

Annual Report
2025

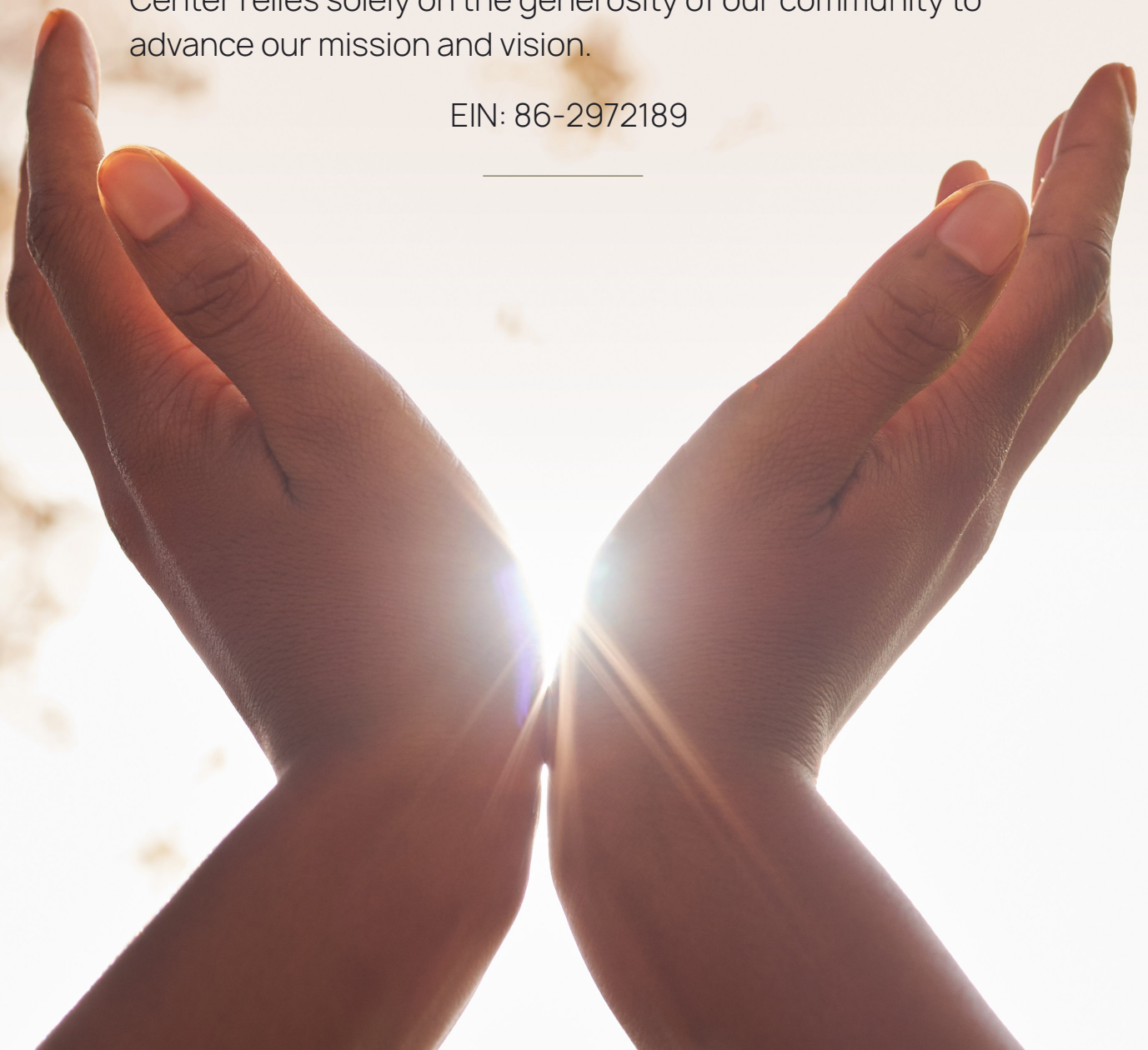


THE WOW CENTER
LOVE AND COMMUNITY

Our Mission

The WOW Center's mission is empowering real women with real stories to thrive, dream, believe and pursue the impossible through love and community. The WOW Center is a community of women who stand alongside each other imperfect, restored, and redeemed. Through the sharing of personal testimony and faith in action, WOW empowers women to fully embrace and believe, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13 NKJV) As a 501c3 non-for-profit organization, The WOW Center relies solely on the generosity of our community to advance our mission and vision.

