



2025 Annual Report

Life Center Collaborative, Inc. proudly
launches the Camden Life Center's
First Annual Report.

A reflection of connection, care, and
community impact since opening at 20 Main
Street in 2023.

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Life Center Collaborative, Inc.

Mission Statement:

Fostering healthy, thriving families through thoughtful partnerships that prioritize locally defined needs, focusing on the strength of connectivity and community.

Vision:

Empowering rural communities for a brighter tomorrow.

Values:

Create a welcoming environment:

Deliver compassionate, high-quality person-centered care

Empower Individuals:

Encourage hope and increasing compassion for all

Promote healing:

Create a culture of continued learning and growth

Focus locally:

Provide care that meets the unique needs of rural communities

Connect:

Collaborate and connect with our community and service resources for the benefit of all

Be bold:

Be courageous, persistent, flexible, and humble

Executive Summary

When we began this journey, our vision was simple: to create welcoming spaces in rural communities where people feel connected, supported, and valued. Places where neighbors can gather, find resources, share meals, and build relationships that strengthen individual lives and entire communities.

As we reflect on this first year, one word stands out above all others: resilience.

This year brought both exciting milestones and unexpected challenges. Like many rural communities, we faced obstacles that required creativity, flexibility, and determination. Yet time and again, we watched our community rise to meet those challenges. Volunteers stepped forward. Partners leaned in. Staff and supporters found new ways to serve. And neighbors showed up for one another.

Because of that shared resilience, we have continued moving forward — launching new programs, strengthening partnerships, and expanding opportunities for connection, recovery, and wellness. Every shared meal, youth activity, recovery circle, resource connection, and conversation reminds us why this work matters.

We are especially proud that our growth has been shaped by the voices of the communities we serve. Life Centers are not built for communities; they are built with communities. The solutions, programs, and spaces continue to grow from local strengths and local needs.

None of this happens alone. We are deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and community members who believe in this work and help make it possible. Your support allows us to keep our doors open, respond to emerging needs, and create spaces where people feel welcome and supported.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains strong. We will continue building welcoming community spaces, supporting recovery and wellness, and strengthening partnerships that help rural communities thrive. The road forward will undoubtedly bring new challenges, but this year has shown us what is possible when communities come together with hope and determination.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We are just getting started.

With gratitude,
Jessica Perusse
Executive Director

Leadership Circle

The Camden Life Center proudly recognizes our 2025 Leadership Circle donors — individuals and businesses who invested \$1,000 or more this year in support of our mission. Their generosity fuels programs that strengthen connection, wellness, and support throughout our community.

2025 Leadership Circle Members

Highstreet Insurance | Heartfelt Helping Hands | Utica Gas and Electric Federal Credit Union | Patrick & Karen Regan | Miles Lewis | Steve Beyers | Tappet Twirlers | Teresa Farnsworth

Leadership Circle members play a vital role in sustaining community programming, food access efforts, and resource navigation services at the Camden Life Center.

We are equally grateful to the many supporters whose gifts at every level help make this work possible.

2025 Supporting Donors

Heidi Brission | June Collins | Nancy Foy | Jennifer Guhin | Laurie Dingman | Birch Wealth Management | Camden Boys Soccer Booster | Steve Wickham | Randy Kiser | Jennifer Walker

“Leadership Circle members are investing in the strength and potential of our community,” shared Director Jessica Perusse. “Their generosity inspires others to come together and help build a stronger, more connected Camden.”

We invite others to join this growing circle of community supporters in the year ahead.



A Year in Review

2025

Program Data

601,298

People reached through social media platforms.

\$92,500

Received in grant funds.

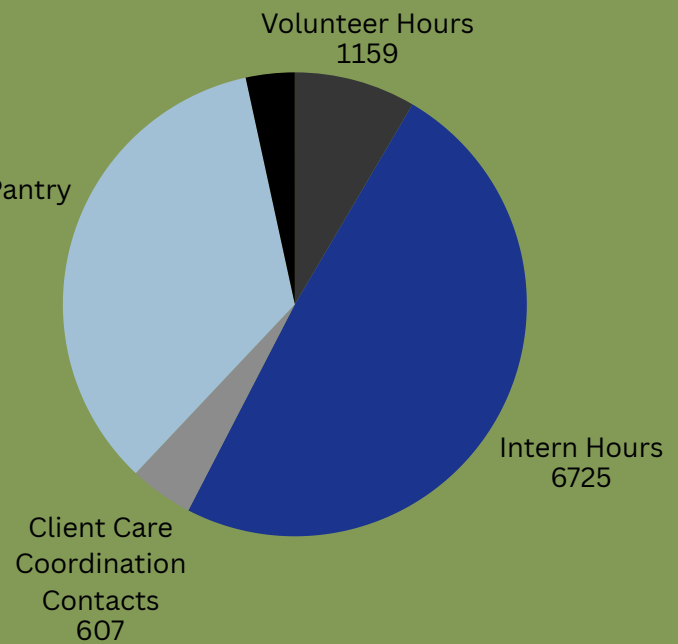
\$8,630

Total dollars raised through fundraising and donations.

