



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MERCY
LEARNING
CENTER

mercylearningcenter.org

MLC seeks to **EMPOWER**
women through literacy.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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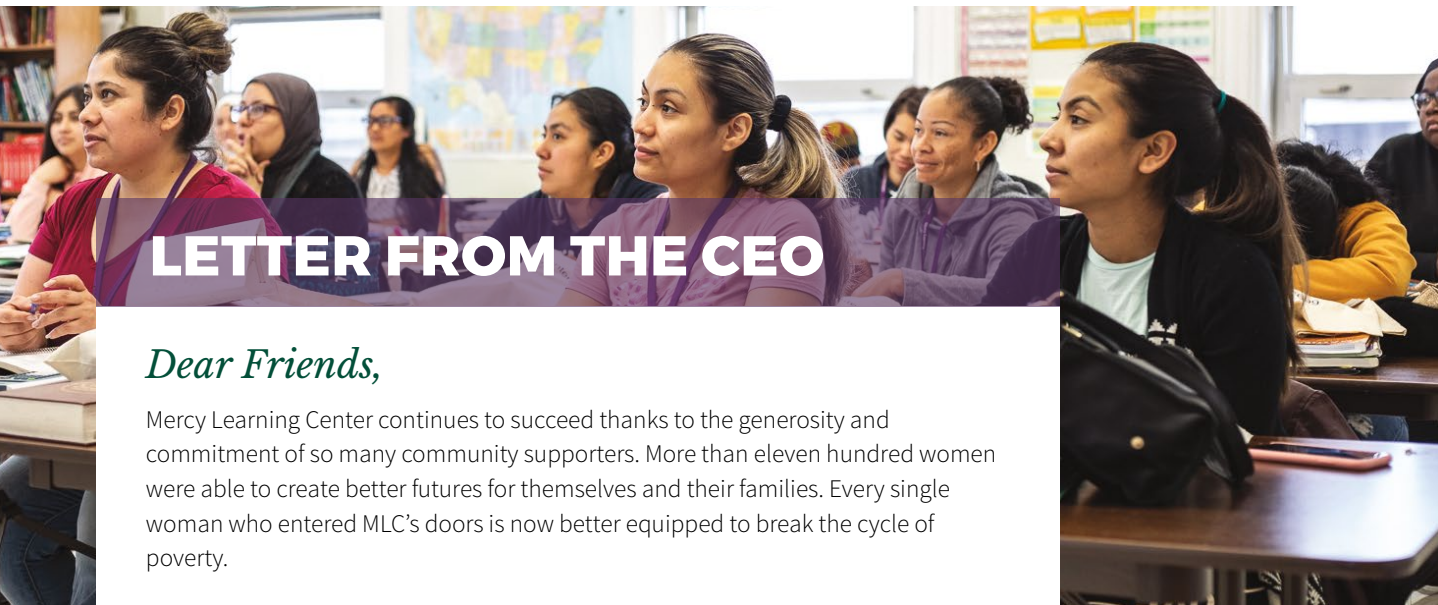
**“Educate a woman...
educate a family”**

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.





LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

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."

JANE E. FERREIRA
President & Chief Executive Officer

ANNMARIE MASSIE
Chair of the Board of Directors

What We Do

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

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.

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*





32
years running the program



997
women served in 2018-2019



4 Hours
minimum tutoring per week, or at least 144 hours per year

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.



HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM

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**.



