Patricia Nallen
James and Donna Woods Orazio
Lisa S. and Jeffrey Nable
Regina L. and John D. Mello
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.
Mary Eileen and John J. Galiette
Caren Calish and Louis J. Dorfman
Dianne M. and Brian Distassio
Mary O’Keefe and John Butala
Michael J. and Priscilla Boyle
Tom Bothur
Patricia Borghesan
Janine and Marjorie B. Gillis
Sandra P. and Rocco J. Carbone
Mary A. Carmell
Luciana Castro
Lindsay Clayton
Renee C. Cift
Helen M. and Francis R. Degnan
Joanne DeSantis
Laura M. and Alberto B. Casellas
Thomas and Patricia Carey
Jane Carleglio
John F. and Karen S. Connolly
James and Christeen Cook
Vincent and Nicolas D’Agostino
Mary and Peter Daytetz
Dianne M. and Solomon Distasio
Robert and Carol Esk
Kristin and Todd Ehrlich
Michael Ellsworth
David and Tracy Fiore
Dorothy and Jonathan Fox
Caren Calish and Louis J. Laglione
Mary Ellen and John J. Galette
John and Mary Ellen Gallagher
Christine and Jess Gaspar
Laurie and Dave Gendell
Susann Gill Riley
Frank I. and Marjorie B. Giles
James and Karen Herman
William R. Harris, Jr.
Barbara Hilli
Mary Ellen E. Keresey
Lucinda and Andrew Knuth
Nancy and Patrick Lapera
Robert H. and Marianne Laska
Marc and Jay Lautenbach
Dale L. and Linda Leary
Eleanor and Eugene Litwalk
Robert Maschner
Jennifer R. and W. Paul Maloney
Patricia Mariani
Gail M. Marton
Elizabeth and Hab Massoud
Sally L. and Patrick J. McNeela
Melanie and Alexander McNab
Suzanne and Dave Mercado
Joseph W. Messineo
Antoinette and Matthew Moro
Nancy Moskalski
Deri and Victor Nesi
David and Cecile Newberg
Alphonse and Judith Noe
Dawn and Joseph Norris
Allen and Lorraine Noveck
Theodore Okon
Lauran and Ibn Pettersen
Sharon Poole and Mike Preveigle
Alphonse and Judith Noe
Anne and T. Travis Engen
Afene and William Feld
Peter and Jackie Flotow
Mark and Sheila Finn
Florence
Jim and Ann Foreman
Michael and Lynn Gabriel
Brenda and Maynor Garza Trigueiros
Kurt and Kristin Gibson
George and Faye Gonzalez
Michelle and Scott Graczyk
Lisa Shapiro
Willard Smith and Amanda Cotter
Eric and Linda Speer
Tom Miller and Anita L. Stepananovich
Patricia and Richard Stone
Katherine White
James Wood and Janet Barillan
Stephan and Janice Yost
Circle of Hope
Anonymous
Wynne and Randy Abrams
Dorothy D. Adams
Lucy Ambrosino and John Marchak
Nancy J. Bassett
Deborah L. Beal
Charles and Casey Berg
Sandra P. and Rocco J. Carboni
William A. Carmell
Luciana Castro
Lindsay Clayton
Renee C. Cift
Helen M. and Francis R. Degnan
Joanne DeSantis
Ginger G. and James P. Donaher
Kevin and Jane Doyle
Elizabeth Dreyer Bennett and John B. Bennett
Anne and D Travis Engen
Afene and William Feld
Peter and Jackie Flotow
Mark and Sheila Finn
Florence
Jim and Ann Foreman
Michael and Lynn Gabriel
Brenda and Maynor Garza Trigueiros
Kurt and Kristin Gibson
George and Faye Gonzalez
Michelle and Scott Graczyk
Lisa Shapiro
Willard Smith and Amanda Cotter
Eric and Linda Speer
Tom Miller and Anita L. Stepananovich
Patricia and Richard Stone
M.L. this year.
418

53,020
volunteer hours were spent on tutoring, literacy, enrichment, legal counseling, and much more.

