

2024 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Brooker Memorial

Preparing Children for Lifelong Success

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I'm proud to share the meaningful strides Brooker has made in helping children across Northwest Connecticut build healthy, successful lives. Our mission remains strong, and our impact continues to grow thanks to the dedication of our staff and the unwavering support of our community.

This year, 66 children received nurturing care through our child care program. We celebrated a special milestone as 16 preschoolers graduated and are now heading to kindergarten with the foundation they need to thrive. Yoga, music, and gardening enrichment programs continued to spark creativity, mindfulness, and joy.

We were excited to welcome two outstanding professionals to our dental team: Dr. Suher Baker, Dental Director, and Dr. Carlos Braverman, General Dentist. Their expertise has expanded our services and enhanced care, allowing us to provide over 11,000 dental visits to children in our community.

Our second annual Pathway Career Expo at Torrington High School was a resounding success. The event connected 25 students, who completed aptitude testing, with 16 local career professionals, helping them explore future opportunities and form valuable professional relationships.

We were honored to welcome new families



“ We're building a stronger, more supportive community – one child, one family at a time. ”

into our Relatives as Parents Program, which offers vital resources and a strong support network for grandparents and other relatives raising children. The resilience of these families continues to inspire me, and we remain committed to walking beside them as they take on this important role.

On behalf of Brooker Memorial, I am deeply grateful to our incredible team, committed board members and corporators, and generous donors. Your support makes our programs possible and ensures children and families receive exceptional care.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain focused on preparing children for lifelong success. Thank you for being an essential part of this work and for making a lasting difference in our community.



With gratitude,

Christina M. Emery
Christina Emery
Executive Director

Volunteer Leadership

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*With thanks to our retiring
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Brooker Memorial Programs & Services

Early Learning & Child Care Center

A warm, welcoming environment for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and nursery aged children, with options for before and after school care to support families' diverse schedules.

Dental Care

Comprehensive dental services for children and young adults with special needs, ensuring accessible, compassionate care.

In-School Dental Care

Bringing dental services directly to Region One/ Botelle School and Torrington Public Schools, making it easier for children to receive essential care right where they learn.

Pathway To Success

Guiding high school students in exploring their unique strengths and future goals through aptitude testing and career counseling, paving the way for bright futures.

Relatives As Parents Program

A warm, nonjudgmental support group for grandparents and relatives stepping into the role of primary caregivers, providing resources, guidance, and a sense of community.

Community Partnerships

Community partnerships are an essential part of the child care program at Brooker Memorial. We are grateful to the organizations and individuals that support our work, often behind the scenes, helping us provide high-quality care and enrichment for the children we serve. We also value those who have visited our classrooms or hosted activities, giving our students opportunities to learn, explore, and connect with the community.

Child Care & Early Learning Center

The annual Halloween Parade happened in October 2024 with infants and toddlers visiting Doyle's Medical Supply, PAC Group, and Hartford HealthCare while preschoolers visited Keystone Place, where they trick-or-treated with the senior residents, sang songs, shared snacks, and got creative with some fun crafts.

Oliver Wolcott Technical High School visited Dec. 20, 2024, bringing Santa and his elves to meet with child care students, take photos and the students were able to share what they wanted for Christmas.

Socks galore were on display at Brooker Memorial March 21, 2025 in observance of World Down Syndrome Day. Children and employees donned colorful and mismatched socks to show support for people with Down Syndrome.

The Week of the Young Child was observed April 7-11 and it was full of activities, including a sing-a-long and Dance Party, a visit from the ice cream truck, a large mural created by painted feet, a Spring Walk visiting PAC Group and Doyle's Medical Supply, where students searched for colorful Easter eggs.



Brooker Memorial joined the celebration May 9 to plant one of 183 trees that were distributed by Eversource CT in Torrington in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation. Children in the Child Care Center helped plant the donated Dogwood in the front yard at Brooker.

