



# STONINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*"When the COMO teachers declared, "Welcome to the COMO," it changed my life by shaping me and a generation of Stonington youth to become better people and citizens."*

*- Nikhil Desai, 2021 Whitman Awardee*



# FUELED BY COMMUNITY

**2021** was a year aimed at adapting and expanding to meet community needs. The kindness and generosity of our neighbors, friends, partners and community members helped the COMO continue to be a place for community recreation, inclusion, lifelong learning and success. Thank you for what you helped us achieve in 2021.

As an Eagle Scout project, the COMO was the recipient of a new **GaGa Pit** (much to the delight of COMO Kids and summer campers!). Places like this on the COMO campus help youth learn teamwork, sportsmanship and self-esteem.



The COMO also joined the Connecticut Basketball Conference (CBC) with the **creation of 4 travel basketball** teams. The teams were led by parent volunteer coaches and served over 45 players during the season.

Stonington Garden Club members introduced preschoolers to the joys and benefits of gardening throughout the year. During the summer of 2021, campers participated in the **Great Garlic Harvest** and harvested garlic and onions from the Children's Garden to be dried at the Giving Garden at Coogan Farm and then cooked in the COMO kitchen. The Children's Garden is an important part of the COMO curriculum and campus.



In partnership with Stonington Public Schools, we were able to expand our child care opportunities to better serve our families with the implementation of a half-day School's Out! program that served over 70 participants during early release days! We also partnered with Raffetto's Palate to offer a NEW weekly cooking class for adults to mingle while learning new skills in the kitchen.

**PARTNERSHIPS & VOLUNTEERS  
ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE  
COMO'S SUCCESS AS A  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE!**

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: DAVE APPLEMAN



Dave first joined the COMO two years ago when his family moved to the Stonington area and he became a COMO paddle tennis member. With a background in parks and recreation, and a love for the sport of paddle, joining the paddle tennis community was the perfect fit. A proponent of community service, when the time came for the Battle of Stonington: The Paddle Ball fundraiser, Dave joined the event committee and was instrumental in the event's success, saying "When you see the great things the COMO is doing in the community, it makes it easy to say yes to getting involved. If everybody does their part, this community will continue to thrive."

**80+**

**VOLUNTEERS ASSISTED WITH  
EVENTS, IN THE CLASSROOMS,  
AND AROUND THE CAMPUS**

# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

## MAKERS GONNA MAKE

The COMO Makerspace took the challenge of creating a weather and wind-resistant **5-foot anchor tree topper** for the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce's Lobster Trap Tree. A labor of love, the anchor was designed and created in the makerspace, and engaged young COMO makers in the 3D printing and assembly.

Thanks to the generosity of donors at our inaugural Battle of Stonington: The Paddle Ball, the makerspace purchased **20 new laptops** to help increase access to emerging technologies for makers of all ages and to inspire more makers on and off the COMO campus.

Preschoolers also began taking part in weekly **preschool STEAM class** with our STEAM Director. Using computer-aided design (CAD) software, students worked through the alphabet using a new letter each week to kick start their design. Students practice the names of shapes, sizes, colors, directions and learn new vocabulary like filament (the material used in 3D printing) and nozzle (the part of the 3D printer that deposits the melted filament onto the printer bed).

### WHITMAN AWARDEE

**The Whitman Award is awarded annually to young member of the Stonington Community Center who best exemplify qualities of leadership and citizenship.**

#### NIKHIL DESAI

Nikhil has been a part of the COMO since elementary school as a COMO Kid. He continued in the COMO Kids program through middle school and then joined the Junior Leadership Program (JLP). As a JLP, Nikhil showed an interest in our STEAM and makerspace programming, and continued to volunteer and work in the makerspace. This summer, he will be working as a COMO employee in the makerspace! To him, the COMO is a focal point of the community and a great way to meet different people that he would not have met if he wasn't at the COMO. Nikhil is looking forward to attending Trinity College in Hartford this fall to study computer science or biology.



