



*Women's  
Mentoring  
Network, Inc.*

*“Transforming  
Lives,  
Transforming  
Communities”*



WOMEN'S  
MENTORING  
NETWORK



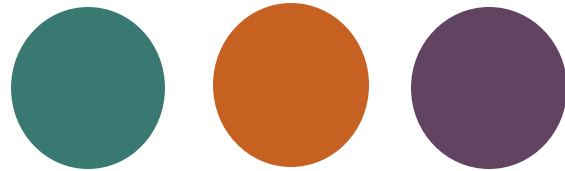
# WOMEN'S MENTORING NETWORK

IN 2020, WOMEN'S MENTORING NETWORK CELEBRATED ITS 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY. FOUNDED AS A WELFARE-TO-WORK PROGRAM IN 1990, TODAY WOMEN'S MENTORING NETWORK EMPOWERS WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES BY PROVIDING PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO HELP THEM FIND BETTER EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.



*What  
We Do*





# Who We Serve



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- *Women's Mentoring Network provides the foundational skills to give women confidence to go into the workforce as stronger individuals. The organization provides basic career services – all services & programs are provided for free.*
- *The organization is a true family program, helping both the women that come through our door and their family members, including their children*
- *Our clients are the ALICE population, with most living paycheck-to-paycheck.*
- *We primarily serve minority residents and immigrants, with 84% of our clients identifying as black and/or Hispanic/Latina(o).*
- *The demand for our services continues to grow, with client enrollment increasing year-over-year for at least the past 3 years.*

# *Our Services*

Women's Mentoring Network provides one-on-one in-office services and Strategic Life Skills Workshops to the women and families that we work with every day.

## Adult Services

*Helps clients move from entry-level jobs to professional careers, and ultimately, cross the threshold into the next level of economic self-sufficiency.*

## Student Services

*Assist high school and middle school students with having a plan for after they graduate. Tutoring services provided to elementary school and middle school students.*

## Food Pantry

*Provide clients with healthy food options through our in-office Food Pantry.*

## Clothing

*Provide clients with clothing donated to the organization.*



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# *Our Services*

One-on-one services are offered to assist each individual to help reach their goals. The Strategic Life Skills

Workshops focus on Workforce Development & Financial Literacy.

Our workshops for students focus on college and job preparation.

Mentors & Mentees are paired to focus on each client's needs.

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## Workforce Development

*Focus on goal setting, resume writing, interviewing skills, job search strategies and networking skills.*

## Financial Literacy

*Focus on budgeting, improving credit scores, insurance, home buying, and daily management of finances.*

## Student Services

*Focus on preparing for college, financial aid, scholarships, preparing for a job, and volunteering/internships.*

# *Strategic Life Skills Workshops*



# *Strategic Life Skills Workshops*



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**Volunteers from companies throughout Fairfield County volunteer for the organization, including Indeed.com, Robert Half/Accountemps, Bank of America, Citizens Bank, First County Bank, People's United Bank, Savings Bank of Danbury, Wells Fargo**

**Participant in United Way's Stamford Cradle to Career initiative and Stamford Food Collaborative**

**CT Collective for Women & Girls**

**Governor's Council for Women and Girls –  
Participation in 3 Committees**

**Informal collaborations with Dress for Success, Person-to-Person, Neighbor to Neighbor, Building One Community, All Our Kin, Women's Business Development Council**



# ***Community Partnerships***





# *Awards Received*



Recognized by being on the frontlines of the COVID-19  
Pandemic by Congressman Jim Himes in April 2020

Dec 2020: Moffly Media's "Light a Fire" Women's Impact  
Award

Mar 2021: National Association of Social Workers CT  
Latino/a/x Award

April 2021: SHero Award for Executive Director, Lana  
Gifas, from the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors,  
Equity, and Opportunity

WorkPlace partner of the Year – 2<sup>nd</sup> award received in 2019

Presidential Point of Light

# *Addressing Food Insecurity & the Digital Divide*



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# *Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic*



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- A record number of individuals participated in our programs in 2020 as a result of increased demand and increased programming
  - All programs & services transitioned to virtual meetings
- Strategic Life Skills Workshop increased to 2-3x/week vs. once a week, focusing on topics that address the most immediate needs of our members – including How to Apply for Unemployment, Online Job Search Strategies, Improving Your Interview Over Zoom
- Over \$40,000 was received from Fairfield County's Community Foundation and the United Way in order to provide direct financial assistance for basic needs to clients and 75 families were enrolled in United Way's Healthy Savings Program
  - Donated computers were given out to clients and new programming was implemented to address the Digital Divide
- The Food Pantry transitioned to a drive-through to address Food Insecurity. PPR was also distributed to members



# *2020 Overview*

## In 2020, Women's Mentoring Network:

- Demonstrated its ability to thrive under the most stressful circumstances
- Adapted all programs & services to serve all clients in all respects
- Created new programming to address the new needs of our clients