



DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY  
& INCLUSION  
at Care New England



# Care in the COMMUNITY 2025





# Statements



Kent Hospital Staff  
Volunteering for Habitat  
for Humanity

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## Acknowledgments

Special thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of community engagement reporting across Care New England operating units.

**Athena Lavoie**, Outreach Manager, Memory and Aging Program, Butler Hospital

**Mercy Morales**, Community Engagement Specialist, The Providence Center

**Luke Davis**, Regional Director, Spaulding Rehabilitation Services, Kent Hospital

**Joann Davis**, Community Education Resource Hospice, VNA of Care New England

**Rhonda M. Taddei**, Community Education Resource Hospice, VNA of Care New England

**Mariel Aleman**, Health Equity Program Manager, Women and Infants Hospital

**Denisses Cortorreal**, Community Liaison for the PCORI Best Trial, Women and Infants Hospital

**Brady Dunklee**, Manager of Community Partnerships and Health Equity, Integra Community Care Network

Who We Are Subgroup of Kent Hospital's DEI Council: **Joshua Napolitano, Emily Angelo-Crofter, Lindsey Tine, Brydie Thomasian, Ashley Liassidi, Carra Beth Baptista**



Brewster Street Clinic Crew at AHA Heart Walk



Care New England, 10 Charles Street, Suite 250, Providence, RI 02904  
carenewengland.org

Dear Community Members and Partners,

I am honored to present the *2025 Community Engagement Report* and address you directly. Community engagement is central to our mission, and while we are proud of our collective progress, we recognize that building a strong foundation for meaningful engagement is an ongoing journey. We are committed to continuing this important work, with growth and improvement guiding us forward.

This year, we have focused on prevention, investing in programs and initiatives designed to avert negative health outcomes before they arise. Your insights have been vital, shaping our actions and allowing us to respond thoughtfully to community needs. My hope is that this report provides transparency, offering a clear view of the steps we have taken and the challenges that remain. We celebrate our hardworking team members, whose dedication and compassion are the driving forces behind our achievements and the care we provide.

Listening to your voices and building stronger partnerships have been at the heart of our work. True progress comes from co-creating solutions with the people we serve. Through collaboration with fellow hospitals, local organizations, community voices, and our research partner, Build Community, we developed the *2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)*. This valuable resource highlights our community's strengths and identifies opportunities for growth. The CHNA serves as a roadmap for our efforts, guiding us as we identify and overcome the challenges outlined within it while we plan for 2026 and the years ahead.

Thank you to our dedicated community outreach professionals for their tireless efforts working with Rhode Islanders and partnering with local organizations to address important needs. Their unwavering commitment ensures that everyone in our state has access to the care and information needed to lead healthier lives. Their expertise and compassion form the foundation of our mission and inspire us to move forward with confidence. This report reflects their leadership and hard work.

Thank you for your trust and collaboration. I look forward to continuing our work together listening, learning, and taking bold action, side by side with each of you as we strive to build a healthier future grounded in partnership, understanding, and hope.

With gratitude and optimism,

*Kevin K. Martins*

Kevin Keith Martins, Ed.D., MBA  
Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer  
Office of Community and Social Impact  
Care New England Health System

## Introduction

2025 was a year of building on proven strategies, strengthening community partnerships, and launching new programs. CNE in the Community showcases the impact of our engagement efforts through both data and stories—highlighting the people behind the work, the direct impact on individuals, and the broader effect on communities across Rhode Island.

Stories matter because they bring data to life. They reveal details numbers can't capture and inspire the work ahead.

Care New England's ACT values, Accountability, Caring, and Teamwork, continue to guide our priorities. These values ensure we deliver on community needs while working together to do it right. Our focus areas remain clear: **Behavioral Health, Maternal and Child Health, Chronic Disease, Equitable Community Health and Wellness, Social Drivers of Health, and Workforce Development.**

As we review the newly published 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), we will use community feedback to reexamine top priorities and collaborate with key stakeholders to improve health outcomes. Our commitment to expanding access to quality care is unwavering—and we recognize that success begins with community voice at the center.

Aleyra Lamarche Baez  
Community and Social Impact Manager  
Office of Community and Social Impact



# Community Engagement Standards and Priorities



Deannett Cruz, Carla Bedoya, Mariel Aleman and Lisandra Salas attend West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation's 55th Anniversary Celebration

## Our Approach to Community Engagement

Our community engagement guiding principles allow us to reflect on our progress and help us set standards for our work.

**Inclusive:** Embracing everyone in the community, regardless of their background and making sure all voices are valued and heard.

**Sustainable:** Focusing on long-term solutions that protect and improve community resources, ensuring that efforts can be maintained and benefit future generations.

