Anchor House

IMPACT REPORT 2024

Core Statements and Leadership

Revitalized Mission, Vision & Values

Anchor House team as they prepare for the Point-In-Time Count, an annual count to collect data on homelessness in our community.

This year, Anchor House revisited our mission, vision and values statement as we evolve to improve our services and better meet the needs of youth and young people. The new statement shines a spotlight on the organization's **core principles, including safety, community and trust,** and makes clear our commitment to inclusivity.

"The re-envisioned statements were developed with input from current and former youth, staff and board to better reflect our purpose, goals and range of services."
- Kim McNear, Executive Director

Mission

To provide youth and young adults who are experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness, or are aging out of the child welfare system with comprehensive services that offer them and their families the support they need to succeed and thrive.

Vision

A world where no youth or young adult experiences abuse, neglect, or homelessness and where everyone has a safe, stable home, the support they need to thrive, and a future filled with possibilities.

Values

- **Safety**
- **Community**
- **Trust**
- **Self-Determination**
- **Compassion**
- **Inclusivity**

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The Anchor House Foundation organizes the annual Ride for Runaways to help support Anchor House programs.

Message from the Executive Director and Board President

A Caring Community to Help Youth Thrive

Community is at the heart of every successful nonprofit—the strength of a caring community—one that extends beyond the walls of Anchor House is crucial to **help our youth heal and build a future full of hope and possibilities.**

The unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, partners and staff, and belief in our mission, has been **a beacon of hope for young people** facing some of life's toughest challenges. Our community not only helps provide financial resources to operate programs but also a network of safety, compassion and hope.

This network helps ensure that young people receive basic needs – housing, food, clothing, medical attention – feel seen, heard, and valued and provided with emotional and educational support to overcome trauma.

In this report, we are proud to share the impact of your support and highlight **individuals who moved from experiencing trauma to a place of healing** and promise. We also highlight some of our partners who are part of a community-wide effort to help end youth abuse, neglect and homelessness.

Along with our partners, our work would not be possible without dedicated staff members who work tirelessly to help youth reach their goals.

With your continued support, **we can make a greater impact in the years ahead** and enhance and expand services including providing and identifying more affordable housing and strengthening outreach.

Thank you for being a part of our caring community. Your generosity helps **create lasting change in the lives of those who need it most.** Together, we are making a difference—one young person at a time.

With gratitude,

Kim McNear

Executive Director

Kristie Sells

President, Board of Directors

Our Impact in Action: How Your Support Helped

Grand Opening of new Youth Drop-In Center (L to R) Kim McNear, Executive Director, Anchor House young adult, US Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman and Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson

Anchor House Expands Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative with New Trenton Site

A major highlight of the year was the opening of our newest location on Brunswick Avenue in Trenton. The newly renovated site replaced our Broad Street location and houses the **Street Outreach Program, Youth Drop-In Center, Apartment Program and Connect to Home offices.**

Youth/young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can **visit the Drop-In Center for food, essentials, laundry, access computers, information and case management.** Four young people call the site home through the Anchor Line Apartments that offers subsidized housing while individuals continue education and/or maintain employment.

There were **145 youth who received Drop-In Center services** in 2024 along with an Open House, informational sessions, workshops, participation at numerous community events and outreach on the streets. The outreach team **distributed 6,834 food and drink items, 1,820 medical and hygiene items and 6,165 clothing items** during the year.

Thanks to the generosity of an Anonymous donor, Rue Foundation, Mithun Family Foundation and the James Kerney Foundation for helping to partially support renovation costs to create a warm and welcoming environment.

"The new location represents a significant step forward for Anchor House. It boasts not only an increased capacity but also improved accessibility. This expansion is a welcome development for Trenton and Mercer County."

- Assemblyman Anthony S. Verrelli

"Offering more than just a roof over their heads, warm food to eat and soft beds to sleep in, Anchor House equips young people with the skills and resources necessary for lasting stability in their lives."

