



Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am inspired by the strength and resilience of The Door community and filled with hope for the next generation of New York City youth who we have the privilege to serve each day.

Even as the well-being and identities of many who turn to us are increasingly under threat, we continue to uplift one another - ensuring that The Door remains a refuge where every young person is welcomed, valued, and supported.

This year has brought significant and complex challenges - especially for young people navigating housing instability, mental health struggles, disconnection from school and work, and the weight of systemic inequities. Yet even in the face of these obstacles, we've witnessed the remarkable resilience and strength of our youth. Our community continues to grow, with many new New Yorkers arriving in search of resources and opportunity, often with urgent needs and facing steep barriers. At the same time, the youth mental health crisis has deepened, exacerbated by a shortage of providers and increasing barriers to care. We remain committed to meeting this moment with compassion, urgency, and the unwavering belief in every young person's potential.

Across the agency, we have adapted and expanded programs to meet young people's needs. We've extended the reach of our legal support to newly arrived community members, tackled food insecurity with increased meals and pantry access, and forged new industry partnerships to create

pathways to education and employment. The team in our Adolescent Health Center continued to advance care, with the addition of gender-affirming services this year.

In the pages that follow, I'm proud to share some of the bold new projects and innovative initiatives we embarked upon this year, along with the inspiring stories of our young members and community partners. This progress is made possible by our incredible network of funders and supporters and the creative and dedicated staff and volunteers who take bold steps to drive meaningful change.

As I look ahead, I see profound challenges and incredible opportunities. I see a next generation of young people who deserve every chance to thrive. With your continued partnership, we will ensure that The Door remains a place where hope lives, where community thrives, and where every young person can find their path to a brighter future.



KELSEY LOUIE
CEO, THE DOOR AND
BROOME STREET ACADEMY

Expanding Our Reach, Advancing Our Team

This year, we made meaningful improvements to our facilities, expanded program spaces, and deepened our investment in the talented workforce that drives our mission.

- Enhanced the physical and programmatic infrastructure of our counseling facilities with the opening of our Cohen Center for Mental Health (details on page 11)
- Deepened our support for the Bronx community through our new 24-hour Runaway and Homeless Youth drop-in center at our Bronx Youth Center
- Partnered with NYU Silver School of Social Work to launch a groundbreaking hybrid Master of Social Work pathway, enabling 14 staff members to pursue their degrees with reduced financial barriers and integrated internships within their full-time roles



Program Highlights

Here's how we made an impact in 2024.

→ CREATIVE ARTS & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

This year, youth deepened their creative exploration through dance, drama, performing arts, music production, audio/visual production, and visual arts — now also available at our Bronx Youth Center. Deep partnerships throughout the vibrant NYC art scene bring these disciplines to life.

Similarly, an emphasis on helping young people to find their voices and develop the confidence to use them drives The Door's Youth Council. Consisting of 20+ young people, the Youth Council builds and shapes The Door's community, ensuring that program offerings remain responsive to the evolving interests of our members.



→ LEGAL SERVICES

The Door's Legal Services Center (LSC) doubled its impact this year, continuing to provide critical representation for immigrant youth and new New Yorkers. The LSC held targeted clinics for new arrivals experiencing housing instability enhancing connections between legal services and The Door's Runaway and Homeless Youth program. The LSC prioritizes access to information and advocacy, offering a growing civil legal practice alongside immigration services, criminal law consultation clinics, and support for family law matters.



20,000+ SERVICES

provided by LSC, more than doubling our impact from 2023

→ HEALTH & WELLNESS

Accessible, high quality, responsive adolescent health care has always been at the forefront of The Door's model and is critical to healthy development. The care we provide continues to grow in response to the needs of NYC youth, most recently expanding physical space and service capacity to support the mental health needs of our members and offering transgender health care and gender-affirming services. Fundamental health care offerings continue to meet young people where they are, ensuring access to primary care, reproductive and sexual health services, dermatology, dentistry, and eye care, all within an age-appropriate, caring, and culturally sensitive framework.



30%+

of Door members
utilize critical health
and wellness services

→ HOUSING & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

The Door provides comprehensive support to young people facing housing insecurity, offering not only essential resources, but also a safe space and opportunities to build meaningful connections with caring adults and peers. From showers and clothing to a food pantry and hot meals, as well as immediate crisis support and ongoing case management, we provide an integrated continuum of care. Our responsive staff work closely with each young person to develop personalized plans that promote self-sufficiency, and we collaborate with our two Lower East Side supportive housing sites to foster stability and help young people thrive.