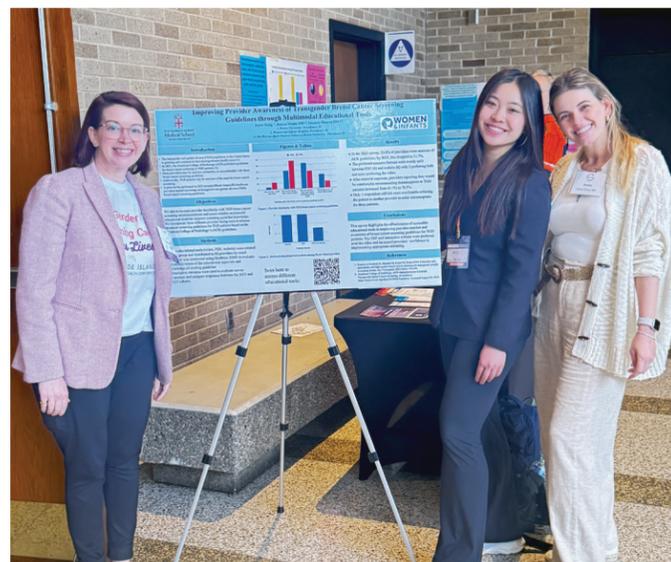
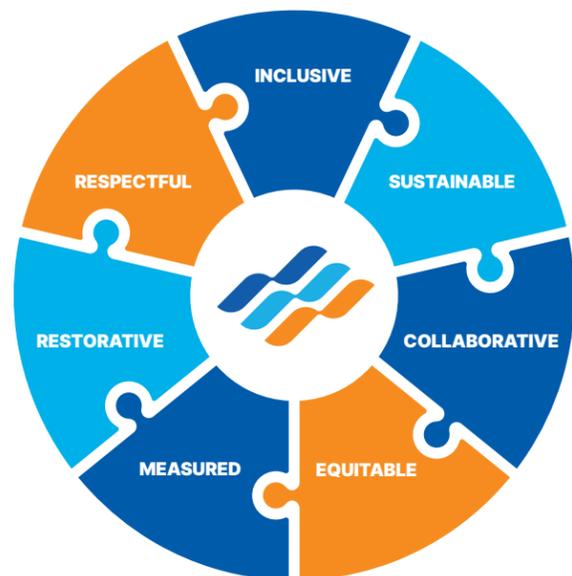
**Collaborative:** Working together with community leaders, organizations and residents to achieve common goals by sharing ideas, resources and responsibilities.

**Equitable:** Ensuring fair treatment and opportunities for all community members, addressing disparities and providing additional support where it is needed.

**Measured:** Using data and feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of community programs, policies or projects, making informed decisions, and adjusting strategies based on what works best.

**Restorative:** Aiming to heal and strengthen the community by addressing past harms, repairing relationships, and supporting those affected to build a more positive environment.

**Respectful:** Valuing the dignity, opinions, and contributions of every community member, fostering a culture of mutual respect and understanding in all interactions.



Micaela Weaver, Jessica Moore and Joyce Gong at the RI Trans Health Conference

## Focus Areas Defined

Our priority areas were adopted from our 2022–2025 Community Health Needs Assessment. We focus our community engagement efforts on the following areas:

**Behavioral Health:** Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders to improve overall well-being.

**Maternal and Child Health:** Addresses the health needs of pregnant women, infants, and children through comprehensive care, education, and support to ensure healthy outcomes.

**Chronic Disease:** Strategies and interventions to help individuals manage long-term health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease effectively.

**Equitable Community Health and Wellness:** Promotes equitable initiatives designed to improve patient access to care, enhance health literacy and navigation, and address the physical, mental, and social dimensions of healthcare.

**Social Drivers of Health:** Conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. Examples include access to adequate housing, transportation, employment, and workforce development, nutritious food, and safe communities.

**Workforce Development:** Enhance the skills, knowledge and competencies of community members, thereby improving economic opportunities and supporting career growth in the healthcare industry within Rhode Island.



Amber Lindberg, Nadine Almada and Gabriela Garza at Hope Clinic/Clinica Esperanza's Fundraiser



Care New England Employees set up a table at Juneteenth RI



Participant Posing with Princesses at Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2025

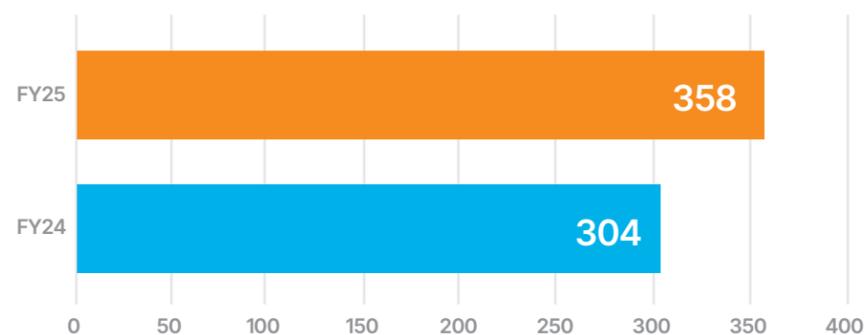
# A Year in Review



Aleyra Lamarche Baez and Carrie Black tabling at Rhode Island PrideFest

This year, there were **358 community engagement activities** recorded in the calendar between October 2024 to September 2025 — a **17% increase**.

## Total Community Engagement Activities



CNE Volunteers at Southside Community Land Trust's Annual Plant Sale in May

Operating units across all the Care New England health System participated in community engagement activities.

