



new canaan
CARES

ANNUAL IMPACT **REPORT**

New Canaan CARES
caresinfo@newcanaancares.org



20
24

Year in Review

Letter from CARES Executive Director & Board Chair

For 45 years, New Canaan CARES has been a cornerstone of the New Canaan community, offering vital youth and family programs free of charge. This work is only possible because of our generous supporters. As the year comes to a close, we want to thank you for helping us deliver this essential community work.

As longtime participants in CARES programs and now its Executive Director and Board Chair, we have seen firsthand the incredible impact CARES has on our community. Together with Maureen Asiel, our Education and Program Manager, during the 2023-2024 programming year, we provided these and other quality programs:

- **Empowering Youth:** CARES Craft Club, GAME ON!, and Middle School & High School Leadership
- **Strengthening Family:** Kids & Tech: Tips to Develop Healthy Digital Habits, Destigmatize Mental Health for Teens, and College Gambling Addiction with Saul Malek
- **Building Community:** Jennifer Wallace, Author of Never Enough, in Conversation with Dr. Bryan Luizzi, and Social Media & Your Kids with Max Stosel

CARES delivers all of our programs in partnership with numerous community organizations. We believe that these partnerships help us build a stronger, healthier, and more connected New Canaan community. Our collaborators include the National Charity League, New Canaan Chamber of Commerce, New Canaan Country School, New Canaan Girl Scouts, New Canaan Library, NCPD - School Resource Officers, New Canaan Public Schools, Service League of Boys, St. Luke's School, Waveny LifeCare Network and many more.

We cannot deliver this valuable programming without your help! Thank you for supporting our mission to empower youth, strengthen parenting skills, and build a healthier, more connected New Canaan community. Together, we are making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for being part of this important work!

All the Best,

Colleen Prostor

Colleen Prostor
Executive Director

Abigail Skidmore

Abigail Skidmore
Board Chair

**Thank you to our outgoing
2023-24 Board Members**

Kerry Connell, Anna Diamantis,
and Jess Huetter

New Canaan CARES 2024-25 Board of Directors



Left to right, back row: Liz McClave, Dr. Melissa Coffin, Adriana Casey - Secretary, Ann Spilker, Amelia Scott, Natalie Jones - Vice Chair, Sarah Bennett - Treasurer. Front row: Laurie Ferris, Felicia Jamin, Abigail Skidmore - Board Chair. Not shown: Alessia Miller & Meg Walsh

CARES Mission

New Canaan CARES is an independent, non-profit community organization focused on advancing the health and well-being of youth and families. CARES provides responsive educational programs that support and strengthen parenting skills, foster positive youth development, and encourage healthy lifestyles – free of charge.



RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

- CARES is committed to supporting parents and families by offering expert-led programming designed to address the challenges and pressures they face today. Through events featuring renowned speakers such as Jennifer Wallace, Max Stossel, and Dr. Aliza Pressman, we provide valuable insights and resources to help families navigate modern life.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

- Middle and High School students build leadership skills through public speaking training and community volunteering. This program helps participants develop practical skills while gaining a deeper understanding of their unique qualities as leaders.



DEVELOPING INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- GAME ON! offers a supportive, inclusive space where elementary students play classic games while developing communication, collaboration, and teamwork skills. Through play, they also strengthen social-emotional skills like empathy, self-regulation, and relationship-building.



CARES CRAFT CLUB

- This program introduces elementary students to the value of giving back and fosters a strong tradition of service. Through meaningful outreach projects, it helps kids develop compassion and a sense of community.



LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL

- We proudly lead The New Canaan Coalition, which raises awareness about the risks of substance use and misuse, especially among youth. New this year, CARES provided essential NARCAN training sessions to equip community members with critical, life-saving tools.



CARES IN THE COMMUNITY

- Our community partnerships have helped organizations extend their reach, ensuring more individuals and families have access to critical resources and support. We deeply value these partnerships, as they strengthen our collective efforts and contribute to the success of our shared mission.

CARES IN THE COMMUNITY

S'mores at the Holiday Stroll, glow sticks at the Halloween Parade, sharing resources at the Sidewalk Sale, lending a listening ear at the PTC Welcome Back Coffee, and anti-vaping stickers on to-go cups—at CARES, it's our priority to be present and actively listen to members of the community to better serve and support youth and families.

These small but meaningful touches reflect our dedication to fostering connections and addressing the evolving needs of our town. We believe the best ideas come from those we serve, and your input helps shape impactful programs and initiatives. We always welcome your comments, suggestions, and program ideas. Feel free to share them with us anytime at caresinfo@newcanaancares.org.