Brooker's Child Care students cheered loudly June 5 during the 39th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Connecticut, as the runners went by.

We are grateful for the moments our children shared, bringing joy to seniors, welcoming special visitors, honoring important causes, and joining in traditions that make Brooker a vibrant place to grow.





“ Love the place.
Great workers
(who are) super
caring. – Lisselot R. ”



Community Partnerships

Brooker Memorial's dental program provides comprehensive care, creating a true dental home for children where preventive services, treatment, and oral health education go hand in hand. Through partnerships with schools, community organizations, and health providers, we expand access, promote healthy habits, and reduce barriers to care. We are grateful to all our partners who support our work throughout the year, helping children in our community build healthy smiles and brighter futures.

Dental

Oral hygiene education was shared at the WIC (Women Infant Children) office at Torrington Area Health District by dental hygienist, Julia, who visited in November 2024 and May 2025. The goal is to empower our community with essential knowledge about oral hygiene techniques and nutritional counseling to help prevent early childhood tooth decay. The presentations are offered in both English and Spanish to ensure all families benefit. Brooker presents every six months at WIC, alternating between early childhood and adolescent dental health.

A HUSKY Dental Forum discussion was hosted at Brooker Memorial June 18 as an opportunity for Torrington area residents to share their experiences with Medicaid dental services, with a total of 40 people participating. The event was presented by the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) in collaboration with the state Department of Social Services.



 **11,240**
Patient Dental Visits
At The Dental Center

We have dental providers that specialize in serving students with special needs and were happy to join the Torrington Area Families for Autism's first TAFA Walk Our Way and Resource Fair May 31 at the Action Wildlife Sanctuary in Goshen. Brooker was part of the Resource Fair to share information about childcare and dental care with free toothbrushes and 2-minute brushing timers.

1,369
New Patients



New Dentists join **Brooker**

Two new dentists, Dr. Suher Baker and Dr. Carlos Braverman, join Brooker

Brooker has been pleased to welcome a new Dental Director, Dr. Suher Baker, and a general dentist, Dr. Carlos Braverman, to the Dental Center during the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Dr. Braverman joined the practice in August, having previously worked at B&B Dentistry in Torrington and New Hartford. Dr. Braverman is fluent in Spanish. He has been a welcome addition to the Brooker staff, treating pediatric patients with care, concern and his wonderful sense of humor.

Dr. Baker, BDS, DMD, MS, MBA, joined us in January and has infused her enthusiasm to combat dental fear into the staff. The response from patients has been fantastic! One of her earliest patients declared he's not afraid of the dentist anymore and it is a refrain often heard repeated by her patients. Dr. Baker has a very child-centered approach and established an "I am Brave" board where patients are recognized for their bravery, resiliency and confidence. She is multilingual, speaking several languages including Spanish. Her research focuses on the burden of dental disease and reducing dental-related fear and anxiety.



Dr. Suher Baker



Dr. Carlos Braverman

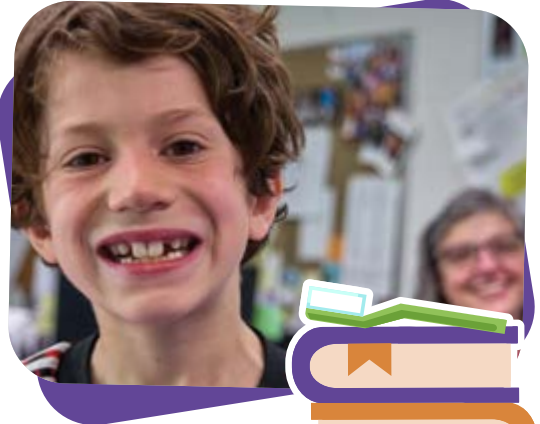
Dental Outreach extends to schools, camps and day care centers

Brooker's in-school dental hygienist Deb Ravlin had a busy year traveling to 11 different schools throughout the school year to provide dental education and dental hygiene services to children. Brooker was able to offer this program through the generosity of the Foundation for Community Health, Delta Dental Foundation, and The Torrington Savings Foundation.