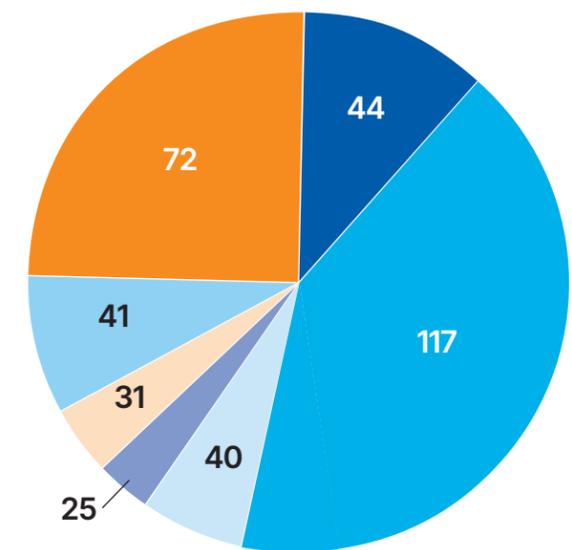
Care New England Health System includes:

- **Butler Hospital** is Rhode Island's premier treatment, teaching, and research hospital for psychiatric, movement, and memory disorders.
- **Kent Hospital**, including Spaulding Outpatient Center, provides high-quality, compassionate, and personalized healthcare delivered in an interdisciplinary model that involves all members of the healthcare team.
- **Women & Infants Hospital** is the region's premier hospital for women and newborn children. It operates one of the nation's largest single-family room neonatal intensive care units.
- **The Providence Center** helps adults, adolescents, and children affected by psychiatric illnesses, emotional problems, and addictions by providing treatment and supportive services within a community setting.
- **The VNA of Care New England** provides a broad spectrum of home health and hospice services for adults and the terminally ill.
- **Care New England Medical Group** has over 500 physicians and advanced practitioners, offering primary care and specialty services in offices throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.
- **Integra Community Care Network** is an Accountable Care Organization comprised of a community of doctors, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, community health workers, and patients working together to improve the health and well-being of the community.

## Community Engagement Activities

The graph shows the breakdown of total events by operating unit.

- Care New England Corporate
- Butler Hospital/ Memory and Aging
- Kent Hospital/Spaulding Outpatient Center
- Integra Community Care Network
- VNA of Care New England
- The Providence Center
- Women & Infants Hospital

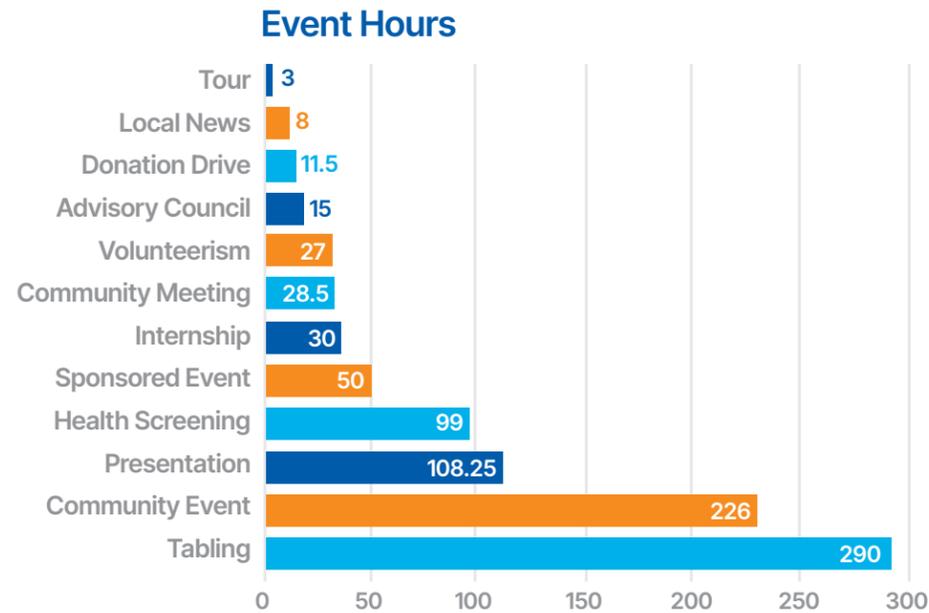


Over the last year, the Care New England health system collaborated with nearly **200 partners**.

- Alzheimer's Association
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Heart Association
- Amos House
- Big Brother Big Sister of Rhode Island
- BRAIN WAVES Rhode Island
- Clinica Esperanza / Hope Clinic
- Farm Fresh Rhode Island
- Green and Health Homes Initiative
- Habitat for Humanity
- House of Hope CDC
- Latino Policy Institute
- United Way of Rhode Island
- Meal on Wheels of Rhode Island
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Operation Stand Down
- Ministers Alliance of Rhode Island
- Progreso Latino, Inc
- Project Weber/RENEW
- Project Sweet Peas
- Rally4RecoveryRI
- Refugee Dream Center
- Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
- Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness
- Rhode Island's Health Equity Zones Initiative
- Ronald McDonald House
- Sojourner House Inc.
- Women's Fund of Rhode Island, & more!

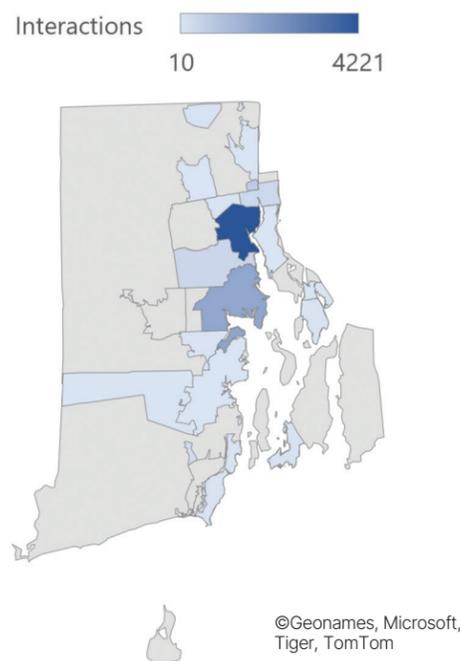
Community engagement takes many forms. Our staff connect with community members by attending events such as conferences, farmer's markets, and fundraisers. Others share health information and resources through tabling at resource fairs or by presenting at community centers. Some conduct health screenings and review results with participants. We also collaborate with community partners to organize donation drives for basic needs supplies.