With your support

New Canaan CARES, in partnership with community collaborators, hosted over 2,000 students and parents at five separate Social Media & Your Kids programs, featuring Max Stossel, at New Canaan's public and private schools. In October 2023, we welcomed hundreds of parents to an at-capacity event at New Canaan Library with New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Wallace, in partnership with New Canaan Public Schools and Elm Street Books. Additionally, over 200 New Canaan students participated in our youth programs, gaining valuable skills in leadership, teamwork, and community engagement.



"New Canaan CARES has supported me at every step of my parenting journey, empowering me with the guidance and resources I needed along the way."

Ann Spilker, New Canaan parent and CARES Board Member

We couldn't do it without our **volunteers**

Home Tour Committee

2024 Home Tour Chairs

Natalie Jones
Elise Walters

Katherine Duggan
Summer Harty

2024 Home Tour Committee

Alix Armstrong
Kate Brooks
Laurie Ferris
Melissa Flanders
Jera Flood
Kristen Grzymiski
Natasha James
Felicia Jamin
Erica Juneja
Laura Klarman
Jenny Metha
Kate McGee
Hillary Ambrose McGrail
Paige McInerney
Jen Russey
Remi Salami
Brooke Santulli
Maia Sapanski
Amelia Scott
Erica Schwedel
Nancy Scranton
Beth Snyder
Julie Stein
Meg Walsh
Allison Zinczenko

Additional Home Tour Volunteers

Deborah Armijo
Camilla Austin
Sara Bakker
Sarah Bennett
Kristie Breed
Stefanie Clasby
Kerry Connell
Jane Cullen

Elizabeth DeMuth
Anna Diamantis
Kristin Dolan
Anne Emson
Jill Ernst
Laurie Ferris
Melissa Flanders
Kelly Giordano

Lide Goodwin
Kristen Grzymiski
Emily Hanlon
Cecilia Henderson Hassan
Natasha James
Shaz Kahng
Ipek Kaya-Savasoglu
Amy Kennedy

Jo Keohane
Laura Klarman
Carrie Kurtz
Vanessa LaVerne
Denise Luccarelli
Sarah Mattern
Kate Maco
Aoife Maynard

Home Tour Sponsors

Grand Sponsor

Melissa Rwambuya - Raveis

Platinum Sponsor

Yankee Custom Builders

Gold

Brooks & Falotico
CHUBB
Cross Private Client Insurance
E & J Home Consulting LLC
Farrow & Ball
Stewart's Wine & Spirits

Silver

Cedar Life
DEANE Inc.
HTG Investment Advisors Inc.
Hutchinson Tree Care Specialists
Landmark Exteriors Inc.
Manfredi Jewelers
Michael Smith Architects
Odd Jobs Landscaping
Prutting & Co. Customer Builders
Ring's End
Signature Pools
Simply Delicious

Tour Photographer

Katie Kinsley Photography

Media Sponsors

Moffly Media & The NewCanaanite



CARES ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Kathy Bakal, Kerry Connell,
Kristen Grzymiski, Emily
Hanlon, Therese Heyn,
Michelle Riley, Dr. Anna
Simonis, DDS and
Kate Van Dussen**

Additional Home Tour Volunteers

Meghan McDonough
Alessia Miller
Quentin Pearl
Tracy Potter
Alyssa Resnick
Katherine Rewey-Sexton
Barb Rosen
Joanne Russo-Cain

Maia Sapanski
Remi Salami
Momath Seck
Sara Sharma
Sabeel Sheikh
Laura Sigg
Shea Smith
Ruth Stiefel

Annual Appeal Committee

Lauren Beuerlein
Amy Cardillo
Andrew Greig
Erin Gutelius
Destiny Ikard

Chrissy Khachane
Jessica Knowles
Jennifer Potter
Ali Schilpp
Jill Tobin

CARES Partner Organizations

Carriage Barn Arts Center
Girl Scouts
Grace Farms
Interfaith Council of New Canaan
National Charity League (NCL)
New Canaan Athletic Foundation
New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance
New Canaan Chamber of Commerce
New Canaan Community Foundation
New Canaan Country School
New Canaan Library
New Canaan Nature Center
New Canaan Newcomers Club
New Canaan Parent Support Group
New Canaan Police Department
New Canaan Public Schools
New Canaan Preschools
New Canaan YMCA
Newcomers Club
RAM Council
S.L.O.B.s
St. Luke's School
Staying Put
Silver Hill Hospital
The Hub
Town of New Canaan, Human Services
Town of New Canaan, Coalition of Youth and Families
Waveny LifeCare Network
Young Women's League of New Canaan