**637** HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIPS

**\$38,700** IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 37 STUDENTS

**96** 3D PRINTED NUTS AND BOLTS HOLD TOGETHER THE LOBSTER TRAP TREE ANCHOR



In 2021, former Thrift Manager Cindy Berg passed away. Cindy was a member of the COMO Thrift Shop team for over 24 years and was a great friend and COMO supporter. She is missed, and it is with gratitude and a heavy heart that we recognize Cindy's legacy of service. Her spirit remains with us daily at COMO Thrift.

# BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: CONWAY, LONDREGAN, SHEEHAN & MONACO, P.C.



**Conway, Londregan,  
Sheehan & Monaco, P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

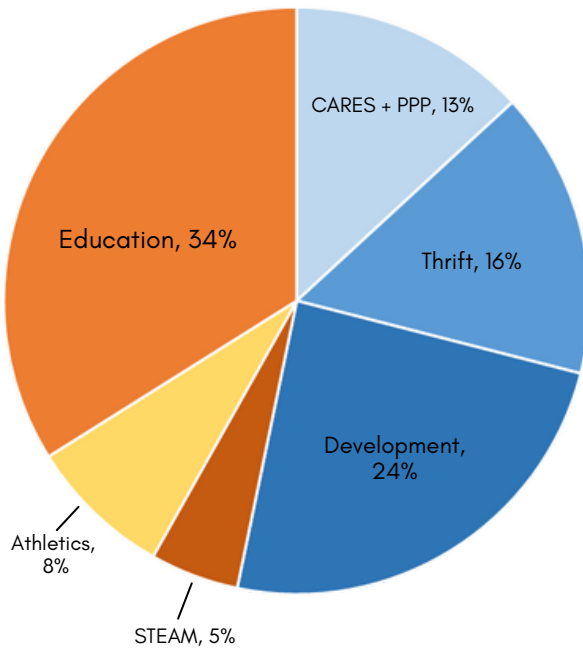
In 2021, the COMO recognizes Conway, Londregan, Sheehan & Monaco, P.C. as the Business of the Year for their contributions and support of the COMO mission of strengthening community. COMO Board President Eric Garofano and his colleagues at Conway, Londregan, Sheehan & Monaco, P.C. have provided legal assistance and support for the COMO as a valued community partner. They were also the featured Championship Sponsor at the first annual Battle of Stonington: The Paddle Ball fundraiser. We are so grateful to have businesses in our community who believe in the power of community and affordable and accessible programming for all.



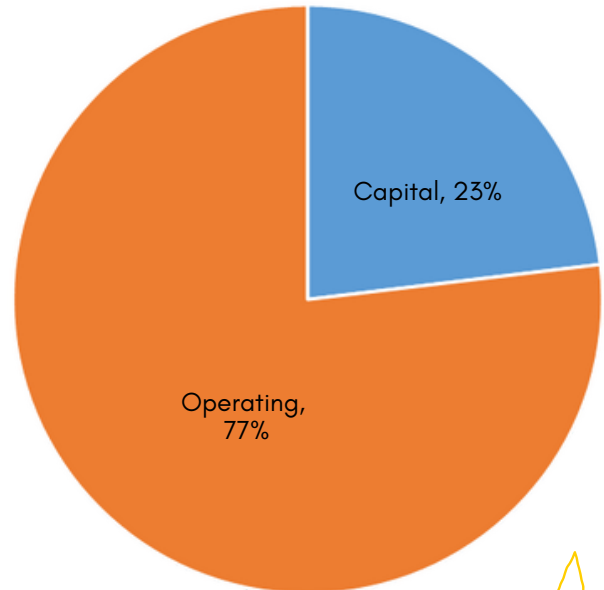
## BY THE NUMBERS

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

**2021 Income: \$1,750,281.67**



**2021 Expenses: \$1,750,281.67**



Capital expenses include facility updates and improvements such as a new playground, designated account for pending HVAC in the gym and auditorium, new gym floors, and paddle court lights.

# 64,351

**ITEMS GENEROUSLY DONATED TO COMO THRIFT  
AND LOVINGLY SOLD AND RE-PURPOSED TO  
MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY**