This graph highlights our most common engagement activities, ranked from lowest to highest.

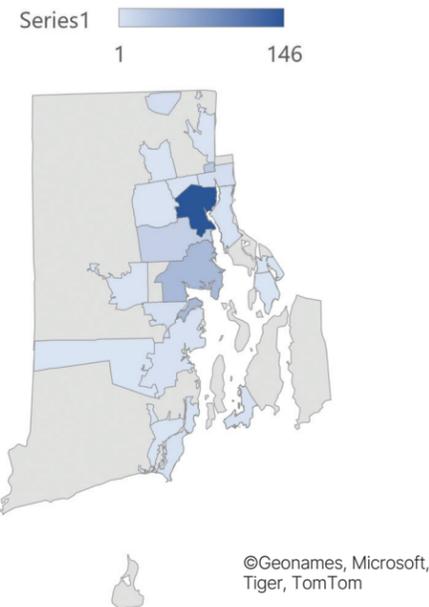


Our efforts reached multiple cities across Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts, with the highest community engagement in **Providence, Warwick, Central Falls, Cranston, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket.**

### Community Connections by City



### Total Engagement Activities by City



In total, we had nearly 8,000 community connections in over 20 Rhode Island cities, with the top five being **Providence (4,244), Warwick (1,749), Central Falls (692), Cranston (385), and Pawtucket (329).** Our community interactions drive our community engagement efforts. These connections are different from the clinical care our health system provides to patients, but just as meaningful. Through outreach programs, we help prevent illness and address concerns early, reducing the need for future clinical intervention and improving overall well-being.

# Community Sponsorships

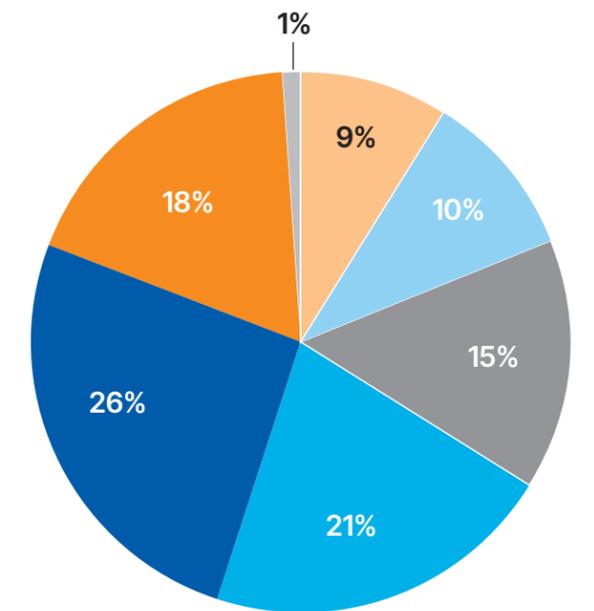
Care New England strengthens community health by funding initiatives that promote wellness, equity, and access to care. Through strategic sponsorships, we support local nonprofits and events that align with our mission and priority areas—creating meaningful partnerships that drive positive changes in health outcomes.

From October 2024 to September 2025, the Care New England health system sponsored the events and activities of more than **50 local nonprofit organizations.**

When reviewing sponsorship requests, we consider alignment with our strategic focus areas: **behavioral health, maternal and child health, chronic disease, equitable community health and wellness, social drivers of health and workforce development.**

The graph at right illustrates how our total sponsorships aligned with our strategic priorities, demonstrating our intentional approach to connecting community engagement strategies with external investments. Requests without a designated priority area are also reflected in the chart.

### Total Sponsorships By Priority Area



- Equitable Community Health & Wellness
- Social Drivers of Health
- Other Priority
- Workforce Development
- Behavioral Health
- Maternal & Child Health
- Chronic Disease



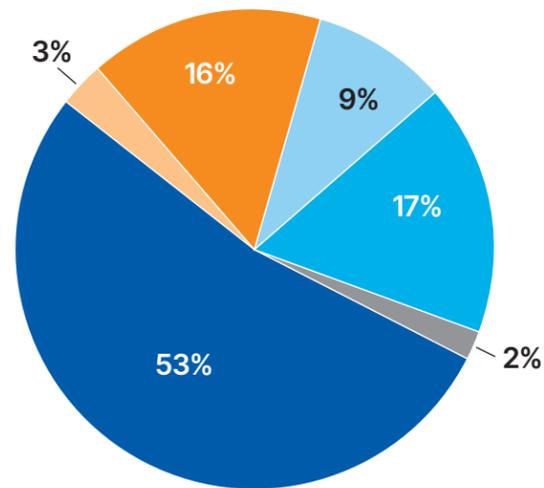
CNE Volunteers at Ronald McDonald House in Providence