NEARLY 25%

of Door members
have experienced
houselessness or
housing insecurity

1,700+ YOUNG PEOPLE

accessed services
through our crisis and
housing teams

→ CAREER & EDUCATION

Our Career & Education programs offer integrated educational, professional, and social-emotional support that invites young people to explore their interests, build skills, and pursue paths toward self-sufficiency. The Door's individualized approach to workforce development connects youth with 14 in-depth career training opportunities in high-growth, in-demand industries. Educational programs include targeted academic support, college advising and persistence services, alternative learning environments and adult education classes. All Career & Education programs are supported by personalized counseling and case management.

NEARLY 20%

of Door members
engaged in Career &
Education programs



→ FOOD & NUTRITION

Food services are a critical, life-saving intervention and essential in community-building. Each day, The Door offers three free meals with snacks and pantry bags available to all who need them.

Our culinary team prioritizes health literacy, nutrition education, and long-term wellness, ensuring that all meals are nutritious, delicious, and culturally resonant. Young people are also a vital part of the food services program. All meals are prepared by our chefs and paid youth interns from our culinary arts training program, which provides hands-on industry training, as well as access to a network of community partners and employment opportunities.

NEARLY 36,000

meals and pantry bags
were distributed

45%

of Door members
accessed food services



→ BRONX YOUTH CENTER

The newly renovated 18,000 square-foot Bronx Youth Center (BYC), which opened last year, has allowed The Door to expand Bronx-based career and education programming, better support young families, and ensure that mental health care, legal services, housing supports, arts programming, and daily meals are accessible to Bronx youth. The new 24-hour drop-in center for housing insecure youth is the latest innovation at the BYC.

NEARLY 1,000 YOUTH

received services at the BYC this year, increased from 650 in 2023.



Supporting New York City's Youth & Expanding the Social Service Workforce



With the generous support of the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation, The Door will expand its capacity to serve the mental health needs of New York City's underserved youth. A critical \$5 million grant to The Door both established the Cohen Center for Mental Health and launched a new hybrid Master of Social Work (MSW) program in partnership with NYU Silver School of Social Work.

The Cohen Center for Mental Health expands the breadth and depth of mental health services available to youth at The Door. With the grant, the Door could make the capital improvements needed to acquire further state licensure and offer these needed services to young people in New York City.

In tandem, the philanthropic support of the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation made the pursuit of MSW degrees more accessible for our working professionals. Launched in September 2024, our new hybrid MSW degree pathway with NYU Silver School of Social Work gave 14 Door staff members the opportunity to embark on a MSW degree at a significantly reduced cost and remain fully engaged in their work at The Door. This inaugural cohort will be eligible to obtain their degrees as early as summer 2026.

“With the support of the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation, The Door can take a comprehensive, compassionate approach to the youth mental health crisis,” says Kelsey Louie, CEO of The Door. “We will be able to dramatically increase our direct service capacity and build a sustainable pipeline for the next generation of mental health professionals to understand the needs of the communities we serve.”

Sophia



“I feel like I bring myself to The Door and BSA actively every day. No matter where I am in life, I’m going to have these people with me and in my corner.”

Sophia is a senior at Broome Street Academy Charter High School (BSA) and an active member of The Door's Youth Council. She was drawn to BSA because of its Manhattan location, seeking a change from her home in the Bronx for her high school experience.

Like many high schoolers, Sophia struggled to find where she belonged when she first started at BSA, but all that changed when she joined The Door's Youth Council. As a council member, she helps to plan events for members and has learned to be an advocate. By connecting to and caring for The Door and BSA community, Sophia has found her voice and a stronger sense of self.

“Life in New York is hard, so young people having a place we can find trust, community, and compassion matters a lot.”

A pivotal moment for Sophia came in her junior year. She struggled with self-doubt and confidence, tying her self-worth to her academic performance in a way that didn't serve her or allow her to blossom. With support from the Youth Council and her BSA teachers and friends, she worked to understand that test scores didn't define her or her capabilities. She began to form meaningful connections and shared interests with her peers, something that used to feel challenging. She also realized that she didn't have to do everything on her own, and that she could lean on her community for support. This personal growth, deepened trust, and greater community connection helped her academically too. Sophia is more engaged in her schoolwork than ever, building strong relationships with her teachers and recommitting to her studies.

As a light-skinned Dominican woman who is often mistaken for white, Sophia has found The Door and BSA to be a place where she can fully embrace her identity. She describes an environment that “welcomes people who need a place to be and to feel seen,” a place where “people are proud of who they are and don't conform to anyone's idea of who they should be. You can be your full self with no shame.” Where she once allowed others to project their stereotypes onto her, she now proudly claims her Dominican heritage and authentic self.

“Something has shifted in me, to be able to say, ‘I am a Dominican woman. I am a person in this space, and I am proud of what I am.’”

