



ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY

Disengaged

Youth with at least 1 of the following risk factors:

- School attendance rate between 50% and 85%
- Excluded, suspended, or have documented externalizing behaviors
- Out-of-school youth with no stable work history

Disconnected

Youth with at least 1 of the following risk factors:

- School attendance rate less than 50%
- Two years over-age for grade in school
- Not in school and not in the workforce
- Recently incarcerated

Mission statement: Domus builds loving relationships with young people facing adversity, empowering them to pursue their path to self-sufficiency.

Year founded: 1972 in Stamford as a group home for boys removed from their families due to abuse and neglect

Target population: Youth aged 12 to 25 from Stamford who (at enrollment) are either disengaged or disconnected

Average number of traumas each Domus youth has experienced: 4; includes things like witness to violence, parent imprisoned, basic needs not met, etc. (average number of adverse childhood experiences [ACEs] for non-Domus youth: 2) **MORE READING:** [CDC's facts on ACEs](#)

Total number of youth served each year: ~1,000 (unduplicated; some youth are in more than one program)

Financial info:

- Total annual budget FY22: \$8.3M (for FY20: 3% fundraising, 10% management/general, 87% programs)
- From FY20 audit: Of \$9.8M raised, 24% was from corporations and foundations, 27% individuals, 40% government, 9% other
- Major funders: State of CT, Dalio Foundation, anonymous private donors

Commitment to long-term outcomes: We work with young people until they are either employed, on the path to self-sufficient income, or enrolled and engaged in a post-secondary opportunity.

Results for FY20:

- **SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT MODEL:** 80% of students were promoted on time to next grade level, with student average attendance rate of 92% and 83% of students not suspended or excluded. (Upon enrollment, 100% of students had poor attendance and behavioral struggles.)
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:** Of the recently released program participants, 93% remained arrest free during the year. (The recidivism rate for people under age 30 is 53-90%.¹) All indicated that Invictus staff have made them feel extremely hopeful, and staff always treat them with respect.

Return on investment²:

- Effectively engaging youth in their first or second year of high school can nearly double their chance of graduation.
- Disconnected youth aged 18 to 24 are 2.5x more likely to be unemployed and cost the state 4x as much for health care, corrections, and welfare.

¹ <https://adamsattorneys.com/news/ussc-study-the-effects-of-aging-on-recidivism-among-federal-offenders/>

² [Parthenon-EY Education, 2016. Untapped potential: Engaging all Connecticut youth. Ernst & Young LLP](#)

CORE PROGRAMS:

School Engagement Program

200 Domus Knights and 100 Domus Vikings students, with Domus Vikings growing to 200 youth over next two years at Stamford and Westhill High Schools, plus SPS alternative program

- Engages disengaged high school youth over four years in intensive, interpersonal relationships to help them acquire the social and emotional skills, attitudes, and habits needed to graduate high school and enroll and engage in post-secondary environment
- PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: 1:1 face-to-face meetings with youth (avg 30 min/wk); teacher connections (avg 2x/wk); and family engagement (monthly)
- Each family advocate (FA) has a caseload of 25 youth
- PROGRESS INDICATORS: attendance rate, number of suspensions from school
- Cost per grade-level cohort per year: \$250,000
- Total spend, all schools: \$1.9M (100% funded and operated by Domus with private funds)

Workforce Development Program

50 youth in Invictus and Work & Learn Day, with goal of expanding by seeking government and private funding and focusing on community and youth referrals

Invictus:

- ensures that young men returning from prison to the Stamford community are provided with the supports, skills, and competences that they need to not be re-incarcerated
- PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: pre-release relationship development and needs assessment, work readiness and social/emotional skills development, engagement for youth struggling w/post-prison life
- PROGRESS INDICATORS: in good standing with parole/probation, work readiness skills attainment, social/emotional skills attainment, positive connection, facetime, remains arrest-free for 1 year
- PROGRAM BUDGET: \$713K (90% privately funded)

Work & Learn Day:

- engages young men and women who are disengaged or disconnected (not in school or in a non-traditional educational program), and provides them with the supports and skills they need to gain employment on the path to self-sufficiency
- PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: Hands-on skills development (furniture building, bike and small engine repair), supportive paid internships, employment support; staff helps ID and address barriers to employment
- PROGRESS INDICATORS: Face-to-face dosage, skills development, at least 2 months of employment
- PROGRAM BUDGET: \$251K (90% privately funded)

Other Domus Services (serving approximately 650 additional youth):

Project New Hope – street outreach program engaging high-risk youth

Work & Learn After-School Program – work readiness skills training for high school students

Juvenile Review Board – restorative court diversion program for first-time misdemeanor offenders

Summer Camp – safe, fun day camp for kids in grades k-5

SPS Middle School Family Advocates – support for students navigating social and emotional obstacles

Hartford Juvenile Detention Center – educational services for incarcerated youth*

Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center – summer academic enrichment program*

Here to Help Partnership – supportive services to reconnect students chronically absent due to COVID*

After-School Programs at SPS – fun, safe after-school spaces for youth at KT Murphy, Toquam, TOR*

Domus Drop-in Center – supports suspended students during the school day and after school with enrichment activities

Domus Equity Institute – training, consultation, and facilitation services around identifying and mitigating structural racism; working with businesses, nonprofits, community orgs, religious orgs

*Primarily or fully government funded

domuskids.org