– US Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman

Community and Partnerships
Network of Compassion and Hope

Transitional Living young adult with staff member

Safe Housing Young Adults Make Strides Towards Success

Anchorage, **our Transitional Living Program, is one of two supportive housing programs in the county for young adults**. Anchorage recently added a new case manager to help meet the needs of youth including mental health, life skills, educational and employment support. We are proud that one young adult earned their high school diploma, one is enrolled in trade school, one earned a certification to become a security guard, two residents are enrolled at Mercer County Community College and another is preparing to enter the military.

"The Anchor Line (Apartments) program saved my life."

– former young adult resident

Young adults in **Anchor Line Apartments, a subsidized housing program,** are also making progress in achieving goals with 80% of residents employed and 60% enrolled in post-secondary education – two at Mercer County Community College and one at Rutgers University. One resident, who desires to open a catering business, had the opportunity to shadow a professional in the culinary business for the day.

Community Partnerships Expand Impact

Anchor House partners with numerous agencies to connect **youth to services and collectively work to prevent and end youth homelessness and help youth in need.** Key partners include the Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care (CoC), a community wide-effort to end homelessness, Rescue Mission of Trenton, HomeFront, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Children's Future, Henry J. Austin Health Center, One Simple Wish, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey and local churches, among others. These agencies help provide medical care, meals, items such as clothing, essentials and furniture, assistance with temporary housing and housing placement and more.

Staff at Henry J. Austin Community Health Fair

"HomeFront and Anchor House have long been allies in the important work of ending homelessness in our community. We collaborate closely to share resources and expertise to reach our shared goal: a community where everyone has a safe place to call home."

– Sarah Steward, Chief Executive Officer, HomeFront

Impact by the Numbers
Snapshot of How We Made a Difference

612

Total **individuals served**

168

Youth/young people **stably housed**

49

Staff members **employed**

34

Rental units in the community

3,388

Service contacts made by the **Street Outreach team,** who conduct street outreach, provide essential items and connect youth to services including shelter and housing placements.

3,948

Calls/texts/emails to young adults made through the Coordinated Entry Assessment System (CEAS). CEAS offers community outreach, housing assessment, crisis intervention and case management.

814

Individual sessions (almost quadruple the amount compared to 2023) through the Coordinated Entry Assessment System and **617** referrals for services.

155

Shelter contacts (phone calls) and **340** emergency shelter placement referrals

Thank You Anchor House Foundation Ride for Runaways

Anchor House Foundation 46th Ride for Runaways

The Foundation's 2024 Ride for Runways was a success and raised funds to support Anchor House programs. Funds raised help partially cover costs not met by private and government funding. The Anchor House team supported the Anchor House Foundation by participating as riders, walkers, and support staff as well as cheering on the team!

The 2024 500-mile "Classic Ride" route was from Harrisonburg, VA to Trenton. There was also a Flex Ride and Walk-Run. **Anchor House extends our sincere thanks to the Foundation, their donors and participants for another successful year!**

To learn more visit **anchorhouseride.rallybound.org**

Mary's Story – The Sky is the Limit!

Mary credits Anchor House for giving her that extra push, confidence and support to reach for the sky. Having lived in our Transitional Living Program and then a participant in the Connect to Home Program, Mary received a **safe and compassionate place to call home and the resources to secure essential items, mental health and life skills.** She learned how to budget, explore careers, network and even had the opportunity to speak in front of a crowd while receiving an award!

Mary calls Anchor House staff family and thanks them for **inspiring her to want to do better and make a positive change on the world.** She carried the motivation and life skills learned after leaving the program and recently moved into a new apartment while continuing her education and exploring career paths.

Mary - name changed for confidentiality purposes

"I have been provided with everything I need or want to stand on my own two feet on my journey in life."