EIN: 86-2972189





Letter from The Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for all that God has done through The WOW Center and for the incredible women, families, partners, and supporters who continue to walk alongside us. This year reminded us that even in seasons of challenge, growth, and stretching, faith and community remain our greatest strengths.

Throughout 2025, The WOW Center remained committed to being a place of refuge, restoration, and empowerment. Every program, gathering, and conversation was rooted in our belief that when women are seen, supported, and loved, transformation naturally follows. We witnessed women step into confidence, rediscover hope, and embrace purpose—often in ways that far exceeded what they believed possible for themselves.

None of this work would be possible without our dedicated staff, faithful volunteers, generous donors, and committed partners. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support allow us to steward our resources responsibly while remaining focused on the heart of our mission. You are an essential part of every story of impact that unfolds at The WOW Center.

As we look ahead, I am filled with hope and expectation. The needs in our community remain great, but I am confident that God will continue to guide and provide as we move forward together. With your continued partnership, we will keep creating spaces where women are empowered to thrive, dream boldly, believe deeply, and pursue the impossible through love and community.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for being part of what God is doing through The WOW Center.

With gratitude and faith,

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Melissa Padin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a dark background with some leaf-like silhouettes.

Melissa Padin | Executive Director, The WOW Center

Our space continues to be more than a building; it is a home where stories are honored, faith is nurtured, and healing begins. Week after week, women showed up courageously—some carrying heavy burdens, others ready to give back—and together they created a community marked by compassion, authenticity, and resilience. These moments reaffirm why this mission matters so deeply.



Program Overview

Community Impact In 2025: The WOW Center served **41,766** individuals through programs designed to meet immediate needs, foster long-term stability, and encourage faith, wellness, and community.

Below represents the number of individuals served in each program offered at The WOW Center in 2025.

39,308

FOOD
PANTRY

340

WOW
BOUTIQUE

85

WOWORSHIP
NIGHTS

468

WOWORKOUTS

68

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
4ALL

106

REENTRY SERVICES
(NJLEAD)

28

HOMEOWNERSHIP
(RISE UP)

46

NUTRITION/COOKING
WITH FOOD BANK SJ

364

SENIOR
ACTIVITIES

426

THANKSGIVING
OUTREACH

292

OPERATION WOW
CHRISTMAS

22

ESL (ENGLISH
AS SECOND
LANGUAGE)

22

BIBLE
STUDIES

46

YOUTH MENTORING
PROGRAM

22

PRAYER
NIGHTS





Testimonies of Transformation

Mindfulness Through Movement

The WOW Center is pleased to continue our partnership with NJ Department of Corrections as an NJLEAD grantee offering services to women pre-release in Edna Mahan Correctional Facility (the only prison for women in the State of NJ) and post release. De Bolton, Facilitator of our Mindfulness through Movement pre-release program, and a program participant share their experiences below.



Through this program, women participate in structured, trauma-informed sessions focused on emotional awareness, stress regulation, and gentle, accessible movement. While not clinical therapy, the program provides practical tools that participants can use in real-time moments of stress, frustration, or conflict. Participants consistently demonstrated growth in emotional recognition, stress management, and thoughtful responses to challenging situations.

One participant who initially avoided engagement gradually began participating in breath practices, reflection, and movement. Later, she shared that she used a grounding technique during a tense moment, allowing her to step away, breathe, and respond calmly rather than react impulsively. She expressed that while her circumstances had not dramatically changed, she now had tools to “slow down” and better manage her emotions.

The program creates a respectful, supportive environment where women feel seen, heard, and valued. Movement is experienced as nurturing rather than punitive, and group dialogue fosters trust, accountability, and connection. This work reflects the power of consistent, compassionate programming to support emotional growth, self-awareness, and resilience.

– De Bolton





From Incarceration to Serving as a Volunteer at The WOW Center

“ While incarcerated at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility, I first learned about The WOW Center through a job fair inside the facility. As a survivor of domestic violence, discovering an organization dedicated specifically to supporting women—especially one so close to home—gave me a sense of hope I had not felt in a long time.

In 2025, The WOW Center began offering programs inside the facility, and I participated in the first Mindfulness Through Movement group. This experience provided a rare opportunity for healing, reflection, and personal growth.

After my release, I was welcomed into the community with warmth and compassion. I began volunteering in the food pantry, gaining a sense of belonging and purpose as I adjusted to life on the outside. When I faced setbacks in employment due to my background, the leadership at The WOW Center provided guidance, encouragement, and practical support, allowing me to regain stability and move forward.