The students participating receive dental cleanings, fluoride, oral health screenings and sealants. Sealants are a coating that protects the teeth and helps prevent tooth decay. The schools include elementary schools in Torrington, Region 1 (Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon) and the Botelle School in Norfolk.

All children are eligible for the services. Any family that does not have insurance will not be billed for services provided at the schools. Parents find it very convenient as they don't have to miss work to take their children to a dental office. Children also miss less class time because travel time is eliminated.

In the summer months, Deb travels to summer camps and day care centers throughout Litchfield County to provide dental education to children as young as three years old. She has also developed a game that school-age children play to raise their awareness about the level of sugar contained in foods and beverages.



591

Students Received Dental Services In Schools

3,156

Students Received Oral Health Education



UConn residents work under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Moises Salas, Assistant Clinical Professor in the collaborative program with Brooker Memorial. The second-year dental residents gain extensive clinical experience during an eight-week rotation treating children.

Volunteers

Brooker has been fortunate to have a small, dedicated group of women who consistently volunteer for tasks throughout the year, including purchasing child care snacks, packing goodie bags for dental outreach and assembling mailings to donors. We also have volunteers who work each year to purchase gifts for the Angel Tree that are given to families through the Ruth Chadwick Care Closet. We are indebted to them for their efforts!

Kathy Broegee

Pauline Linehan

Gail Marchand

Katherine Marchand-Beyer

Sue Nardine

Sue Sawula

Pat Soudier

Mary Teddick



Brooker employees and clients participated in the Day of Action, organized by the United Way of Northwest Connecticut in June, collecting 3,745 pounds of food, which is the equivalent of 3,121 meals.

Ruth Chadwick Care Closet

Brooker has been supporting children and families in the community for over 100 years. Sometimes families find themselves needing a little help from time to time due to various reasons such as loss of employment, death in the family, illness, fire, and other causes. Brooker Memorial is fortunate to have the Ruth Chadwick Care Closet in memory of Ruth Chadwick, a former board member, corporator, and volunteer. Through the care closet, we are able to help families with monetary or material support. The funds from the care closet are used for both one-time needs and for providing Christmas gifts to families in our programs who are identified by Brooker staff.



Community Food Drive

Brooker Memorial participated in the United Way Northwest Connecticut's Days of Caring in June as one of the businesses offering a designated location to collect non-perishable food. Food collected was given to 12 food pantries.



Community Partnerships

Brooker Memorial's Pathway to Success program helps high school students discover their natural abilities through aptitude testing, guiding them toward future career paths. This initiative is made possible through partnerships with the Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation, Torrington High School, and generous local professionals who share their time and expertise.

Pathway to Success

On May 22, Brooker hosted its second annual Pathway to Success Career Expo at Torrington High School. Twenty-five students who completed aptitude testing had the opportunity to meet with 16 professionals representing a wide variety of careers. These connections gave students valuable insights into potential career paths and the skills needed to pursue them.

Steph Burr – NWCT Arts Council

Bryan Cassidy – Torrington Savings Bank

John Seagrave – Barron Financial Group, LLP

Cathy Coyle – Cathy Coyle Consulting, LLC.

Rista Malanca – Northwest Hills Council of Governments

Justin Giampaolo – Burlington Construction Co. Inc

John Fiorello – CT State Northwestern

John McKenna – Litchfield.biz

Molly Spino – Kelly Law Offices

Jim Steck – The Law Offices of James P. Steck LLC

Alex Page-Hatley – The Bushnell & Warner Theatre

Gina Burrows – Community Health and Wellness Center

Megan Garceau – Greenwoods Counseling & Referrals, Inc.