Sophia’s transformation is evident in her evolving aspirations. Now, she is confident in her ability to dream big and to make those big dreams come true. This fall, she’ll begin her studies in forensic science at John Jay College—her dream school. **She credits The Door and BSA’s supportive environment, where young people are seen as whole people rather than problems to be solved, for helping her find her confidence and herself.**

BROOME STREET ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Broome Street Academy Charter High School (BSA) is a four-year, tuition-free public charter school operated in collaboration with The Door. Embedded within our comprehensive youth services model, BSA combines rigorous academic instruction with robust wraparound support through a unique shared services approach. Designed to be welcoming and responsive, BSA offers a fresh start for students who may not have thrived in traditional educational settings. Priority enrollment is given to students who are systems-involved or experiencing housing instability. At its core, BSA is rooted in the belief that all students can succeed when provided with the right resources in a supportive and nurturing environment.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Marc

 THE
DOOR
Annual Report 2024



“I’m glad that I still have more potential to grow, that I can keep building , that I can aspire to be more.”

At 24, Marc has already lived several lives. His journey to independence began on his 18th birthday in 2018, when he chose to spend the day with friends instead of his controlling father. That choice led to his father calling the police and evicting him, leaving Marc with nothing more than the sandals on his feet and his belief in his own potential.

Forced to move in with his volatile mother as a last resort, Marc spent four years in an environment plagued by emotional abuse and financial instability. Despite these circumstances, he focused on moving forward, pursuing his college education.

The COVID-19 pandemic made a challenging situation harder, eventually leading Marc to drop out of CUNY with \$3,000 of school debt. Then Marc discovered The Door's Bronx Youth Center (BYC), where he received medical care and enrolled in an IT training program. Determined to succeed, Marc completed the rigorous certification process and, with the help of staff, obtained a job with the Department of Education.

“With that vision, I wished myself to go on. Then I got the help I needed, and I went on.”

Life continued to throw challenges Marc's way. When his mother's house was foreclosed in the summer of 2022, he experienced periods of homelessness, and in January of 2023, he made the difficult decision to enter a shelter. Throughout this period, the BYC remained a constant support, and Marc's consistent engagement eventually led to his current role with The Door in the Career and Education department at the BYC.

“I wasn't sure I'd ever escape the shadow of where I came from and achieve the stability I have today.”

Today, Marc has achieved a life that once seemed unattainable to him. He is stably housed and is exploring career possibilities in technology and voice work, including podcasting and audiobook narration. More importantly, he has gained something he never had before: the freedom to dream and the belief that he has the agency to pursue those dreams.

**Brandon Blackwood**

Fashion designer and founder of
The Brandon Blackwood Foundation

“As someone who has benefited from the organization’s programs, I feel a responsibility to give back.”

For fashion designer Brandon Blackwood, The Door was more than just a special place to spend time during his younger years—it was a sanctuary where he could truly be himself. As a teenager grappling with his identity and creative aspirations, Brandon found acceptance within The Door’s walls and inspiration from its programs, particularly through events that brought together and celebrated LGBTQ+ youth.

“It was the only time I was really surrounded by other queer youth my age,” Brandon recollects. “I saw them vogue, I saw the outfits, the attitude, the tenacity.” This connection to a supportive and vibrant community proved foundational, helping Brandon to embrace his uniqueness and his talent and to view his differences as assets rather than obstacles. The creative freedom and encouragement that Brandon experienced at The Door helped to cultivate the spark and resilience that would later fuel his success as a designer.

Today, as the leader of a fashion brand and founder of The Brandon Blackwood Foundation, he still carries that spirit of empowerment and has reconnected with The Door to ensure that other young people can continue to find the space, support, connection, and inspiration they need to step into themselves and thrive.

“As someone who has benefited from the organization’s programs, I feel a responsibility to give back,” Brandon has expressed. His commitment to uplifting emerging, creative voices, especially people of color, mirrors the support he received at The Door. And Brandon does give back. He has generously supported The Door in a range of ways over the past few years, lending his platform, donating his incredible creative pieces, and financially supporting our vital work. His journey from program participant to successful designer and supporter exemplifies The Door’s enduring impact and the power of continued community connection.

FRENCH CONNECTION

The Door's partnership with global clothing retailer French Connection has been creating lasting impact for New York City youth since 2021. French Connection has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to The Door's mission with a comprehensive and deeply collaborative approach, combining direct financial support, in-kind donations, and hands-on volunteer engagement.

At the heart of French Connection's partnership is their steadfast belief in educational advancement. This initiative has already supported nine Broome Street Academy graduates in their college journeys, awarding \$1,000 scholarships to three promising students each year. These scholarships are a testament to French Connection's investment in young people's futures.

French Connection also consistently contributes to The Door's year-end giving initiatives by matching gifts for our annual Giving Tuesday campaign. Their most recent match helped to catalyze community support and amplified the impact of individual donations during this crucial fundraising period. From donating sweaters and T-shirts for our annual holiday parties to mobilizing their staff for December gift-bag packing events and volunteer activities, French Connection brings warmth and joy to The Door's community celebrations.