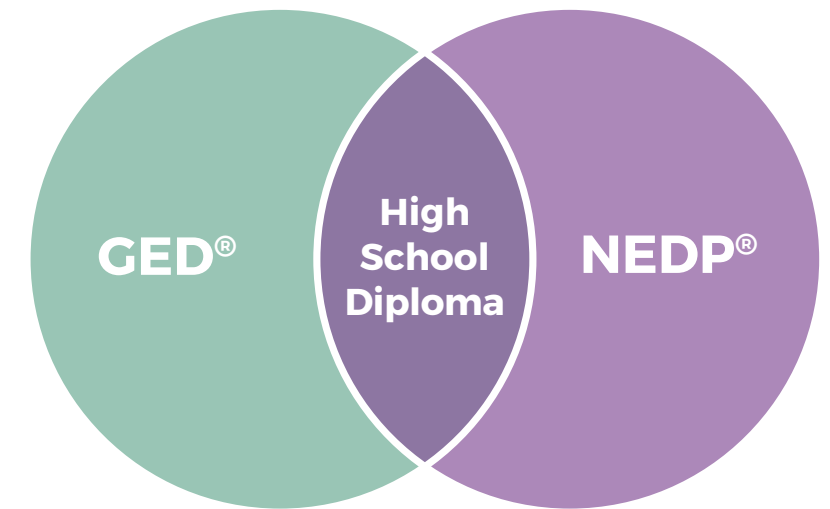
25-30
women comprise each class level



5 Hours
per week of computer instruction



17 Years
minimum age for intensive study program



“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

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.



895
women in the program



21,155
total hours of computer training & instruction



265
technology certificates earned

Support Services

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

Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP)

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."



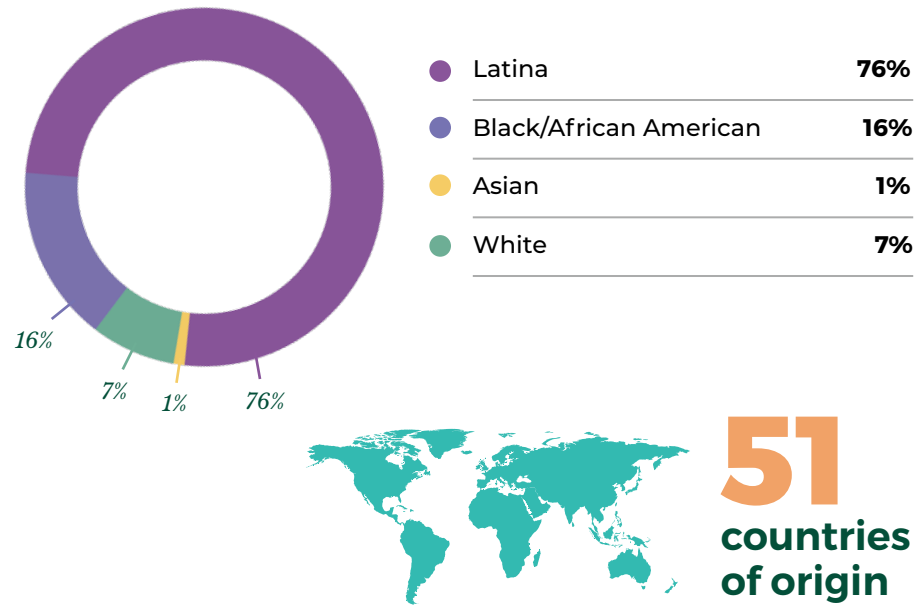
"My dedication to my boys has become my main priority, after finding out my youngest son was diagnosed with autism and is still struggling and non-verbal to this day. I didn't only want to be present; I also wanted to be involved in their learning process. I knew I had to educate myself in order to be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

Maria

Year in Review

2018
-
2019

ENROLLMENT



1153
total students educated

98%
of students are low income

95%
are Mothers or Primary Caregivers

FINANCIAL VALUE

201 volunteers
217 tutors

53,020
total volunteer hours



X \$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

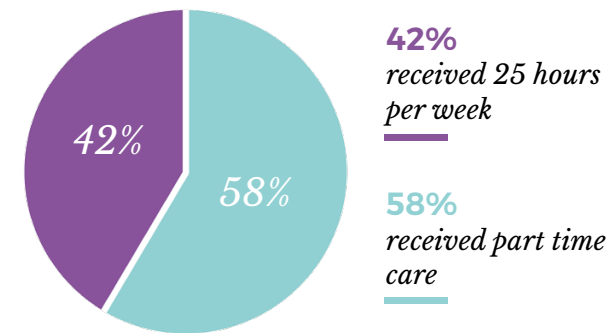
123 New Jobs

55 Enrolled in College

19 Grads Began College

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM (ECEP)

38,825
total hours delivered



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

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



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Amanda Rutledge
Sandra and Robert Santy
Mary Schultz
Ed Schwarz