– Mary, former Safe Housing participant

Shelter Resident Stays Connected During Transition

Over the summer the Emergency Youth Shelter had a resident from Camden who was placed with us after having run away from her previous placement. **While at the Shelter, she commuted to summer school in Camden** to catch up on school credits so she could advance to the next grade. While with us in the Shelter, she participated in group counseling in the evenings and worked closely with her case manager and Shelter staff on life skills and setting short-term goals.

The youth was eventually discharged and placed in a foster home along with a peer who she advocated to be placed together with her. Anchor House staff maintains contact with the youth after discharge through aftercare.

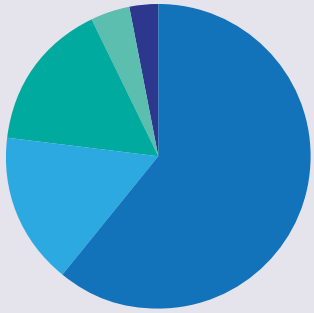
Message of hope in the Emergency Youth Shelter

"One of the greatest things about our Shelter is that we have the potential to touch so many lives due to the short term nature of our residential program. We can establish relationships that can last and make a difference in our young people's stories."

-Jay Neiderman, Residential Coordinator.

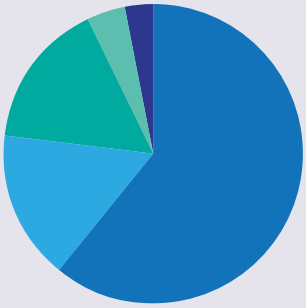
Financial Summary 2024

2024 Actual Revenue
$3,283,479



- **61%** Government
- **16%** Corporate & Foundation
- **16%** Anchor House Foundation
- **4%** Individuals
- **3%** Other

2024 Actual Expenses
$3,225,000



- **88%** Programs
- **10%** Management and General
- **2%** Fundraising

Year in review is based on the calendar year

Anchor House relies on donations to help youth, young people and their families access our services at no charge.

A Caring Community of Supporters

Thank you for your support!

Anchor House is grateful for a caring community of donors who help make our work possible. The support of individuals and institutions is critical to our ability to continue our services and plan for growth while federal funding remains unpredictable. **Thank you for your generosity!**

Individual Donors

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Donors

T-Mobile employees volunteer their time

Otsuka employees wrapping holiday gifts

In-Kind Support and Volunteer Engagement

Many thanks to in-kind donors (food, clothes, holiday gifts, supplies, donated services and more) and the many individuals and organizations who volunteered their time and talent throughout the year. Special thanks to **T-Mobile and OceanFirst Foundation who organized an employee volunteer day and also made a financial donation.** We thank **WaWa and Chick-fil-A** for their weekly food donations.

Denise and James Houghton
Allison Howe
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Mary Terwedow
Tieisha Tift
Amy Tkacs
DeWayne H. Tolbert

"The Street Outreach Program helped me get back on my feet and provide what's best for my child. Now I am able to focus on school and provide a better, more stable life for my son."

– Anchor House young adult

Donors

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Big Jim & Zooma
Karen Fanning
Kim McNear's 16th Anniversary
Chris Murphy
Sharon Waters and Jerry Foster

In Memory

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John DeLucia
Christopher Didun
Phil Goldberg
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Maria Hector
Annette and Bill Hogan
Ed Lloyd
Mary Ellen Mayer
Mary Ann Brophy Miller
Ryan P. Shute
Jimmy Slavin
Father Richard L. Tofani
Bill Ward

Institutional and Organizational Support

Allentown High School
American Express
Anchor House Foundation

"We are privileged to be in a long-term partnership with Anchor House. We had the opportunity to visit the new Youth Drop-In Center and were impressed with the dynamic young adults we met. Anchor House provides a welcoming environment with caring staff, together creating a safe place for youth in Trenton."