The data on this page represents more than statistics—it reflects real people, real needs, and real impact. Each connection made, meal served, and hour volunteered tells the story of a community coming together to support one another.

In 2025, the Camden Life Center continued to grow as a trusted hub for care, connection, and collaboration. Increased outreach allowed more individuals to find help when they needed it most, while strong partnerships and dedicated volunteers made it possible to meet those needs locally and with dignity.

These numbers show growth—but more importantly, they show commitment, compassion, and the power of community working together.



Volunteer & Intern Data

2025

\$38,814.91

Dollars saved by
volunteer hours
worked.

\$225,220.25

Dollars saved by
intern hours
worked.

1,159

Hours served by
volunteers.

6,725

Hours served by
Interns.

In 2025, the Camden Life Center was supported by 22 dedicated volunteers serving each month, whose time and commitment helped deliver connection, care, and essential resources to our community.

We also welcomed 14 student interns from colleges and universities including Cazenovia College, Keuka College, Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC), New York University, SUNY Plattsburgh, Syracuse University, and Utica University. Their energy, skills, and compassion expanded our ability to meet growing community needs.

Together, our volunteers and interns contributed thousands of hours of service—strengthening programs, supporting staff, and reinforcing the Camden Life Center as a place where community comes together.

Program Highlights

Agency Partnerships

In 2025, we welcomed two new agency partners to the Camden Life Center — Fidelis Care and the Housing and Homeless Coalition. With these additions, our network grew to a total of 13 agency partnerships working collaboratively under one roof.

These partnerships are essential to making the Camden Life Center a truly comprehensive hub of support. By offering multiple services in one accessible location, we reduce the need for individuals and families to travel long distances and ensure timely, coordinated care close to home.

Our 2025 Partner Agencies Include:

- Come to the Table Counseling
- Center for Family Life and Recovery
- Willow Network
- Helio Health
- Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency
- Food Bank of Central New York
- Tri-County WIC
- National Grid
- Clear Path for Veterans
- 50 Forward Mohawk Valley
- Syracuse University
- Fidelis Care
- Housing and Homeless Coalition



Program Highlights

Youth Programming

In 2025, the Camden Life Center continued to expand youth programming focused on leadership, life skills, and community connection.

Our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) met seven times throughout the year and participated in the Camden Farmers Market on two occasions, engaging eight youth in hands-on community involvement. We hosted 10 youth events, reaching 14 participants, and offered Adulting 101, which supported eight youth in building essential life skills. During the summer, the Youth Village Summer Program welcomed 11 youth across six program days, providing structured opportunities for connection and learning.

These programs reflect our ongoing commitment to empowering young people and fostering a strong sense of belonging in our community.



Program Highlights

Trainings

In 2025, we provided Naloxone (Narcan) training to 27 community members and expanded our capacity by certifying three new Train-the-Trainer instructors, increasing our ability to respond quickly and effectively to opioid-related emergencies.

We also delivered Adult Mental Health First Aid training to 12 individuals and Youth Mental Health First Aid training to six individuals, equipping community members with the skills to recognize warning signs, offer early support, and connect individuals to professional help.

In addition, through the NYS Parenting Education Partnership Grant, staff participated in a full-day Community Café training, learning how to facilitate safe, welcoming spaces where community members can gather to discuss ongoing key issues affecting our region. This training strengthens our ability to host meaningful conversations that build connection, encourage shared problem-solving, and give residents a voice in shaping a healthier community.

Together, these trainings are vital in a rural area where access to immediate emergency response and mental health resources can be limited. By building local knowledge and leadership, we are creating a stronger, safer, and more connected community.



Recovery Cafe Camden

Recovery Cafe Circles

On January 13, 2025, we proudly opened the Recovery Café Camden - the **first** Recovery Cafe in New York State.

This year, we launched two Recovery Circles:

- Mondays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Thursdays from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Together, these circles hosted 47 meetings, with a total attendance of 416 individuals.

We currently have 15 active members who are formally enrolled and regularly participating.