Adam Lytton – Prime Time House

Jimmy Ji – Luminari Productions

Jason Healey – J2H Marketing

We look forward to continuing our work with Johnson O'Connor and making aptitude testing available in Torrington, creating greater opportunities for students across our community.

25 Students at Career Expo

HELLO
I'M

Learning



Community Partnerships

Our Relatives as Parents Program offers a monthly support group in a warm, nonjudgmental space where participants can share stories, advice and encouragement.

Brooker Memorial is addressing a unique segment of the area's senior population – grandparents that are raising their grandchildren. These kinship families (also known as grandfamilies) pose a myriad of challenges for older adults going through the child-rearing process for a second time.

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

We have been fortunate to have many speakers as community partners who have presented educational programs to the members of the support group during the past year.

RAPP features guest speakers on a variety of topics. We have partnered with Torrington Library, the Torrington Area Families for Autism and Greenwoods Counseling for programming. We have also been fortunate to have good partnerships with local schools, municipal senior centers and Parks and Recreation Departments to get the word out about our support group.

Our speakers have included:

James P. Steck – Judge of Probate Court

Christina Augliera – Torrington Area Families for Autism

Julia Jagger – Greenwoods Counseling

Jenn Lefebre – Moon Phoenix Rising

Jill Veras – Torrington Library

We thank them all for enhancing our program!

Four times a year we offer activities that involve the entire family. This year's activities have included a Halloween celebration with pumpkin painting, family board game night and family trivia in collaboration with Torrington Library.



28
Family
Members
Served

9
Monthly
Programs
Offered



BrewFest 2025

The 14th Annual Litchfield Hills BrewFest was a success on Saturday, June 14. There were 1,000 people in attendance at Ski Sundown in New Hartford.

Everyone had big smiles on their faces and enjoyed the great music by the Steve Dunn Band, eating the food from six different food trucks and especially tasting the beer, wine and spirits. The weather cooperated and didn't rain on the party, although skies were cloudy.



98 Vendors Sharing Beverages

82 Volunteers

86 Sponsors Supporting Brewfest

Fundraiser For Brooker, Saint Maron Church, Summit Adaptive Sports



BrewFest Committee

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Lynn Worthington
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Paula Alicia	Brooke Joiner	Matthew Piechocki
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Community Support

In addition to revenue from child care tuition, insurance payments for dental services, and investment income, Brooker Memorial is deeply grateful for the generous support of our community. Your contributions play a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission of preparing children for a lifetime of success.

We acknowledge the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their donations and unwavering commitment to our cause. Your generosity makes a lasting impact on the families we serve.

Mrs. Robert A. Amicone
James & Nancy Amrich
Mr. David Antoniazzi
Mr. Gary Arnold & Ms. Anne Giordano
Mr. Edward Arum
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Avallone
Mr. David Benson
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Ms. Elizabeth Zaharek
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Zarrella

Note: The donations listed were made between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you notice any errors or omissions, please contact us so we can make the necessary corrections.



In-Kind Donations

Community Health and Wellness Center
Conquest Consulting
Len Meyer



Tribute Gifts

In Honor of Callan O'Brien

Mrs. Terri O'Brien

In Honor of Cathy Coyle

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Torrington School Dental Program

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Ruth Chadwich Care Closet

State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

Building project, Phase II

52 Yoga Instruction Hours



Legacy Gifts: 1918–2025

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals who have supported Brooker Memorial through bequests and other legacy gifts over the years. Their foresight and generosity have played a vital role in shaping Brooker's enduring success and impact.