– Deepa Naik, Senior Director of Impact, The Merancas Foundation

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HHL Advertising
High Foundation
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Horace Street Consulting
Investors Foundation
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T-Mobile
Turning Point United Methodist Women's Ministry
UHG
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Watson Consulting
Women's Prayer Circle

Government Agencies

Capitol County Children's Collaborative
Mercer County Department of Human Services
New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection & Permanency
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Office of Homeless Protection Bridges Initiative
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Office of the Secretary of Higher Education
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Food and Shelter Program
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

We make every effort to accurately recognize donors. Any errors or omissions are unintentional. Should you find any, please accept our apologies and notify us at **info@anchorhousenj.org.**

Please note this list does not include individual Anchor House Foundation Ride for Runaways donors. However, Anchor House gives thanks to the Anchor House Foundation and to all who donate, participate, and support our mission via the Ride for Runaways!

Ways You Can Get Involved

- **Donate**
- **Volunteer**
- **Partner**
- **Share**
- **Advocate**

There are many ways to become involved with Anchor House from **individual or group volunteering** (skills-based, joining a committee, organizing our food pantry/essential needs closet, gardening or building beautification projects) **internships, or making a donation. If you are interested in helping youth there's a place for you at Anchor House!**

Anchor House accepts planned gifts, gifts of securities or IRAs, employee matching gifts and donor advised funds. Tax ID: 22-2229995

Visit anchorhousenj.org to learn more about volunteering, or to make a donation, or contact Kim McNear at kmcnear@anchorhousenj.org or 609-396-8329 ext. 150.

Kathy Durante, OceanFirst Foundation, left, presents check to Kim McNear

Unrestricted Support Helps Fill Funding Gaps

merancasfoundation®

During these uncertain times, with unpredictable government funding, unrestricted support is most needed to help keep the lights on, maintain our buildings, continue our programs and plan for future growth. We shine a spotlight on and are grateful for the increased unrestricted support from funders including the **Merancas Foundation** and for the **Princeton Area Community Foundation Community Impact** grant that provides general operating support. We hope their grants inspire more unrestricted support from funders, and the community, to make an even bigger impact together.

Strategic Plan Update: Setting a Path Forward

Responding to critical needs in our community, Anchor House provides the **only youth shelter, transitional living, and street outreach** program targeting youth in Mercer County, and one of two supportive housing programs in the county for young adults.

As homelessness in Mercer County continues to increase — as well as the **need for more mental health services and housing options** — we are continually evaluating and enhancing services to better meet these challenges. This includes identifying and providing more affordable housing options and increasing our outreach efforts.

Staff and young adults at a Thanksgiving gathering

Guided by our strategic plan, we are working to **strengthen capacity and identify more ways to recruit and retain staff** to achieve our goals. In addition to a recent staff salary parity review, we developed new onboarding, mentoring, benefits and incentives for employees.

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of youth, visit our **Careers page.**

Anchor House in the News

Kim McNear, center, receiving YWCA Princeton Tribute to Women Award, Nikki Jones, YWCA Princeton Board President (l) Rose Wong, YWCA Princeton, Chief Executive Director (r)

Kim McNear, Executive Director, was honored at the **YWCA Princeton Tribute to Women Gala. Mereides Delgado,** Director of Young Adult Services, and **Kenya Welch**, Overnight Shelter Counselor, both celebrated 20 years of outstanding service at Anchor House.

Many Anchor House young people have grown into confident, capable adults because of the guidance and support from staff including Mereides and Kenya.

"Anchor House has played a significant role in my journey as a Social Worker. I am able to make a positive impact in the lives of the youth," Kenya shares.

Anchor House is completing our second and **final year of the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award** that provides generous financial support and professional development.

Staff created a **Chalk Walk Dance** video in November in recognition of Youth HOPE Month to raise awareness of youth experiencing homelessness.

Mereides Delgado, Director of Young Adult Services, celebrated 20 years of service

Kenya Welch, Overnight Shelter Counselor, also celebrated 20 years

Rebecca Thompson, School Outreach Counselor, at our Chalk Walk HOPE Month event

Anchor House IMPACT REPORT 2024

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