# Spotlights

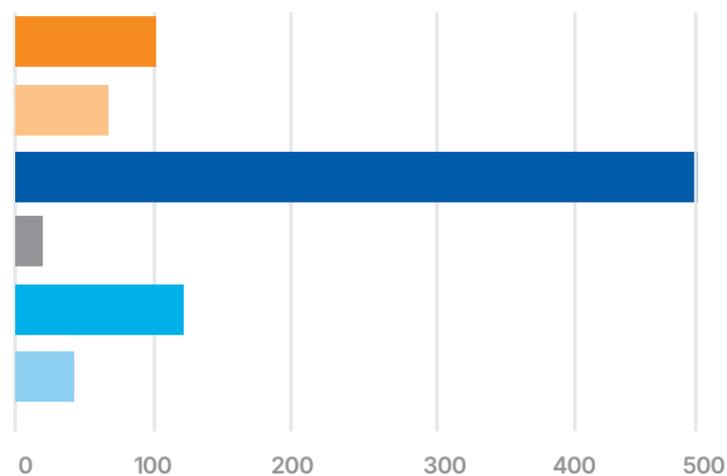
Our strategic priorities include Behavioral Health, Chronic Disease, Maternal and Child Health, Equitable Community Health and Wellness, Workforce Development, and Social Drivers of Health.

The pie chart below shows the percentage of community engagement activities aligned with each priority. Most efforts focused on advancing equitable health and wellness, through events like tabling at resource fairs for Black families and older adults, participating in women’s health conferences, and organizing free health presentations for community organizations serving seniors.

**Total Activities By Priority**



**Total Hours by Priority**



- Equitable Community Health & Wellness
- Chronic Disease
- Workforce Development
- Maternal & Child Health
- Social Drivers of Health
- Behavioral Health

Over the past year, we dedicated more than **800 hours** to interacting with community members and partnering with local organizations.

Similar to the pie chart, the bar graph illustrates the distribution of hours by strategic priority. The greatest amount of time was spent on Equitable Community Health and Wellness, reflecting our commitment to advancing health equity through outreach, education, and support.



(left) CNE Volunteers Making Harm Reduction Kits at Project Weber RENEW

(right) Project Weber RENEW Team

## Behavioral Health

Activities in Behavioral Health address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders, aiming to improve overall well-being.

### Leading Harm Reduction and Recovery in Rhode Island

Project Weber/RENEW (PWR) is Rhode Island’s largest harm reduction and recovery organization, with more than 18 years of experience improving health outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use. Through peer-led outreach, PWR provides harm reduction and recovery support services, builds trust with the people they serve, and advocates for systemic change.

This year, a small group from The Providence Center (TPC) and Care New England (CNE) toured PWR’s facility on Willard Avenue in Providence to learn about its wide range of services. These include basic needs assistance, case management, recovery housing navigation, overdose prevention supplies, support groups, and HIV/hepatitis C testing. PWR operates two drop-in centers in South Providence and Pawtucket, which serve as hubs for services and provide warming and cooling centers. In the past year alone, PWR served over 7,000 individuals across 22,000 encounters.

In May, CNE volunteers helped assemble harm reduction, hygiene, and basic needs kits—essential tools that help individuals stay safe, prevent overdose, and reduce infection risk, especially when drop-in centers are closed. Each year, PWR distributes more than 100,000 kits, a direct way volunteer efforts support those in need.

This fall, TPC participated in PWR’s International Overdose Awareness Day Narcan Distribution Event, which raises awareness about Narcan—the overdose reversal drug—and creates space for conversations about overdose prevention. Community members shared stories of loved ones lost, reinforcing the importance of life-saving tools and education.

The partnership between CNE and PWR is meaningful because one of the greatest challenges PWR faces is persistent stigma. Stigma creates barriers to care, discourages people from seeking help, and undermines trust in medical and social service systems. To combat this, PWR offers presentations and resource tables where people can ask questions and learn about services. This summer, PWR hosted a resource table at TPC’s Community Resource Fair and also presented to TPC’s case managers, employment specialists, and peer support specialists. Collaborations like these help integrate trauma-informed practices, improve referrals, and promote a culture of respect—breaking down barriers to care.

Looking ahead, PWR’s priority is to continue supporting thousands of individuals with comprehensive, client-centered services, including on-site medical care, treatment, and basic needs like food, clothing, showers, and hygiene products. Partnerships with organizations like CNE foster innovative solutions, resource sharing, and open communication. Together, we can ensure our communities remain in places where everyone has the opportunity to be safe, healthy, and treated with dignity.

## Maternal & Child Health

Activities in Maternal and Child Health focus on addressing the health needs of pregnant women, infants, and children. These events provide comprehensive care, education and support to promote healthy outcomes for both mothers and children.

### Bringing Healthcare to Your Doorstep

On October 22, Women & Infants Hospital celebrated the official ribbon cutting for its Community Mobile Health Clinic, a new initiative designed to increase access to maternal health services across Rhode Island.

The mobile unit—already on the road—brings care directly to community partners, offering postpartum screenings and support. Staffed by a dedicated Nurse Practitioner and Community Health Worker, the clinic provides screenings for postpartum depression and hypertension, contraceptive counseling and services, and a range of supportive resources, including mental health and breastfeeding support.

Funded by a \$1 million grant from the CVS Health Foundation, this program reflects a shared commitment to improving women's health by delivering high-quality care where and when patients need it most.

Local media toured the mobile clinic ahead of the ribbon cutting, meeting the team behind this life-changing work and seeing firsthand how the mobile health clinic is equipped to serve new mothers in their communities.

### Building Trust Through Community Engagement

Denisses Cortorreal has shared vital information about urogynecology and research with hundreds of community members as the Community Liaison for the Urogynecology Department at Women & Infants Hospital. She's learned that by connecting with people, she can plant a seed that changes lives.