Billy Archer Fund

Lina Bourquin Estate

Charles F. Brooker Fund

Mary L. Brooker Fund *in memory of her sisters: Elisa Brooker Travis, Emma Brooker Oviatt, and Sarah Maria Brooker*

Rose Bruno Estate

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Mary Elizabeth Rivera Estate *in memory of Mary Elizabeth Rivera, Catherine Rivera, and Edward J. Rivera*

Norma H. Rushworth Estate

Ella Seymour Coe Estate

Edwin M. Stone Trust

Clara Swayze Estate

Robert C. Swayze

Marjorie Stearns Turner

Fred Uri Wadhams Estate *in memory of Margaret Travis Wadhams*

Margaret T. Wadhams Estate

The Leon and Jennie E. Meyer Fund

was established in 2020 as an endowed fund through a generous founding gift from Len Meyer and Wendy Tam. This fund continues to grow thanks to the ongoing support of our community. In the past year, we gratefully acknowledge the following for their contributions to the fund:

Mr. Len Meyer & Ms. Wendy Tam

MaryAnn & John Flanagan

Torrington Savings Bank Matching Gifts Program



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Marchand-Beyer

Mayor Elinor Carbone &
Gerald Carbone

David & Susan Carroll

Mrs. Gladys Cerruto

Andrew & Tricia Chadwick

Sybil Haggard Chamberlin
& Tyson Chamberlin

Ms. Lorene Chiron

John C. Ciesco

Cathy & Bill Coyle

J. Michael B. Curi, M.D.

Ms. Barbara Gioia Ferrarotti

James V. Fontana

Blake & Cathy Fuessenich

Maria Gonzalez

Mr. & Mrs. John Janco

Gail Kruppa

Ms. Marisa Kulesza

Ms. Jacqueline Kuns

Diane Libby, C.P.A.

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Libby

Mr. Mark S. Linehan

Mrs. Pauline F. Linehan

Jessica L. Magda, M.D.

Hon. & Mrs. Michael Magistrali

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Maher

Mr. & Mrs. William Marchand

Ms. Julissa Martinez

Brian & Donna Mattiello

Mr. Mark McEachern

Mr. & Mrs. Paul McLaughlin

Doug & Linda O'Connell

Ms. Olivia Paulino

Mrs. Kevin M. Purcell

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Raymond, Jr.

Mrs. Anita Rosa

Ms. Anne Ruwet

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Scheerer

Mr. Nalin Siriwardene

Hon. James P. Steck

Ms. Mary Teddick

Mr. Alan Temkin

Judith Theeb

James & Sandra Thibault

Cathleen Todor

Lesla A. Vanotti

Mrs. Elizabeth Gelormino Varrichio

Tim Waldron

Watertown

Lawrence Y. Lee, D.D.S.

Thomas & Mary Ellen McKeon

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Zarrella

West Hartford

Mr. & Mrs. Steven M. Temkin

Winsted

Alan & Pam Colavecchio

Ms. Dierdre Houlihan DiCara

Ms. Sandra Mangan

Ms. A. Candy Perez

Quechee, VT

Rick & Catlin Boger-Hawkins

7

**Child Care
Students
Received Brooker
Scholarships**



Staff 2024-2025



Brooker Memorial dental employees attended the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) annual meeting April 3 in West Hartford. It was an evening of shared commitment to advancing equitable oral health care in Connecticut.

This year, we are pleased to recognize and congratulate the following employees who reached milestone anniversaries:

Christine Donahue
Toddler Teacher – 35 years

Lacey Gover
Preschool Teacher – 5 years

Sharon Grieco
Dental Hygienist – 20 years

Debra Ravlin
Dental Hygienist – 15 years

We are grateful for their dedication and service to Brooker Memorial. Their commitment continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.



Staff Listing

Administration

Christina Emery, Executive Director
Kaitlyn Graboski, Operations Manager
Lynn Mellis Worthington, Community Engagement Coordinator

Child Care & Learning Center

Charlene Lee, Director***
Nicole DePaoli, Assistant Director*
Paula Armstrong***
Devon Atkins
Katherine Bloom Bronski*
Christine Donahue*****
Lacey Gover*
Jennifer Olmstead
Mckenzie Parker
Brandi Rivera
Mia Rivera
Danielle Robison***