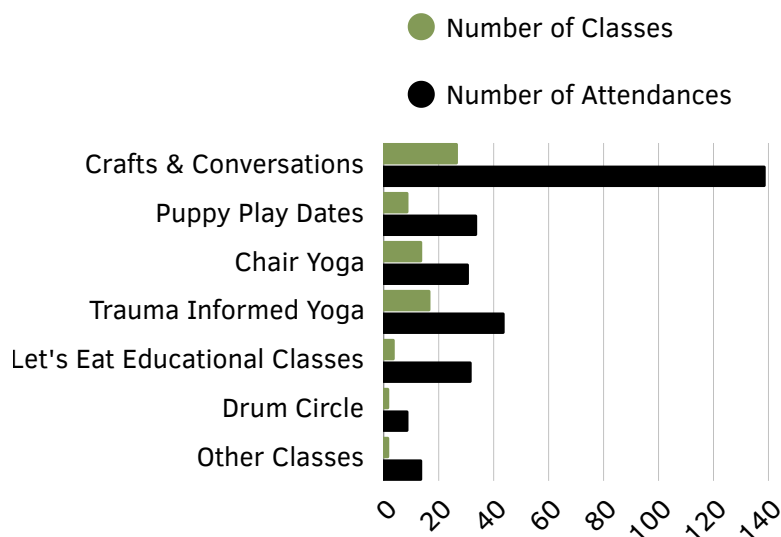
The Recovery Café Circle provides a welcoming and judgment-free environment where individuals can enjoy a shared meal, connect with others, and talk openly about daily life and the challenges we all face. The space is grounded in the belief that everyone is in recovery from something, and all are welcome to join in community, support, and hope.

School of Recovery Classes

In May 2025, we launched our School of Recovery—a space where individuals can gather, learn, and grow through self-wellness, personal development, and peer support.

Over the course of the year, we offered 75 classes, representing 8 different class types, with a total attendance of 303 participants across all sessions.

The School of Recovery continues to expand in 2026, with new classes launching and more opportunities for community members to learn, connect, and build resilience.



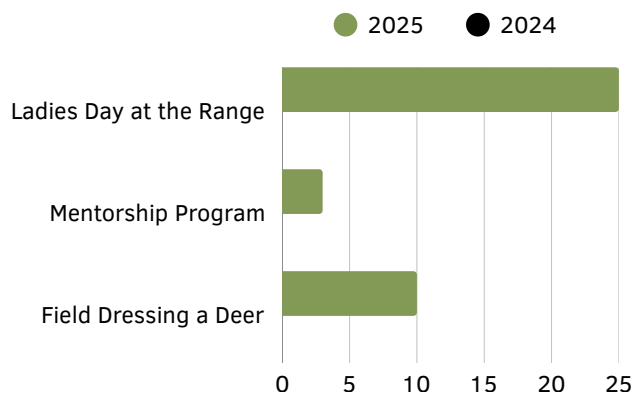
Let's Eat Programing

Harvest & Hunt Program

Our Harvest & Hunt programming launched in August 2025, creating new opportunities for outdoor education, skill development, and mentorship. Through strong partnerships with local and statewide organizations, we offered the following experiences:

- Ladies Day at the Range – In partnership with the Camden Rod & Gun Club, women learned the fundamentals of firearm and bow safety in a supportive, hands-on environment.
- Mentorship Program – In collaboration with Artemis, the National Deer Association, and Outdoor News, new hunters were paired with experienced mentors to guide them through the 2025 hunting season.
- Field Dressing a Deer Workshop – Offered alongside the Camden Rod & Gun Club, Artemis, and the DEC, community members received practical instruction on how to properly field dress a deer.

The program was widely celebrated and marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in outdoor recreation and conservation engagement at Camden Life Center.



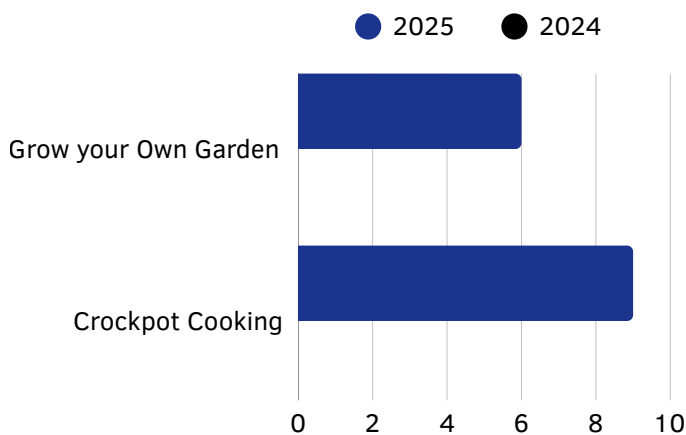
Let's Eat Programing

Additional Programs

In June 2025, we proudly opened the Camden Farmers Market in partnership with Farms of ADL. Throughout the season, we hosted 14 markets, each featuring an average of two food vendors and two craft vendors, helping support local growers, makers, and small businesses.

