

END-OF-YEAR *REPORT*



JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD
FISCAL YEAR 2025 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)

Indicators of Success

97% of youth were not re-arrested 6 months after completing program¹

82% of youth, post-program, say JRB will "definitely help me stay out of future trouble"

84% of youth were not re-arrested or referred to court while in the program²

Our Young People

89% Are young people of color.

57% Are male.

71% Attend high school.

97 Young People Served

Program Referrals:

98³ Incidents that led to program referral: 24% involved an assault charge, 21% involved breach of peace, and 27% involved disorderly conduct.⁴

51% Of incidents took place in the community, 42% at school, and 7% at home or on the bus.

93% Were referred from the police department.

How Are We Doing?⁵

88% of YOUTH feel the help program staff provided was *very/extremely* helpful.

82% of YOUTH feel program staff *always* treated them with respect.

93% of FAMILIES feel program staff treated them with respect during the initial meeting.





The Domus Relational Model

The entirety of our work is based on the undeniable power of love to transform lives. Our staff work relentlessly to engage young people, never giving up until they feel a sense of safety and belonging. We use a unique, powerful combination of trauma-responsive and anti-racist practices, positive youth development principles, loving relationships, and skill building rooted in Thoughts, Emotions, & Behaviors, a form of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Together, these elements engage a young person's entire nervous system to increase their safety, health, wisdom, resilience, and skills. Fundamentally, they help youth regulate, relate, and reason as they practice shifting from a chronic stress response (*fight, flight, or flee*) to engage their *calm and connect* systems. Thus, when facing life's inevitable challenges, youth can interrupt unproductive, automatic reactions and respond more capably. Through these loving, evidence-based interventions, Domus empowers young people to achieve life-changing outcomes.

This year, Domus engaged 719 disengaged young people, each with an average of 3 traumatic experiences that have impacted their ability to succeed.

Our evidence-supported interventions, in combination with the elements of our Relational Model, provided the support needed to help them re-engage and thrive.

Essential Supports for Success

- Engaging in **612 connections with a supportive adult**
- Helping program youth **meet 132 goals, or 80% of goals set**, before exiting the program

About the Program

The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) court diversion program is a partnership between Domus and the Stamford Police Department. The JRB helps youth who have committed low-level misdemeanor crimes who are determined to have a low risk of recidivism and want to keep their records clean. Young people are diverted from the criminal justice system and provided with a supportive adult who connects them to the services they need to avoid re-arrest. A review board of community volunteers helps the young person and their family acknowledge harm and create an agreement to repair the harm the youth's actions caused, also known as restorative justice. This is accomplished by setting goals each young person works toward completing while in the program. Rather than punishing young people for their misbehavior, the JRB works to better understand what happened to the youth to cause this incident and help them heal. Successful completion of the JRB means a young person exits the program without a criminal record. The long-term program goal is that youth remain arrest-free in the future.

Program Successes

We increased youth engagement by providing numerous recreational opportunities after school, on the weekends, and during school breaks, including an artistic painting project, a trip to Soccer Fun Zone, and a trip to RPM Recreation Center. We also began having young people who came before the JRB return when they completed the program to report on the completion of their goals.

What is the program good at?

Helping me change my life around. Taking us on field trips and caring about me.

—JRB Participant

Organization-Wide Successes

YOUTH & FAMILY WELL-BEING: We awarded 120 youth wellness scholarships of \$100 each. Young people applied to purchase items or services to improve their physical or mental well-being. We also provided *Spring into Summer* gifts of fun, activity-based supplies to 250 families.

SERVICE LEARNING: 75 Domus youth from across our programs planned and executed a community-wide spring/Easter celebration for over 100 local children. The celebration included pictures with the Easter Bunny, numerous egg hunts, and arts & crafts activities. Families received food to help defray the cost of feeding their children during spring break.

ADVOCACY FOR DISCONNECTED YOUTH: Domus youth and staff educated decisionmakers about challenges facing disengaged and disconnected young people.

- Youth and staff testified in Hartford on several pieces of legislation.
- Domus joined with six other nonprofits across the state to form the 119K To Zero advocacy collaborative to support efforts reducing the number of disconnected youth in the state.
- Staff and youth met with the governor, the House minority leader, and many state representatives to share their experiences.

Endnotes

¹At the end of each fiscal year, post-program success is evaluated for the prior calendar year because 6 months have not passed for youth who exited in the second half of the fiscal year.

²Among 98 program referrals, 73 had the opportunity to complete the program in FY25.

³One youth was referred to the program twice.

⁴Youth may be arrested on multiple charges.

⁵Survey response rates: 45% youth, 44% families



LOVE LIVES HERE