At one community event, Denisses spent the day sharing information about the department and its research opportunities. Next to her was another exhibitor, and between helping attendees, they chatted throughout the day. Weeks later, Denisses was surprised to see that same exhibitor in the clinic waiting room—this time as a patient. Smiling, she thanked Denisses for encouraging her to seek care for a condition she had silently struggled with for years.

Another patient expressed gratitude for Denisses' outreach, saying that without it, she would never have known about



Women and Infants Leadership at Community Mobile Health Clinic Ribbon Cutting

the urethral sling surgery that transformed her life. She was thrilled to return to exercising, laughing, and even sneezing without fear of an embarrassing accident.

Denisses' commitment extends beyond urogynecology. She works with the Latino Cancer Control Taskforce, a group dedicated to educating and empowering Latino families about cancer prevention and support. She has helped with strategic planning, technology support and most of all—connecting deeply with the Latino community, often through the power of speaking their native language. Now, as the Taskforce becomes an independent 501(c)(3), she hopes to expand its reach throughout Rhode Island and beyond.

Her success lies in consistency and authenticity. "Community engagement is at the heart of improving healthcare outcomes," Denisses says. "When patients feel included, informed, and respected, they become advocates for their own health and for others. Listening to their experiences gives us insight into what's working and what's not. It also gives patients hope—hope that healthcare can work with them, not against them."

Next, Denisses plans to attend Harvard's Premedical Program to complete prerequisites for medical school. Her dream is to bridge medicine, research, and community engagement—to be a physician who not only treats patients but also builds trust, teaches, and advocates for equitable healthcare for all, especially Latinos in Rhode Island.

## Chronic Disease

Activities in Chronic Disease management provide strategies and interventions to help individuals effectively manage long-term health conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

### CNE's Team Shines at the Heart Walk

On Saturday, June 7, 2025 hundreds of participants gathered at Rhode Island College for the Southern New England Heart Walk. Care New England ranked as the third-highest fundraising company, raising over \$34,000 with a team of about 150 walkers. The event raised more than \$367,000 in total—an incredible achievement for heart health awareness! A special acknowledgment goes to Tiffany Belcher, who generously volunteered her time to assist with the fundraising campaign and involved every operating unit. Care New England plans to continue to strengthen its commitment to heart health awareness by participating again in June 2026.

### An Easter Egg Hunt for Everyone: Creating Joy Through Accessibility

Easter Egg Hunts are meant to be fun and playful for kids—but for some families, accessibility challenges can make participation difficult. Sixteen years ago, Lucas Davis learned this firsthand from a patient whose child felt defeated by the lack of inclusive activities. Determined to make a difference, Luke organized an accessible Easter Egg Hunt at his former facility.

Today, as Regional Director of Rehabilitation Services for the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network of Care New England, Luke is preparing for the 5th annual Easter Egg Hunt in Spring 2026. This free event has grown every year, welcoming about 85 families and nearly 80 Spaulding and Care New England employees who volunteer their time to set up and run the festivities.

Families enjoy a full experience—face painting, costume characters including fairytale princesses and the Easter Bunny, lawn games, arts and crafts, and a toy giveaway. Sensory rooms within the event space provide a safe and quiet area for therapeutic recovery, ensuring the event is truly inclusive.

The joy on children's faces and heartfelt feedback from parents drive the Spaulding team to plan this event outside of work hours year after year. One mother shared her relief after her child, who had just graduated from a wheelchair to lofstrand crutches, navigated the event with ease. Another parent was thrilled when her daughter, anxious about an upcoming MRI, chose a Lego set depicting an MRI machine—helping ease her fears about the procedure.

Events like this do more than create memories—they help families connect with facilities and care teams in a casual setting, building trust and reducing anxiety.

The Easter Egg Hunt has become a beloved tradition because of its inclusivity and accessibility. Each year, more families attend from Rhode Island and surrounding states. Its impact extends beyond participants to the volunteers, who come together to serve the community and suggest ways to improve the experience.

Luke's vision for the future is clear: for the Easter Egg Hunt to continue growing, building a positive reputation, and becoming a long-lasting tradition of joy and inclusion.



CNE Employees at AHA Heart Walk



Families Enjoying the Easter Egg Hunt 2025



Lucas Davis at Spaulding Rehabilitation's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

## Equitable Community Health & Wellness

Activities in Equitable Community Health and Wellness promote overall health and well-being by offering community-based programs and initiatives that address the physical, mental, and social aspects of health, ensuring equitable access to care and resources for all.

### Building Community with the Refugee Dream Center

Founded by Dr. Omar Bah, the Refugee Dream Center (RDC) creates a sense of family and belonging for refugees far from loved ones. It is an organization by refugees, for refugees, with most staff members having lived the refugee experience themselves. RDC provides critical support in employment, education, and housing, while also offering essential skills such as navigating the U.S. healthcare system, improving English proficiency, and guiding individuals toward citizenship. When challenges arise, the center steps in—because, like family, they stand by their community.

Care New England (CNE) and RDC have partnered on several initiatives. Dr. Bah has trained CNE staff on Refugee Trauma-Informed Care, staff have made donations of basic needs supplies like diapers and clothing, and we have attended their annual World Refugee Day celebrations. RDC was also one of three organizations supported by the Integra Social Partnerships Initiative for Community Engagement and Equity (I-SPICEE) grant through Integra Community Care Network, preparing a Refugee Healthcare Needs Assessment. This report revealed barriers such as language and limited support, which made follow-up care difficult. These findings helped RDC strengthen health promotion programs and collaborate with healthcare providers like CNE.