To further encourage food access and self-sufficiency, we launched Grow Your Own Garden, a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners. Community members received seedlings, seeds, tools, and guidance—allowing us to distribute 50 vegetable plants to local households.

We also introduced our own "Spice Up Your Life" homemade spice bags, designed to make nutritious meals flavorful and fun. Over the span of three months, we distributed 150 spice bags to community members.





CAMDEN SHARING SHELF & FRIDGE

Stocked by Camden. No Questions, Just Kindness
20 Main Street, Camden

Emergency Food Pantry

2025 marked the second year of operation for our Emergency Food Pantry, which provides short-term food support to households across the Camden Central School District. Each household receives approximately 20 pounds of food, equal to roughly three days of meals for three individuals. Through walk-in access alone, the pantry supplied the equivalent of 756 meals to community members in need.

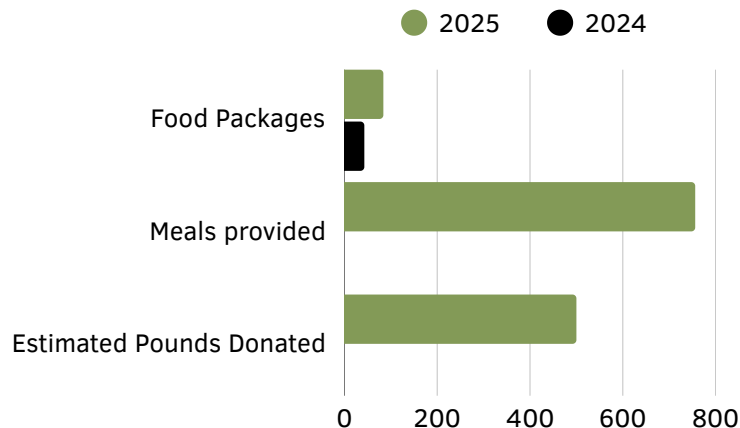
Estimated Food Cost & Impact

In total, we distributed approximately 2,720 pounds of food in 2025. Using a conservative estimate of \$3.00 per pound, this represents an estimated food value of \$8,000 invested back into the community.

Camden Sharing Shelf and Fridge

In 2025, we officially named our outdoor food pantry and community refrigerator the **Camden Sharing Shelf & Fridge**. Thanks to a steady flow of donations from the Camden Farmers Market and generous community members, both spaces remained consistently stocked throughout the year—supporting neighbors who needed quick access to fresh and shelf-stable foods.

Over the course of 2025, we supplied an average of 20 pounds of food per week to the Sharing Shelf, supplementing the many community contributions that kept this resource thriving.



Mental Healthcare Data

Helio Health Services

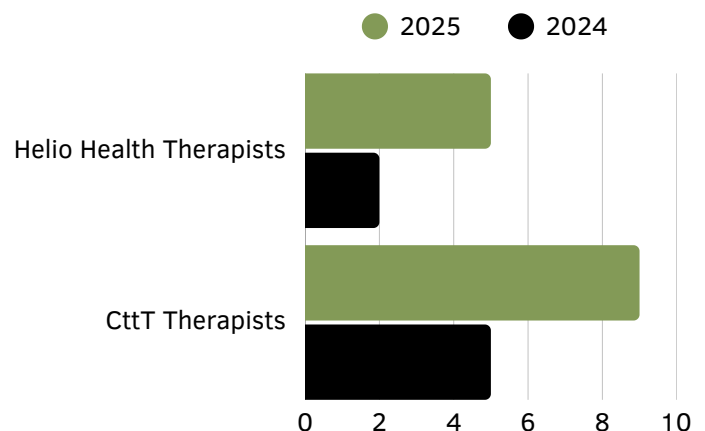
In 2025, Helio Health became fully embedded at the Camden Life Center, expanding its onsite presence to five days per week. This increased availability significantly improved access to mental health services for community members who may otherwise face barriers such as transportation, cost, or long wait times.

Throughout the year, the Camden Life Center referred 200 individuals to Helio Health for mental health support and related services. Having Helio Health onsite allows for warm handoffs, quicker connections to care, and a more coordinated approach to supporting individuals on their mental health and recovery journeys.