The WOW Center’s programs, compassion, and consistent support change lives and restore hope—not only for formerly incarcerated women, but for women from all walks of life.

– WOWoman

Entrepreneurship & Holistic Growth

My experience with The WOW Center has been life-giving, both personally and professionally. Through the Entrepreneurship Cohort, E4All, I developed a clear and actionable plan for my business. The program brought together a small but powerful group of women from diverse backgrounds and stages of their entrepreneurial journeys. The intentional structure and accountability helped transform ideas into implementation, leaving me with clarity, confidence, and a strong sense of community.

I also participated in Praise and Pilates, a program that nurtures both the body and the spirit. The instructor leads with authenticity and operates in her God-given gift of exhortation, creating a space that strengthens both physical and spiritual wellness.

Additionally, volunteering through the NJ LEAD program, teaching financial literacy workshops at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility, was deeply meaningful. Returning to a correctional setting—not as an inmate, but as a mentor and educator—was a powerful full-circle moment, illustrating the redemptive power of faith, community, and opportunity.

The WOW Center is truly a gem in our community. Even through just a few of its programs, I have experienced meaningful growth, restoration, and empowerment.

– WOWoman



Statement of Financial Position

DECEMBER 31, 2025

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 75,285
Grant Receivable	1,500
Prepaid Expenses	8,604
Total Current Assets	85,389
Property and Equipment, net	327,250
Total Assets	\$ 412,639
LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	\$ 9,754
Line of Credit	1,482
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	2,840
Total Current Liabilities	14,085
Long-Term Debt, Less Current Portion	190,741
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	162,973
With Donor Restrictions	44,840
Total Net Assets	207,813
Total Liabilities And Net Assets	\$ 412,639

Statement of activities

Changes of Net Assets

DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Contributions	\$ 54,967	\$ -	\$ 54,967
Government Grants	58,033	100,000	158,033
In-Kind Donations	58,000	-	58,000
Financial Empowerment	8,953	-	8,953
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	120,774	(120,774)	-
Total Revenue And Support	300,727	(20,774)	279,953
EXPENSES			
Program Services	326,205	-	326,205
Management & General	45,597	-	45,597
Total Expenses	371,802	-	371,802
Change In Net Assets	(71,075)	(20,774)	(91,849)
Net Assets, Beginning	234,048	65,614	299,662
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 162,973	\$ 44,849	\$ 207,822

Board of Directors

Melissa Padin,
*Co-Founder and
Executive Director*

Noelle St. Clair Lentz,
*Co-Founder and
Board Chair*

Dina Maldonado | Oscar Parra | Yajaira Rosa | Andrea Hennessee
Ana Gonzalez | Panagiota Ainalakis | Arlena Corzine (advisor)

Gratitude to Our Supporters

We extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, sponsors, partners, and volunteers. Your generosity and trust enable The WOW Center to continue serving women with excellence and care.

- > New Jersey Department of Corrections
- > New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives
- > New Jersey Center for Hispanic Policy & Research Development
- > Woodforest National Bank
- > Food Bank of South Jersey
- > Ron and Jeanne Hayden
- > Kingsway Church
- > Freedom Church
- > Mercy Center
- > FINANTA (formerly Community First Fund)
- > Who Can We Help
- > RiseUp Fund
- > Trinity Health LIFE New Jersey
- > FaithFueled™ Life
- > Top Crop Farms
- > Spread Bagelry
- > Rita O'Brien Real Estate
- > Rise Chiropractic of South Jersey
- > JNC Creative Studios
- > Life Focus Center
- > Butterfly Effect Language Services
- > Exhale Women's Fellowship
- > CARC (Community Affairs & Resources Center)
- > Virtua Hospital
- > New Jersey Birth Equity
- > Funders Alliance
- > Community Foundation of South Jersey
- > Strong Roots Occupational Therapy
- > Glorified Expressions, LLC
- > Heavenly Beads
- > Ray of Sunshine Crafting
- > TD Bank
- > Women On Deck
- > Healthy Families and Communities
- > Revelation Wellness
- > Beloved Children's Mentoring
- > And many more

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, The WOW Center remains committed to expanding impact, strengthening partnerships, and deepening reach within the community. Together, we will continue to empower women to walk boldly in purpose, faith, and possibility.



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