Teams at Women & Infants Hospital have assisted RDC in creating videos to promote its services and share stories. The hospital has also hosted RDC clients through the Community Mobile Health Clinic, which provides postpartum screenings and resources. One woman from Senegal, whose baby was born with Down Syndrome, received compassionate guidance from clinic staff—helping her understand the condition within her cultural context. Initiatives like this, which meet people where they are, have proven highly effective.

Looking ahead, Dr. Bah hopes to expand training for medical staff working with refugee populations, especially case managers who provide hands-on support. He also sees a need for spiritual services in

healthcare settings, offering counseling and resources across diverse faith traditions. Recognizing that life's most significant moments are shaped by cultural and religious practices, RDC aims to collaborate with providers to make care more holistic.

As a central hub for Rhode Island's refugee community, RDC values staying connected with healthcare partners to share new services and free programs. Together, these efforts ensure refugees have the tools and support they need to navigate the health system and thrive.

### CNE Brings Healthcare Equity to PrideFest & Juneteenth

Employees across Care New England volunteered at the Juneteenth RI Festival at Roger Williams Park on June 22nd. This event provided an excellent platform to showcase CNE's initiatives aimed at improving access and health care equity, while also gathering valuable feedback on our community engagement efforts.

CNE had a prominent presence at PrideFest. We proudly showcased our 20 Safe Zone-certified locations, engaged with participants to understand their health priorities and address their questions, and marched in style in the Illuminated Night Parade.

Both events help Care New England build stronger connections and advance health equity in our community!

### Black and Aging Health and Wellness Fair

On Friday, August 8, Butler Hospital's Memory and Aging Program partnered with the West End Community Center to host the Black and Aging Health and Wellness Fair. The event brought together community organizations and public agencies offering wellness resources and health insurance information for Black seniors and caregivers.

Attendees had access to services such as nutrition education, colorectal health information, and blood pressure and glucose screenings. The fair was open to the public, creating a space for learning and connection.



Dr. Omar Bah at the Presentation for the Refugee Healthcare Needs Assessment



Care New England Employees at Rhode Island Pride's Illuminated Night Parade

## Social Drivers Of Health

Activities in Social Drivers of Health refer to the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These factors include health related social needs such as adequate housing, transportation, employment, nutritious food, and safe communities, all of which significantly impact overall health and well-being.

### Supporting Health Aging with VNA's Gift Card Giveaway

Blackstone Health Inc., a member of the VNA of Care New England, encompasses two vital programs: New Horizons Adult Day Center and the Blackstone Café. For over 15 years, Blackstone Health has partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Agriculture to provide farm-fresh fruits and vegetables to Rhode Island residents aged 60 and older.

In 2025, Blackstone distributed over 1,700 gift cards totaling \$85,600.00 (across 16 meal sites throughout the state). These cards encourage recipients to visit participating farmers markets across Rhode Island and select fresh fruits and vegetables of their choice—supporting both healthy aging and local agriculture.

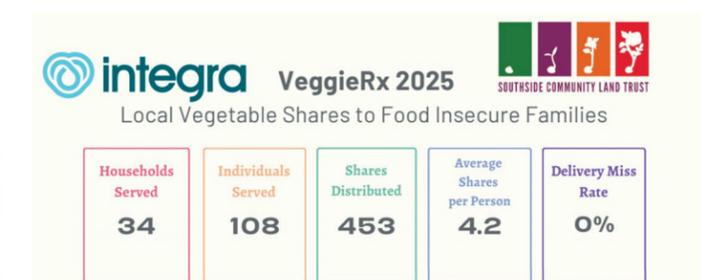
### VeggieRx is Reaching Households Through Local Support

Meeting essential needs is a critical part of advancing community health. In 2020, Integra Community Care Network and Southside Community Land Trust started a partnership to support Integra patients who suffer from diet-related illnesses and household food insecurity. On a biweekly basis, Integra clients receive boxes of culturally appropriate and locally grown produce from small and medium-sized Rhode Island farms. Throughout the years, the VeggieRx program has helped reduce food insecurity, improve patient health and nutrition, and importantly, support the local RI agricultural economy.

The infographic below highlights the reach and effectiveness of these efforts in 2025, including the number of households and individuals served, total items distributed, average resources provided per person, and the delivery success rate. Together, these data points reflect our commitment to continuously improving how we meet the needs of families in our care.



Memory and Aging Program at Black and Aging Health Fair



Support for this program was provided by the Edward J. and Virginia M. Routhier Foundation

## Turning Compassion into Community Impact

Since joining Integra Community Care Network as a Community Health Worker (CHW) in March, Jamie Nadeau has become an invaluable resource for the clients she serves. Her journey into this role was inspired by a lifelong instinct to help others. Jamie grew up in a close-knit family where supporting loved ones was a priority. Later, she cared for her mother—an Integra client—in her final weeks. Becoming a CHW feels like a full-circle moment after experiencing firsthand the compassionate care her mother received from Integra staff.

