

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

Town Clock Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, provides permanent, affordable, safe housing and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.



TOWN CLOCK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Mildred Torres (Family Justice Center), Peter Chapman (#ManStand Speaker), Susan Kramer-Mills (Town Clock CDC Executive Director), and Donna Silbert (Parker Health Group) at Being Brave 2023.

Citing an article by Hilary Botein and Andrea Hetling, “Victims of domestic violence face multiple barriers to establishing independent, violence-free lives: legal issues, lack of financial resources, poor work histories, and mental and physical health problems are common. The inability to locate affordable and safe housing is a key reason why battered women choose not to leave their abusers, and policymakers and advocates recently have emphasized this barrier.”* This chilling statistic demonstrates the lack of affordable housing.

57% of all homeless women in the United States cite domestic violence as the root cause of their homelessness.

Town Clock CDC’s work and mission is to change these circumstances, by providing survivors of abuse with permanent, affordable, and safe housing options with supportive services. Our staff has seen the changes in our residents. Through our housing and case management program, workshops, and other services, we have been able to document how the residents’ lives improve. Thanks to your contributions, this is what our residents have been able to accomplish since opening our doors in 2016:

- **34** individuals have resided at Dina’s Dwellings and the Barbara Littman House.
 - 23 of those have been adults.
 - 11 have been children.
- **12** families have transitioned out of our program.
 - 41% went to unsubsidized housing.
 - 33% went to another subsidized housing location.
 - 25% did not report where they were moved.
- **11** individuals have utilized our scholarship program.
 - All new residents receive a computer through the scholarship program.
- **90%** of our current residents report feeling very supported by our program.
- **64%** of our current residents are working.



**View more photos
from Being Brave
2023 by scanning
this QR code!**

All that we are offering would not be possible without **you**.

Thank you,



Susan Kramer-Mills
Executive Director

*Botein, H., and A. Hetling. 2010. Permanent supportive housing for domestic violence victims: program theory and client perspectives. *Housing Policy Debate*, 20:2, 185-208.

What Town Clock CDC Provided Residents



Poster for Manifestation Workshop

Our case management program is staffed by our case manager and interns under the supervision of our executive director. This year almost 600 hours of case management were provided to our residents, which is an enormous amount of work for a part-time staff.

A rigorous workshop program was offered this year. These included: Medication Adherence, Mental Health Management, Self-Expression through Visual Journaling, Time Management, Aspirational Travel, Personal Finance, and a Photo & Collage Workshop. We worked with various community partners who offered their expertise in these areas.

Our Therapeutic Counseling program is being provided through two counseling agencies. One agency meets with our residents in the building. The other offers virtual counseling sessions. Residents attended over 175 hours of therapeutic counseling.

Various opportunities for social interactions took place, such as: Mommie & Me Brunch, Bingo & Game Night, Make-up Lessons, Pumpkin Painting, and Holiday Decorating.

Between the months of September through December, Liberating Women LLC organized and prepared a 3-course meal for each resident and their families.

Many organizations and houses of worship supplied donations for our food and clothing pantries. This enabled residents to stretch their food stamps and access items that are not otherwise available through the governmental programs.

One of our partners, Earth Breeze, provides eco-friendly laundry detergent for all of our residents.

Through the Middlesex County Republican Women's Club, a landscape architect refurbished and restocked our raised garden beds, while a volunteer painted all the doors in our building.

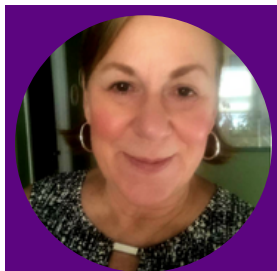


Collage & Book Binding Workshop poster

MOTHER'S DAY: A Fundraiser for Our Scholarship/Legal Fund

Town Clock CDC raises funds to help residents with further education, job readiness training, and legal support. We were able to provide a \$50 gift card to each adult resident and add over \$7,200 to our Scholarship/Legal Fund. Several residents received new laptops, two residents applied for certification programs, and another resident attended community college. Thank you for making this all possible.

Being Brave: An Evening Honoring Survivors



The Being Brave event on November 1, 2023 started at 6 pm with a cocktail hour & an array of fun boardwalk activities. These included: an airbrush artist, Thomas Sweet chocolate tasting, a tarot card reader, and a photo booth. Over thirty items were presented in our silent auction.