418

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



53,020

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

Verne Sedlacek and Maura Mitchell
 Stephen Sennott
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Maury and Aliza Wind
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Julie H. Wu
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Barbara Mosler Charitable Fund
Berkowitz & Hana Charitable
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Elizabeth and Joseph
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Fairfield County's Community
Foundation account
Flavia P. Finucane Charitable
Trust
Franklin Philanthropic
Foundation
GlaxoSmithKline
Harry L. & Helen M. Rust
Charitable Foundation
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Foundation
Idella Stuart Hempstead Trust
Jewish Communal Fund
Klein Family Foundation
Midvale Foundation
Mortimer H. Furtsch
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Nancy Jones Beard
Foundation
New Canaan Community
Foundation

Newman's Own Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
Quidditch Foundation
Ramlose Foundation
Richard I. Bromley Memorial
Gift Fund
Ruscito Family Foundation
Samuel A Stein Giving Fund
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Jones & Bessie D. Phelps
Foundation
The Dammann Fund
The Delaney Memorial
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The Dillon Fund
The Fred R. and Hazel W.
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The Frederick A. DeLuca
Foundation
The George A. & Grace L. Long
Foundation
The Goodnow Fund
The Huntington Foundation
The Inner-City Foundation for
Charity & Education
The John and Ethel Kashulon
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The K.L. Holbrook
Serendipitous Foundation
The Kreidler Foundation, Inc.

The Robert J. Bauer Family
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The Robert M. Schiffman
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The Robert R. and Maureen T.
O'Keefe Family Foundation
The Wallace Family Fund
The William Penn Foundation
The William T. Morris
Foundation
The Wilson Sheehan
Foundation
Walmart Foundation
Werth Family Foundation
Wilmot Wheeler Foundation, Inc.

Cash Contributions - Corporations & Businesses

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Aqurion Water Company
Bankwell
Beachside Estates, LLC.
Berdon, LLP Accountants and
Advisors
Blackwatch Builders & Inquire
Within Yoga
Bridget Lyons Consulting, LLC
ConnectiCare
Cotélaç
Dance Collective

Deutsche Bank Americas
Foundation
Dollar General Literacy
Foundation
Dr. Peter M. Ferrara, DDS, LLC
Encon
Evergreen Family Dental
Faye Kim Fine Jewelry
Forger-Kunkel Plumbing &
Heating, LLC
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Gault Family Companies
Greater Bridgeport Medical
Association
Greenfield Cleaners
Hearst
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Architects, P.C.
Maplewood Senior Living
Martel Bistro & Bar
Millie Rae's
Newtown Savings Bank
Foundation
Ninety 9 Bottles
NM Research Services LLC
People's United Community
Foundation
PepsiCo Foundation
Pitney Bowes Foundation
Pitney Bowes, Inc.
Primary Care & Health
Education

PSEG Power Connecticut LLC
Pullman & Comley, LLC
R.C. Bigelow, Inc.
Redding Nursery, LLC
Roly Poly of Westport
Schulhof Animal Hospital
Shoff Darby Companies
Shop Rite
Splash of Pink
Steven Mancini Salon
Stiles Market
Superior Seafood
Surrey Style Designs, LLC
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Corporate Citizenship
TD Bank, N.A.
The DSA Companies
The Russell Agency, LLC
TIAA
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Union Savings Bank
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GE Foundation
MBIA Foundation Inc.
PepsiCo Foundation
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Prog.
Synchrony Financial Corporate Citizenship
The Aetna Foundation
UBS Employee Giving Program
United Illuminating Company & Southern Connecticut Gas Company

Cash Contributions - Government

Connecticut Department of Education

Cash Contributions - Local Organizations, Churches & Schools

Achorn Pharmacy
Adorn Accessories
Al's Angels
American Association of University Women Bridgeport
AWARE CT

Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund
Bridgeport Ladies Charitable Society
Bridgeport Rotary Club
Community Health Network Foundation
Convent of the Sacred Heart
Curran Volkswagen
Eileen Race
Fairfield College Preparatory School
Fairfield Country Day School
Fairfield Rotary Foundation
First Church Congregational
Greenfield Hill Congregational Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Nunnawauk Residents Association
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Sacred Heart Parish, Mustard Seed Fund
Saint Margaret Mary Women's Group
Somerset Capital Group
Southport Congregational Church