Jamie is motivated by helping clients solve problems and achieve their goals. She has successfully supported individuals across all age groups, including pregnant people, infants, teens, and adults with special needs or mental health challenges. While feedback isn't always immediate, the moments when clients share their gratitude reaffirm her purpose. One client expressed how Jamie's persistence and compassion helped her through a difficult time:

*"I was in a rough place financially, and was very stressed, overwhelmed and did not know how I would be able to secure the residence I currently live in for my son and I. Jamie gave me a bunch of resources, and when I expressed frustration with not receiving replies; she offered to follow up with the resource organizations mentioned. I was finally able to secure assistance with rent, which was a big weight off my shoulders. Jamie's gentle voice and compassion, aided in reviving hope and not being embarrassed or defeated for the help I needed. I want to express my deep gratitude for Jamie's professionalism, persistence in assisting, empathy, kindness, and integrity. In the event you do not hear this sentiment/or hear it enough; THANK YOU!"*



Jamie Nadeau, Community Health Worker

Stories like this illustrate why Jamie is passionate about her work. Her persistence gives clients hope that they can overcome challenges. Her clients grow to trust her because she grew up in Kent County, which now serves as one of her biggest strengths. Her deep connection and understanding of local community resources makes her support even more effective when addressing the needs of her clients.

Looking ahead, Jamie is eager to grow professionally and expand her knowledge in areas like mental health, diabetes management, and heart disease. She values the opportunity to learn at Integra because she knows that the more she grows, the better resource she becomes for her clients. Her ultimate goal is simple yet powerful: to keep learning so she can keep helping others.

## Donation Drives of the Year



The Providence Center Staff packed Hygiene Supplies Donated Through their Spring Collection Drive

### The Providence Center Gives Back

In December 2024, The Providence Center's Donations Committee organized a winter coat and toy drive, where staff generously contributed new or gently used items for clients and their families.

In Spring 2025, Mercy Morales led a hygiene drive, collecting 100 bags of essential products for TPC clients.

Later, in early Fall, Mercy organized a Community Back-to-School Resource Fair, distributing 200 backpacks filled with school supplies to attendees.

These efforts reflect The Providence Center's commitment to meeting basic needs and supporting their clients and families throughout the year.

## Spring Hygiene Donation Drive

Care New England collected 1,200 hygiene products this spring, including essentials like shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, soap, and lotion. Full-sized items were donated to Amos House, while travel-sized products went to House of Hope, both organizations serving individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty. Special thanks to United Way of Rhode Island and CNE employees for sorting and distributing donations.



CNE Employees Volunteer to Sort Items at United Way of RI for CNE Spring Hygiene Drive

## Back-to-School Supplies Drive

Kent Hospital's DEI Advisory Council hosted a back-to-school drive to support local students. Employees donated notebooks, folders, pens, erasers, and art supplies, benefiting West Warwick Elementary students and Pawtucket Backpackers.



Aleyra Lamarche Baez and Lilieth Castano Donate School Supplies to Pawtucket Backpackers

## Workforce Development

Activities in Workforce Development enhance the skills, knowledge and competencies of community members, thereby improving economic opportunities and supporting career growth in the healthcare industry within Rhode Island.

### RINI Students Intern at Kent Hospital

In April, ten students from the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College (RINI) began internships at Kent Hospital, gaining hands-on experience across multiple departments. Their rotations included Dietary Services, Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory Services, Breast Health Center, Wound Care Center, Surgical Services, Environmental Services, Nursing (shadowing nurses and CNAs), and Administration/Education.

RINI is a Providence-based charter school that prepares middle and high school students for careers in nursing while exposing them to other areas of healthcare for those exploring different paths. This five-week internship offered valuable insight into hospital operations and patient care, strengthening the pipeline for future healthcare professionals.



Rhode Island Nurses Institute Student Interns visit Women and Infants Hospital

# Conclusion

## What's New

The Office of Community and Social Impact launched a new volunteer website where Care New England employees can explore opportunities that match their interests and skills. This platform helps employees connect with local organizations and fellow volunteers, learn new skills, and make a meaningful impact in the lives of community members.

Visit: <https://volunteer.carene.org>

## Volunteer of the Year

In 2025, CNE employees embraced new opportunities to volunteer with community organizations. Moises Roman-Pomales, Clinical Therapist at The Providence Center (TPC), stood out for his dedication and service. In fall 2024, Moises volunteered at Progreso Latino's Day Camp for Seniors, sharing mental health resources and screenings. He also participated in CNE's first MLK Week of Service at Meals on Wheels' No Cost Food Pantry and joined the Pride Parade in June. Moises believes that, "If they win, we will all win. I have always said that TPC staff have this amazing ability to make the impossible possible and have seen them help so many people reach happiness. I wanted to be a testament to that by showing up and continuing that work outside the office." And he continues to thank CNE's Office of Community and Social Impact and "people like Jaissen Jackson and Mercy Morales, who have spearheaded getting us (TPC) out there to show up and help improve our communities."

Moises is recognized as Volunteer of the Year for his commitment to extending care and compassion to the community.



Moises Roman-Pomales, Clinical Therapist



Mercy Morales, Moises Roman-Pomales and Aleyra Lamarche Baez Volunteered for Meals on Wheels No-Cost Food Pantry

## What's Next

Under the Affordable Care Act, nonprofit hospitals must complete a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years to identify health priorities and guide improvement initiatives. In September 2025, we published the latest CHNA, available here: [Community Health Needs Assessment | Care New England](#).

In 2026, we will follow up with a comprehensive Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which will also be publicly available. These efforts ensure our continued focus on addressing community health needs through data-driven strategies and collaborative action.

For further information, please reach out to us at: [community.engagement@carene.org](mailto:community.engagement@carene.org)



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