This year's honorees were: Lynn Balewicz, who received The Outstanding Volunteer Award, the Parker Health Group with the Outstanding Social Responsibility Award, Mildred Torres of the Family Justice Center/Women Aware with the Outstanding Advocate Award, and the North Brunswick Domestic Violence Response Team with the Outstanding Provider Award.



The program line up included: Jason Stavrianidis as the Host for the evening, and Mike Bond & Band. The speaker for the #ManStand was Peter Chapman of Zapman Creative Haus film and photo production.



A new addition to our event was the Memorial Moment, which recognizes a domestic violence victim, who did not survive her/his abuse. At the end of this video, the audience stood up and held flameless candles for a minute of silence. This was a very heartfelt moment for all.

Top to bottom:
Lynn Balewicz
Parker Health
Mildred Torres
North Brunswick Domestic
Violence Response Team



Memorial Moment Being Brave 2023



Art for sale at Being Brave 2023

Art Sale: Unbreakable Was A Great Success!

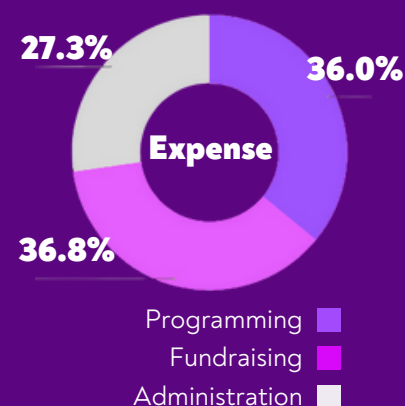
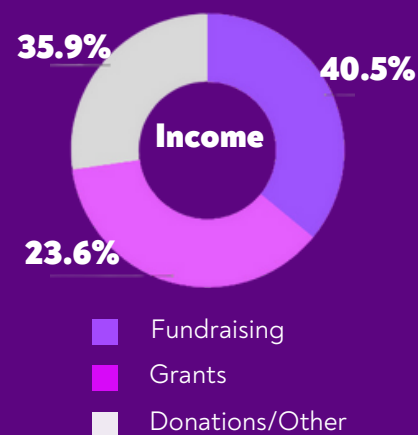
Over 80 people attended our Art Sale, which took place at the New Brunswick Elks Lodge. This year featured new artwork from our residents. The patrons enthusiastically purchased these works. All who attended enjoyed food, camaraderie, and lively conversations while viewing the variety of artistic work that was up for sale.

Mark your calendars for **March 20, 2024** for our next Art Sale. Our special guest, Marvel & DC comic penciler & artist, **Jim Calafiore** will be speaking.

2023 Grant Support

Town Clock CDC gratefully acknowledges grant awards from the following:

- AMBOY BANK FOUNDATION
- BUD ACKERMAN FOUNDATION
- CHURCH & DWIGHT EMPLOYEE GIVING FUND
- J&J COMMUNITY SOMERSET COUNTY COMPANIES HEALTHCARE & BASIC NEEDS FUND
- KARMA FOUNDATION
- KEARNY BANK FOUNDATION
- MAGYAR BANK FOUNDATION
- MANASQUAN BANK FOUNDATION
- MIDDLESEX COUNTY COMMISSIONER SUPPORT GRANT
- NORTHFIELD BANK FOUNDATION
- PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION
- RUTGERS COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION



Our Plans to Address DV Survivor Homelessness



Rendering of the Education Building Reimagined as Space for 6 apartments for survivors, designed by Mills + Schnoering Architects.

Town Clock CDC has undertaken the first phase of this major renovation. With the help of our donors we matched a \$50,000 gift from the First Reformed Church. This initial investment was used to complete a project study, which also provided renderings of how the building will look after it is refurbished.

In 2024, we anticipate the roll out of a capital campaign to raise the funds for the next phase of the Ed Building Project. This is an ambitious endeavor. Even under the best of times, capital funds are difficult to attract, and construction costs continue to increase in price. We are building a team of volunteers to assist us with this campaign. Won't you consider joining us?

We are determined to make this dream come true!



Birds-eye view of the apartments which are designated for survivors of domestic violence.

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