418
volunteers contributed their time, skills, and passion to the women & children of MLC this year.
Cash Contributions

- Corporate Matching Gifts
  Alliance Bernstein
  Chevra Matching Employee Funds
  Chubb Charitable Foundation
  GE Foundation
  MBIA Foundation Inc.
  PepsiCo Foundation
  MBIA Foundation Inc.
  GE Foundation
  Chevron Matching Employee Gifts Program
  Alliance Bernstein

- Corporate Citizenship Gifts
  of University Women
  Education
  Gas Company & Southern Connecticut
  Corporate Citizenship Gifts Program
  Funds

- Estates
  of Benjamin B. Lewis
  Estate of Ruth I. Krauss
  Estate of John and Patricia Nallen
  Estate of John and Beth Kelly
  Estate of John and Beth Kelly
  Estate of Ronald School Board
  Bhabha Selvadorai
  Alisa Simberg
  Steve and Julie Shapiro
  Steve and Julie Shapiro
  Steve and Julie Shapiro
  Steve and Julie Shapiro

- In-Kind Donations
  - Corporations & Businesses
    Brady Printing Company, Inc.
    CASAS
    EL CAFE
    Melissa & Doug
    O & G Industries
    Phillips North America R.C. Bigelow, Inc.
    Safepoint Insurance
    WM Evans Painting, LLC

- In-Kind Donations - Foundations
  Newman's Own Foundation
  The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation

- In-Kind Donations - Local Organizations, Churches & Schools
  Church of the Assumption Congregation B'Nai Torah
  Decorative Living of Westport
  Colleen M. Charleworth D.B.A
  Eastover Volunteer Fire Company
  Eileen Race
  Fairfield Country Day School
  Fairfield University's Black Student Union
  First Church Congregational
  PSL
  Girl Scout Troup 50007
  Homes for the Brave
  Jennings School Club Scout Pack 48
  Jesse Lee United Methodist Church
  Lauralton Hall
  National Charity League, Inc.
  Westport Chapter
  Operation Hope
  PEO
  Proctor
  Rudy's Flower Shop
  Saint Jude Church
  SASO
  Save the Children
  Southport Congregational Church
  St. Catherine of Siena Church
  St. Pius X Church
  Staples High School
  Stepping Stones Museum for Children
  Stratford Women's Club c/o
  The Community at Hollander House
  The Congregational Church of Green's Farms
  The Image Group
  The Unquowa School
  The Y's Women
  Trumbull Community Women
  Westport Center for Senior Activity
  Westport Women's Club
  Westport Yarns
  Wilton Jewish Center
Financial Summary

SUPPORT & REVENUE
- Private Foundations: $768,982
- Corporate: $63,794
- Government Grant: $189,000
- In-Kind Donations: $98,285
- Local Organizations: $76,714
- Individual Donations: $966,907
- Fundraising: $339,107
- Investment Income: $297,586

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE: $2,800,375*

EXPENSES
- Program: $2,006,478
- Management: $157,944
- Fundraising: $216,926

TOTAL EXPENSES: $2,381,348

FOR EVERY $1.00 SPENT:
- 84¢ goes to Programs
- 9¢ goes to Fundraising
- 7¢ goes to Management

100% of Fundraising Revenue came from our popular View of the Harbor Event

Mercy Learning Center has received a 4-Star rating for sound fiscal management, commitment to accountability & transparency from Charity Navigator for the sixth consecutive year, ranking among the top 9% of rated charities. It also holds the Platinum Level from GuideStar. Audited financial statements & IRS 990 report are available at mercylearningcenter.org.

*Please note: The Mercy Learning Center Endowment Fund received $1,000,000 in contributions. This value is not included in the support and revenue total.
Thank you to Brody Printing for their generosity.