Karissa Teti-Penney
Tammy Tronina**
Molly Weir**

Maintenance

Jaye Giampaolo
Dontae Stanford


Pediatric Dental Center

Suher Baker, B.D.S, D.M.D, MS, MBA,
Dental Director
Cara Dougherty, Dental Manager
Rylei Abraham*
Carlos Braverman, D.D.S
Jessica Creel, R.D.H
Jennifer Dupill****
Susanne Eanniello***
Sharon Grieco, R.D.H.****
Jennyfer Duran Gutierrez
Laureen Gonzalez
Erica Kaye
Anne Kruppa
Sandy Lepage, R.D.H.*
Victoria Massey, D.M.D

Irene Maturo, R.D.H
Kristine Navin, R.D.H.
Julia Nield, R.D.H.
Debra Ravlin, R.D.H.***
Jennifer Rodriguez
Moises Salas, D.D.S., M.S.D.H.*
Wendy Tello
Carole Thebargo***

Years Of Service

*5+
**10+
***15+
****20+
*****25+
*****30+



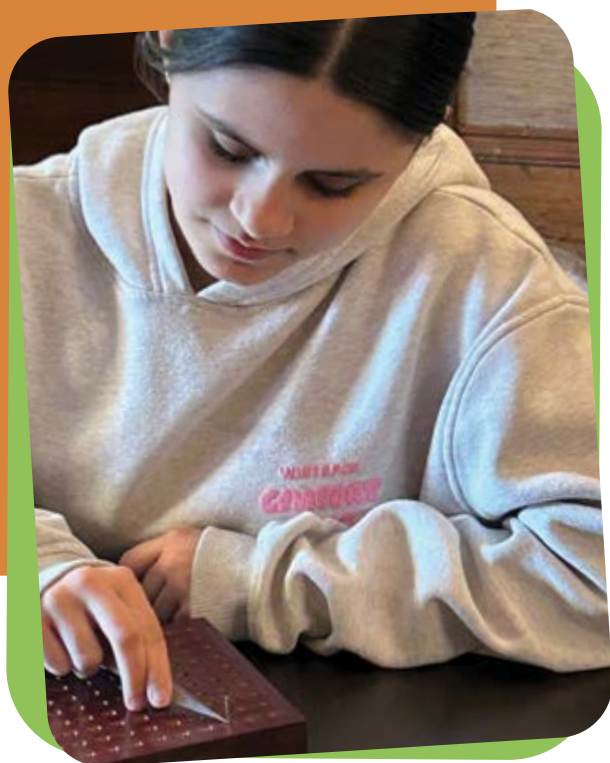
7,920
Dental Clinical Hours Provided

We extend our sincere thanks to the following employees who retired or departed from Brooker Memorial during the year. We are grateful for their contributions and wish them all the best in their future endeavors:

Lisa Ferris
Marcia Geddes
Archana Karanki, D.M.D.
Tom Lopardo



241 Combined # Of Teaching Years



Financial Statement of Operations

Year ending June 30, 2025*

Revenue

Dental Services	\$1,474,194
Child Care Tuition	\$652,010
Grants*.....	\$611,608
Contributions and Events	\$183,315
Rental Income	\$42,000
Trust Fund Income	\$38,733
Program Support from Investment Activity	\$711,167
Total Revenue	\$3,713,027

Expenses

Dental Services	\$1,704,843
Child Care	\$754,444
Family Support/Education/Fundraising	\$130,583
Administration/Building	\$229,292
Depreciation	\$278,536
Total Expenses	\$3,097,698
Year End Net*.....	\$615,329

**Grant income and year-end net includes \$500,000 in funding from the State of CT Department of Economic & Community Development, which reimbursed the capital building fund and completed the second phase of the \$1.8 M building project.*

These are unaudited figures; a full audit is available upon request.



2024
2025



**Brooker
Memorial**

Preparing Children for Lifelong Success

157 Litchfield Street • Torrington, CT 06790
(860) 489-1328 • brookermemorial.org