St. James Episcopal Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church
St. Matthew R.C. Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
The Congregational Church of Green's Farms
The Joyce & Bernie Zimmerman Foundation
The Unitarian Church in Westport
The Unquowa School
Trinity Episcopal Church
Trumbull Community Women
Trumbull Rotary Foundation, Inc.
Village Pediatrics
Warren Steinberg, M.D. Internal Medicine
Westport Rotary Club Foundation
Westport Sunrise Rotary Club
Westport Woman's Club
Women's Fellowship of First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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Estate of Benjamin B. Lewis
Estate of Ruth I. Krauss
The Helen Breznicky Testamentary Charitable Trust

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Safepoint Insurance
WM Evans Painting, LLC

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Newman's Own Foundation
The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation

In-Kind Donations - Local Organizations, Churches & Schools

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Congregation B'nai Torah
Decorative Living of Westport Colleen M. Charlesworth DBA
Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1
Eileen Race
Fairfield Country Day School
Fairfield University's Black Student Union
First Church Congregational FSFH
Girl Scout Troup 51007
Homes for the Brave
Jennings School Cub Scout Pack 88
Jesse Lee United Methodist Church

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National Charity League, Inc. Westport Chapter
Operation Hope
PEO
ProLiteracy
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 Unitarian Church in Westport
The Unquowa School
The Y's Women
Trumbull Community Women
Westport Center for Senior Activity
Westport Woman's Club
Westport Yarns
Wilton Jewish Center



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Allstate
ASML
Bank of America
Bigelow Tea
ConnectiCare
First Student
Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority
Health Career Academy/ The Workplace
Jesse Lee United Methodist Church
Kleban Industries
League of Women Voters
LifeBridge Community Services- Vita Program
National Charity League of Redding Area
National Charity League of Westport
Newtown Savings Bank
Norma Pfriem Breast Center
Norwalk Superior Court
Patriot Bank
PeopleReady
People's United Bank
Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts
Right Management

Subway
TD Bank, N.A.
TD Stratford
The Klein Memorial Auditorium
The Maritime Aquarium
The WorkPlace
Town of Westport,
Department of Human Services
UCONN Stamford
Webster Bank
Women's Business Development Council
Yale Center for British Art

Partners

Fairfield University
Gateway Community College
Housatonic Community College
Norwalk Community College
Sacred Heart University
St. Vincent's College at Sacred Heart University
University of Bridgeport

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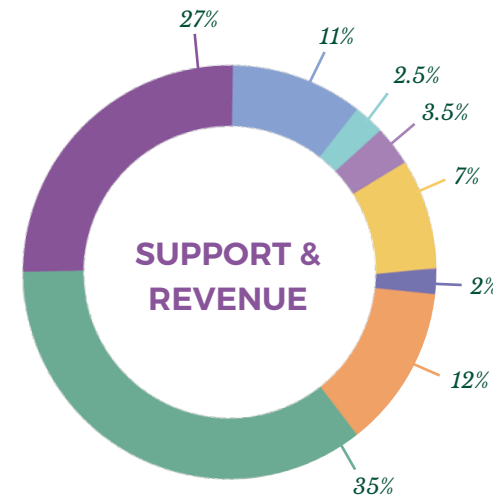
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Financial Summary

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*

**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.*

EXPENSES

Program	\$2,006,478
Management	\$157,944
Fundraising	\$216,926
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,381,348



FOR EVERY \$1.00 SPENT:



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



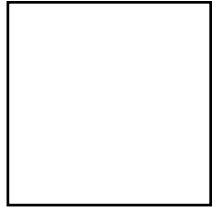
Mercy Learning Center has received a 4-Star rating for sound fiscal management, commitment to accountability & transparency from Charity Navigator for the sixth consecutive year, ranking among the top 9% of rated charities. It also holds the Platinum Level from GuideStar.

Audited financial statements & IRS 990 report are available at mercylearningcenter.org.



MERCY
LEARNING
CENTER

237 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 334-6699
info@mercylearningcenter.org



mercylearningcenter.org

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for their generosity.*



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**Contact us to learn more about volunteering
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