

Our Kids

The young people Domus serves are everything and nothing like other kids in our communities. They have dreams. They have suffered years of abuse. They want to get good grades. Their emotional development is years behind their age. They are talented artists and great at math. They may not get dinner tonight. And they love their parents and want to be loved in return.

2014-15 Program # Served

Community

Community center	204
After-school programs at Stamford Public Schools	308
Out-of-school-time program at charter middle school	72*
Summer camps	287*
Juvenile court diversion program	80
Youth training & employment	178*

Education

Charter middle school	124
Charter high school	136
New Haven middle school	35
Family advocates in Stamford Public Schools	108
Detention center summer school	50

Residential

Group homes and supervised apartment living	21
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Total unduplicated youth served 1,146

*Many youth in this program also participate in other Domus programs; we count each individual once for our total unduplicated number served.

"If I just did whatever I wanted to because of [all the bad stuff going on] in my life, I'd probably be dead or incarcerated right now."

—former group home resident

LOVE LIVES HERE

The core of our work is the development of loving relationships between a young person and a caring adult. Research shows that the quality of human relationships in schools may be more influential than specific techniques or interventions employed.

Unconditional love is the Domus secret sauce that drives our success. We walk alongside these young people, regardless of their behavior and regardless of how long it takes. **We don't give up on our kids.** And when asked what makes us different— why they succeed with us after years of struggle elsewhere—they inevitably say, "Domus never gave up on me... it's like a family there."



Domus was Connecticut's first nonprofit certified in the Sanctuary Model, an evidence-based approach to working with youth who have suffered from chronic, severe trauma. This healing approach helps youth acknowledge loss, feel emotionally safe, and look to the future.

www.domuskids.org

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ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



Since 1972, Domus has helped thousands of the region's most vulnerable, high-risk youth experience success. In our schools, community centers, and group homes, we create the conditions necessary for children to get on a path toward health and opportunity, so they can engage in their education and ultimately lead satisfying and productive lives.

OUR VISION:

NO CHILD SHALL BE DENIED
HOPE, LOVE, OR A FAIR
CHANCE IN LIFE.

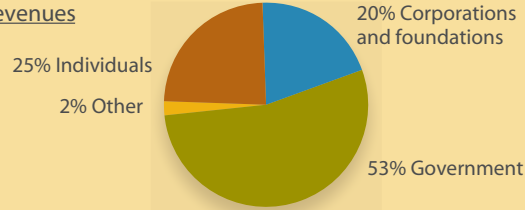
Highlights from 2014-15

- For the second consecutive year, 100% of eligible young men in our group homes graduated from high school and went on to college or vocational training.
- After developing critical hard and soft skills, nearly half the chronically unemployed youth served by our Trafigura Work & Learn Business Center earned jobs at various local establishments.
- Trailblazers Academy middle schoolers won the city basketball championship.
- For the third consecutive year, Stamford Academy high school graduated 100% of the senior class.
- Two former after-school program youth were invited to present at the National After-School Association Conference in DC on the importance of youth voice in creating programs for children.
- For the third year in a row, our free summer day camps stopped *summer slide*, the school-break learning loss that disproportionately affects low-income youth.
- Stamford Academy implemented a credit-recovery program that allows students to master content outside of school hours, accommodating their work and home responsibilities while recovering credits so they can graduate on schedule.
- All full-time employees of Domus were trained in Undoing Racism, a nationally lauded workshop that helps participants analyze structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity.
- We finished our work as a member of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation's PropelNext grantee cohort: After being selected to move on to Phase 2 and continuing to refine the way we collect and analyze data and view outcomes, we're confident we'll continue to be more data-driven so we can achieve better results for our youth.

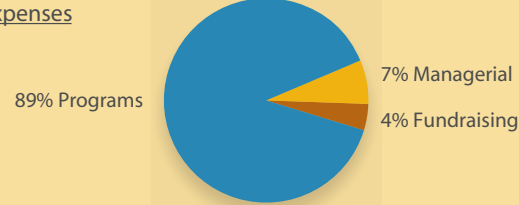
Financials

We raised \$13.8 million from the sources indicated below and spent it as follows:

Revenues



Expenses



All figures unaudited; estimated audit completion 12/31/2015.

Expanding Partnerships

- The Stamford Public Schools again selected us to operate one of their after-school programs, this time for Toquam Elementary school students. Domus now runs three after-school programs for the district.
- Domus' Chester Addison Community Center children work with Project Music, a nonprofit bringing music education, instruments, and mentorship to our youth, who couldn't otherwise afford music instruction.
- Our partnership with nonprofit Civic Life Project expanded to police officers and community members as our Stamford Academy students tackled the intense subject of police/youth relations. *Mistrust*, their documentary short, was chosen for the All-American High School Film Festival.

Richard Freeda



Education goes far beyond the classroom: Our students engage in hands-on, experiential learning at the beach, in the woodshop, and at the art studio.



"I had no idea I'd like this so much. I'm good at it, and I can see myself in a career now."
—Work & Learn participant

Results

We measure key indicators of our young people's emotional health and academic progress so we can better understand their needs, make data-driven decisions, and continually improve their outcomes. Our three-person data team helps us analyze and understand data and patterns so we can adjust our approach as soon as we discover a performance gap.

But results are more than just data...

- Our Stamford Academy students held two Random Acts of Kindness events; they felt great about the gratitude strangers showed them.
- The youth in Bridgeport Detention Center, where we run the summer school program, are actually learning, are far better behaved, and are as engaged more than they've ever seen, say BDC staff.
- A Stamford Academy student who graduated, then worked in the Trafigura Work & Learn program, recently joined the Marines and is thriving.

Team

120 full-time and 68 part-time Domus staff work at ten sites in Stamford, New Haven, and Bridgeport. More than 1,200 volunteers, including groups from corporations such as GE, Pitney Bowes, Nestlé Waters, Point72 Asset Management, Starwood Hotels, Synchrony, and Trafigura, help us accomplish our work.

Our young people learn a variety of critical life skills to help them stay healthy, be valuable employees, manage their money, and give back to their communities.