DOMUS

END-OF-YEAR REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2026 (7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026)

Organization-Wide Highlights

Independent Evaluation by Child Trends: A two-year independent evaluation found Domus' Relational Model to be research-aligned and consistently implemented. It also linked face-to-face engagement with stronger school outcomes. Child Trends noted that the Domus model is well-aligned with research and that replication would be a strong evaluation strategy. Strong implementation, clear outcomes tracking and a well-defined theory of change position Domus for more rigorous future evaluation.

Northwell Health Academy for Career Readiness: Domus helped develop and launch the Academy for Career Readiness at Northwell Health's Norwalk Hospital in partnership with Northwell Health, Dalio Education, and the McChord Foundation. Domus hired a healthcare employment program coordinator, established referral criteria, reviewed eligibility for young people with criminal backgrounds, recruited and supported participants, and helped shape the program model. In May 2026, the Academy celebrated its inaugural class of six graduates, creating a new healthcare pathway for young adults whom many traditional workforce programs are not designed to serve.

Statewide Leadership through the 119K to Zero Collective: Domus joined six peer nonprofits in the statewide collaborative and elevated the voices of disconnected young people through legislative testimony, meetings with state leaders, and public advocacy for stronger education, workforce, and reentry supports.

Fifth Sanctuary Institute Recertification: Domus was recertified in trauma-responsive care in November 2025, earning an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5. Reviewers praised Domus' "love-infused programming," the strong sense of community and care expressed by youth and staff, and the organization's sustained investment in staff, youth, and family wellness.

Launch of a Dedicated Post-Secondary Program: Domus established a post-secondary presence across all three Domus high school programs, developed individualized plans with seniors, built Salesforce systems to track pathways and services, and supported college, trade, employment, and other post-graduation options through applications, personal statements, FAFSA completion, campus visits, professional connections, and community service.

National Sanctuary Institute Leadership: Tom Langan was elected to the National Steering Committee of The Sanctuary Institute, extending Domus' leadership and influence within the national trauma-responsive care community.

National Thought Leadership: Mike Duggan and Julie DeGennaro presented "Learning While Earning: Building a Social Enterprise to Engage Disconnected Youth" at the National Youth Employment Coalition annual conference. Julie and Connecticut Opportunity Project Deputy Director Amanda Olberg also presented "A Better Metric for Measuring and Communicating Nonprofit Impact" at the 14th Annual Symposium on Public Policy for Nonprofits.

SPEF Leadership Award: Dr. Bianca Shinn-Desras, Domus' Director of Family Advocacy for Middle Schools and After-School Programs, received the Stamford Public Education Foundation Leadership Award for her commitment to equity, dignity, and community leadership.

Program Highlights

Exceptional Participant and Family Satisfaction: On the Net Promoter score (NPS), a widely used measure of how likely someone is to recommend a program, DomusWorks scored 77, a world-class result. School Engagement scored 76 among students and 86 among families - showing exceptionally high levels of satisfaction and willingness to recommend the program.

Holiday Support for Families: Domus provided Thanksgiving food baskets and gift cards to 324 families and Christmas gift cards, Angel Family support, toys, and food baskets to 387 families.

Youth Wellness Scholarships: For the third year, Domus awarded 118 young people $100 wellness scholarships to purchase items supporting their physical, emotional, and creative well-being, including athletic equipment, art and music supplies, clothing, technology, personal care items, and other individualized needs.

Spring Into Summer Family Gifts: Domus provided 117 families with a summer package that included an ice cream gift card, beach mat, and cooler backpack, helping families enjoy enriching activities that may otherwise be difficult to prioritize over basic needs.

Restorative Practices Training: In March 2026, Middle School Family Advocates completed a two-day Restorative Practices Practitioner Training through the State Education Resource Center, strengthening the team's relationship-centered approach to student support.

Other Vital Domus Support Services

Project New Hope: Street outreach program that engages high-risk youth.

After-School Programs at SPS: Fun, safe after-school spaces for youth at three Stamford elementary and middle schools.

Hartford Residential Center: Educational services for incarcerated youth.

Bridgeport Residential Center: Summer academic enrichment program for incarcerated youth.

Scan to learn more about Domus Kids

1,250 young people served across Domus programs this year.