Jill Telesco
Anne Wagner
Jocelyn Walls
Denise Walsh
Simin Zendehtrouh
Allison Zinczenko

School Parent Representatives:

Erin Gutelius, West School
Destiny Ikard, South School
Kelly Foran Tuller, East School



We are so very thankful for our **donors**

\$5,000 - \$10,000

New Canaan Community Foundation
The Rwambuaya Family
RYASAP
The Shullman Family
The Spilker Family
Town of New Canaan
Yankee Custom Builders Inc.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Brooks & Falotico
E & J Home Consulting LLC
Emily and Jeff Hanlon
Newcomers Club of New Canaan
Saxe PTC

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Cedar Life
CHUBB
The Cioffi Family
Cross Private Client Insurance
DEANE, Inc.
East School PTC
Anna & Elias Diamantis
Exchange Club of New Canaan
Gas Bijoux
The Gutelius Family
The Harty Family
The Herman Family
HTG Investment Advisors
The Huetter Family
Hutchinson Tree Care Specialists
The Jamin Family
The Jones Family
Karl Chevrolet
Landmark Exteriors Inc.
The Lydon Family
Manfredi Jewelers
The Messina Family
New Canaan Field Club, Inc.
New Canaan Library
New Canaan Pediatric Dentistry LLC
ODD Job Landscaping
The Overlock Family
The Perreten Family
Signature Pools

\$1,000 - \$2,499 (cont'd)

Signature Pools
Prutting & Co Custom Builders LLC
The Riley Family
Ring's End
Rotary Club of New Canaan
St. Luke's School
Mary Jane Setter
The Smith Family
South School PTC
Stirling Mills LLC
Tile and Stone Techniques LLC
The Vock Family
West School PTC

\$500 - \$999

The Blevins Family
The Bruestle Family
Burr Salvator Architects
The Calaba Family
The DeCarlo Family
Dooney & Bourke
The Grzymiski Family
Hollow Tree Self Storage & Wine Vault
The Jetnil Family
The Kelly Family
The Klarman Family
Leron, Inc.
Matthew R. Dougherty Architect, LLC
Mayflower Home Organizing
New Canaan High School PFA
The Ozkaplan Family
The Romaniello Family
The Schwedel Family
Barbara and Sebastian Scripps
Ted and Rhonda Sihpol
Silvermine Arts Center
The Skidmore Family
The Small Family
Kerry Connell and Gregory Smith
The Triay Family
The VanDussen Family
The Wagner Family
The Wrede Family

\$250 - \$499

Christopher and Rachel Baker
The Bennett Family
The Borsy Family
The Buschmann Family
Adriana and Bill Casey
The Cushman Family
The Dean Family
The Dolan Family
The Dooley Family
Ann Dunn
The Flood Family
Groundswell Charitable Foundation
The Heim Family
The Janiga Family
The Kenin Family
The Lota Family
Marc & Maria Magliacano
The McClave Family
The Mehta Family
The Metz Family
Chris and M.E. O'Connor
Paypal Charitable Giving Fund
The Potter-Brown Family
The Scott Family
The Shah Family
Daniel and Jennifer Simpson
The Stein Family
Beth and Billy Stimpson
The Strachan Family
The Tobin Family
The Wartinbee Family
The Wyckoff Family
The Zoccolillo Family

Under \$250

Mark Ableman
The Addeo Family
The Aspillaga Family
The Austin Family
The Bakal Family
Garrett and Melissa Baker
The Barnes Family
The Barrato Family

Under \$250 (cont'd)

The Bartlett Family
The Bartone Family
The Bashian Family
Bill & Bridget Besgen Jr
The Bettino Family
The Blackwood Family
The Booth Family
The Bulgrin Family
The Busch Family
The Butler Family
The Campbell Family
The Campbell Family
The Cannon Family
Ms. Michelle Casey
The Catherwood Family
The Cereghino Family
The Chalian Family
The Cheever Family
The Chimera Family
The Christie Family
The Colthup Family
The Connelly Family
John & Carrie Corcoran
The Coughlin Family
The Cusker Family
The Dalipi Family
The Dannemann Family
The de Kanter Family
The DelMazio Family
The Dockwell Family
The Duval Family
Elm Street Books
The Efimetz Family

The Erickson Family
The Fagerstal Family
The Falsetta Family
The Ferley Family
The Foster Family
The Frantz Family
The Gallois Family
The Garrett Family
The George Family
The Gilbert Family
The Golden Family
The Haas Family
The Hall Family
The Harmon Family
The Harold Family
The Hartofilis Family
The Hartofilis Family
The Havens Family
The Himmel Family
The Howe Family
The Hunt Family
The Ikard Family
The Jablons Family
The Jelincich Family
The Jewett Family
The Johnsen Family
The Juneja Family
The Kelley Family
The Keohane Family
The Knowles Family
The Kurdziel Family
The Laks Family
The Lamson Family

