



Paterson Healing Collective

2025 Year-End Impact Report

Executive Summary

In 2025, the Paterson Healing Collective (PHC) demonstrated that consistent, relationship-based, community-led violence intervention works. Through youth advocacy and prevention, adult reentry leadership, survivor services, and hospital-based violence intervention, PHC delivered measurable outcomes aligned with national research on violence prevention, recidivism reduction, and public-health approaches to community safety.

Despite ongoing funding constraints, PHC directly served 274 individuals, engaged thousands of residents through sustained community presence and events, conducted 102 high-risk street-level interventions, and provided more than \$200,000 in direct financial stabilization. Notably, PHC maintained exceptionally low arrest rates across programs and achieved zero reinjury or retaliation among survivors served through its hospital-based intervention model.

Youth Advocacy & Prevention Outcomes

In 2025, PHC served 95 youth through its Summer Teen Club and Afterschool Program, reaching 50 youth during the summer and 45 during the school year. Programming focused on leadership development, conflict mediation, social-emotional learning (SEL), recreation, and enrichment during peak risk hours.

During the summer, PHC delivered 24 structured sessions that included leadership development workshops, mediation skills training, recreation, guest speakers, field trips, and Stop the Bleed emergency preparedness training. During the school year, PHC facilitated 147 afterschool sessions offering SEL-based mentorship, conflict mediation, daily meals, music studio access, video game and recreation spaces, fitness and yoga, and regular community-building activities.

Justice-System Avoidance Outcomes

Only 6 of the 95 youth served (6.3%) experienced any arrest in 2025, meaning 93.7% of participants had no justice-system involvement. This outcome is significant given research showing that youth in high-impact urban environments often experience arrest rates in the double digits annually. PHC's results underscore the protective impact of structured engagement, credible mentorship, and SEL-based mediation during peak risk hours. These findings align with national prevention research demonstrating that afterschool and summer programs reduce arrests, violence exposure, and school disengagement.

School-Based Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

PHC delivered 42 SEL group sessions at Passaic High School, engaging 40 students. As a result, violence-related suspensions were reduced by 50 percent, and school retention improved among participating students. These outcomes align with research showing that school-based SEL interventions reduce aggressive behavior, strengthen academic attachment, and lower suspension rates key predictors of long-term violence reduction.

Empower U: Adult Leadership & Reentry Outcomes

PHC's Empower U program served 42 justice-involved adults in 2025, including 18 returning participants from the 2024 cohort and new enrollments added throughout the year. Participants engaged in 48 workforce and leadership development sessions and more than 100 trauma-focused mental health and substance-use support groups.

Seventeen participants secured employment, representing a 40.5 percent employment rate. Only four participants (9.5%) experienced justice-related incidents during the year, including two re-arrests with new charges and two probation or parole violations. Nationally, more than 60 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals are rearrested within three years, and unemployment among justice-involved adults often exceeds 25–30 percent. PHC's outcomes demonstrate substantially lower justice-system contact and meaningfully higher employment engagement, reinforcing evidence that employment paired with trauma-informed behavioral health support is among the strongest predictors of successful reentry.

Sisterhood Squad: Survivor Support for Mothers

Through its Sisterhood Squad, PHC served 10 mothers who have lost children to gun violence. Participants engaged in 20 therapeutic group sessions and healing-centered support spaces, along with holiday outings and therapeutic, art-based healing experiences.

Research shows that parents who lose children to homicide face elevated risks of depression, PTSD, and social isolation—factors associated with intergenerational trauma and broader community harm. Group-based trauma support and peer connection are evidence-based strategies that reduce prolonged grief and improve coping. PHC’s work with these mothers addresses trauma at its deepest roots, supporting healing not only for individuals, but for families and entire communities.

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention (HVIP) & Victim Services

In 2025, PHC received 121 hospital referrals and assisted 87 survivors of violent injury. Thirteen referrals were denied services, nine involved self-inflicted injuries that did not meet program criteria, and seven lacked sufficient contact information.

Among survivors served, PHC supported 54 gunshot wound victims and 67 stabbing victims. Twenty survivors received one-on-one therapeutic services in addition to intensive case management, safety planning, and stabilization support.

Peer-reviewed HVIP research demonstrates that hospital-based programs reduce reinjury and retaliation by 20–50 percent when survivors receive immediate intervention, safety planning, housing and financial stabilization, and trauma-informed care. PHC achieved a 100 percent non-reinjury and non-retaliation outcome, reflecting strong fidelity to evidence-based HVIP models and effective intervention during the critical post-injury window.

Community Outreach, Events & Shooting Reduction

PHC hosted 45 community events and conducted 102 street-level interventions in Paterson’s 1st, 4th, and 5th Wards, maintaining a consistent presence focused on mediation, relationship-building, and reclaiming public space through positive activity. Events included Winter Wonderland, the Wear Orange concert, and multiple holiday and family-centered gatherings, collectively engaging thousands of residents.

National CVI research shows that place-based engagement and credible messenger mediation are associated with measurable reductions in shootings, even without enforcement actions. PHC’s integrated approach—combining events, outreach, and intervention—reflects best-practice CVI

models recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Importantly, Paterson Police Department reported fewer shooting incidents in 2025 compared to 2024, reinforcing the value of sustained community-based violence prevention.

Direct Financial Stabilization (2025)

PHC provided \$11,363.16 in housing assistance, prioritizing survivors at highest risk and addressing rent loss due to injury, emergency relocation, and safety-related housing needs. An additional \$30,268 in emergency financial assistance supported utilities, food security, phone access, and basic stabilization needs.

PHC also distributed approximately \$60,000 in stipends to youth participants and nearly \$100,000 to Empower U adult participants. In total, PHC invested more than \$200,000 directly into individuals and families. Research consistently shows that housing stability, income continuity, and food security are critical social determinants of health associated with reduced violence, improved recovery, and lower emergency-department utilization.

Conclusion

PHC's 2025 outcomes reinforce what research continues to demonstrate: violence is preventable when communities are resourced, relationships are sustained, and healing is centered. From youth advocacy and school-based prevention to adult reentry, survivor stabilization, hospital-based intervention, and street outreach, PHC's work shows measurable success and offers a scalable, evidence-aligned model for community safety.