What makes French Connection an exemplary partner is a holistic approach that's flexible and creative in its modes of support. They understand that creating meaningful change requires addressing immediate needs and long-term aspirations.



French Connection Volunteers with Kelsey Louie, CEO of The Door and Broome Street Academy.



Barbara Michelson
Donor

“For nearly 50 years we have experienced how effectively and compassionately The Door provides transformative services for young people. We give back knowing that our contributions enable lifechanging programs, and we are so happy that our adult children are also volunteers and supporters!”



Dyeemah Simmons
Door Advisory Committee
Member and Recurring Donor

“As a proud member of The Door’s Advisory Committee for the past four years, I’ve witnessed firsthand the impact of a safe community on New York City youth. My recurring donations help provide the stability and resources necessary to support The Door’s crucial work in empowering young people to reach their full potential.”

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$119,105
Restricted Cash	\$300,000
Investments	\$22,533,867
Government Grants and Other Receivables	\$8,824,980
Due From Related Parties	-
Pledges Receivable, Etc	\$7,661,024
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	\$387,447
Land, Buildings, and Equipment, Net	\$17,269,087

Total Assets **\$57,095,510**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$2,193,092
Accrued Payroll & Benefits	\$1,105,247
Due to Related Parties	\$137,996
Amounts Held for Others	\$559,431
Operating Lease Liabilities	\$5,462,375
Advances Under Government Grants	\$572,461

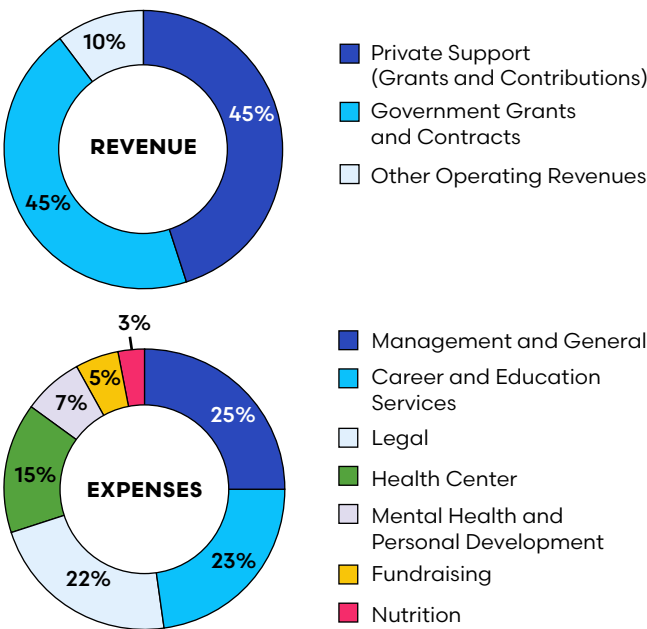
Total Liabilities **\$10,030,602**

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$37,157,554
With Donor Restrictions	\$9,907,354

Total Net Assets **\$47,064,908**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$57,095,510**



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Private Support (<i>Contributions, Foundations and Corporate, Special Events</i>)	18,629,118
Government Grants and Contracts	18,402,782
Total Private & Governmental Support	37,031,900
Total Other Operating Revenues	4,126,185
Total Operating Support & Revenues	41,158,085

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES	
Mental Health and Personal Development	2,772,043
Career and Education Services	8,540,288
Health Center	5,635,378
Legal	8,081,914
Nutrition	937,709
Total Program Services	25,967,332

SUPPORTING SERVICES	
Management & General	9,484,765
Fundraising	1,786,142

Total Supporting Services **11,270,907**

Total Operating Expenses **37,238,239**

Change in Net Assets, Before Non Operating Revenue **3,919,846**

NON OPERATING REVENUES AND LOSSES

Miscellaneous and Other	45,965
Investments Returns in Excess of Amounts Used for Operations, Net	1,614,103

Total Non-Operating Revenues **1,660,068**

Change in Net Asset	5,579,914
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	41,484,994

Net Assets, End of Year **47,064,908**

Thank you, donors!

The generosity of our supporters ensures that Door and BSA youth can continue to build and deepen caring relationships and access essential services.

TOGETHER, WE ARE EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES.

*denotes monthly recurring donors

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\$10,000—\$24,999

...a chance...fund, inc.

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The generosity of our supporters ensures that The Door remains a vital community, providing caring relationships and essential services for NYC youth. Join us in supporting the next generation — make your gift today at door.org/donate. For any questions about this year's report or to make a donation, contact development@door.org or 212.453.0213

The success of The Door's mission to enable young people to reach their fullest potential is grounded in our foundational visionary model to support the whole person, whatever those complex, individual needs. The Door remains steadfast in its mission to provide comprehensive support for NYC youth. Thank you for being a part of our story.

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