The Lamson Family
The Lange Family
The Langworthy Family
The Lasko Family
The LaVerne Family
The Lavigne Family
The Legenzowski Family
The Lehnert Family
The Liono Family
The Little Plucky LLC
The Lloyd Family
Ali & Mike Luddy
The Maco Family
The Mainelli Family
The Manning Family
The Masters Family
The Matthews Family
The May Family
The McDonough Family
The McInerney Family
The Meyer Family
The Miller Family
The Mocco Family
The Monohan Family
The Moor Family
The Murphy Family
The Nachman Family
The Norton-Butler Family
The Nussbaum Family
The Olesen Family
The Ormond Family
The Parrino Family
The Penman Family

Pennyweights
The Perkins Family
The Petrides Family
The Pittaro Family
The Prior Family
The Roach Family
The Roomet Family
The Sanders Family
The Santulli Family
The Sarkis Family
The Saunders Family
The Savelli Family
The Schaefer Family
The Schletter Family
Patricia Schubert
The Silvio Family
The Singer Family
The Sonesson Family
The Song Family
Kate & John Stimpson
The Taylor Family
The Telesco Family
The Thirumalai Family
The Tsoutsoplides Family
Amy Tucci
The Vitale Family
The Walls Family
The Walton-Daniels Family
The Weir Family
The Whinery Family
The Zwick Family



CARES HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

"Being part of New Canaan CARES Leadership Program has taught me a lot about responsibility and different styles of leadership. I've realized that good communication is the most important skill for leadership success."

-CARES Leadership Graduate

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For more information or to
nominate a student, email
CARESinfo@newcanaanCARES.org

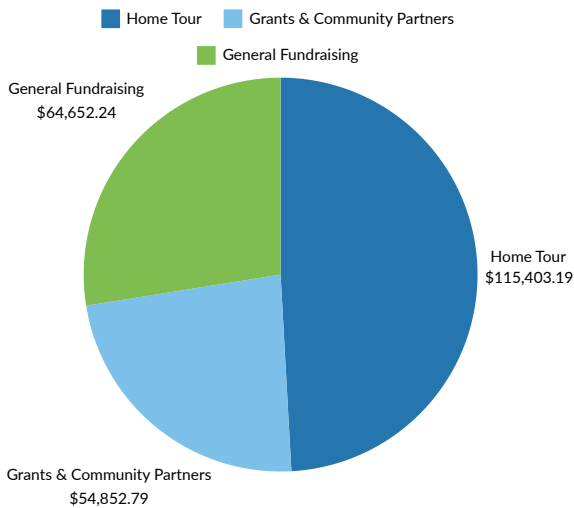
our work

CARES aims to support the health and well-being of youth and families in the community. Through various programs, CARES empowers parents, fosters leadership and philanthropy in youth, and creates a positive impact for all New Canaan residents.

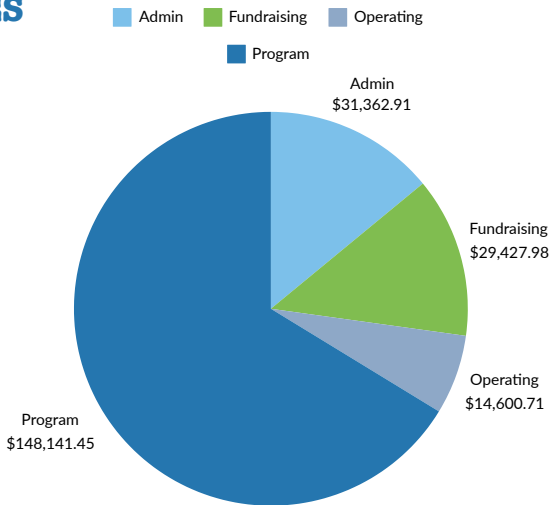
FINANCIAL REPORT

This report reflects our Fiscal Year, July 1, 2023 - June 30th, 2024

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Dr. Bryan Luizzi & Dr. Aliza Pressman at New Canaan Library

Supporting healthy lifestyles, raising awareness, and connecting generations are just some of the ways CARES builds community.

CARES community supporters





CARES team members

Executive Director
Colleen Prostor

Education & Program Manager
Maureen Asiel

Marketing & Communications Manager
Jen Russey



scan to donate



say hello!

Phone: (203) 966-7862

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Website: www.newcanaancares.org