Come to the Table Counseling

Also in 2025, Come to the Table Counseling (CttT) continued to expand its services at the Camden Life Center. The practice welcomed four new therapists, bringing the total number of onsite clinicians to nine. This growth greatly increased the Center's capacity to meet rising demand for counseling and therapeutic services.

Together, Come to the Table Counseling clinicians completed 4,911 mental health appointments in 2025, providing timely, compassionate, and professional care to individuals and families in our community. Their presence onsite ensures continuity of care and reinforces the Camden Life Center's role as a centralized hub for mental health support.



Behavioral Healthcare Data

Certified Recovery Peer Advocate Programs

In 2025, five local community members successfully completed Peer Recovery Training.

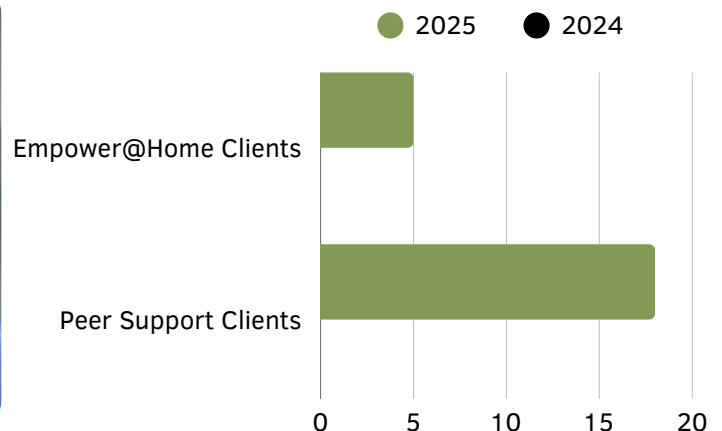
Two of these trained peers are now based at the Camden Life Center, collectively supporting 18 clients throughout the year. In addition, one peer from Helio Health is onsite at the Center two days per week, expanding access to peer-led support.

These services play a vital role at the Camden Life Center—helping individuals navigate daily challenges, access resources, and stay connected to the supports they need to thrive.

Empower@Home Program

In February 2025, we launched Empower@Home, a free mood-boosting program designed to lift spirits and enhance quality of life for adults age 50 and older. The Camden Life Center is proud to be the first—and currently the only—New York State site offering the Empower@Home program.

Two trained peer support specialists completed certification as Empower@Home coaches and provided individualized encouragement and guidance to participants throughout the program. In its first year, Empower@Home served five clients, marking the beginning of an innovative and impactful support service for older adults in our community.



Client Care Coordination

The Client Care Coordinator serves as a central point of connection at the Camden Life Center, helping individuals navigate available resources and get connected to the partner agencies and services best suited to their needs. This role ensures that community members receive timely, coordinated support without unnecessary barriers or referrals gaps.

In 2025, the Client Care Coordinator connected with 607 individuals, an increase from 481 individuals in 2024, reflecting both growing community need and increased awareness of services available at the Center.

2025 Referrals by Service Area:

- 337 referrals for mental health services
- 34 referrals for substance use services
- 83 referrals for food-related services
- 37 referrals for housing services
- 52 referrals for intensive case management

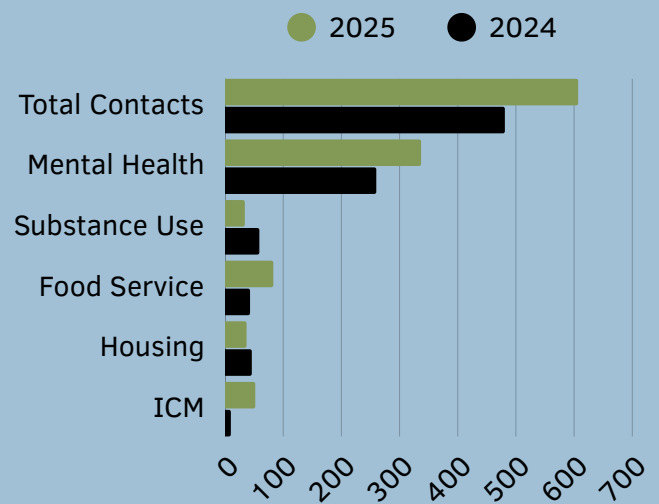
For comparison, in 2024, referrals included:

- 260 mental health referrals
- 59 substance use referrals
- 43 food-related referrals
- 46 housing referrals
- 10 intensive case management referrals

In addition to referrals, the Client Care Coordinator provided direct assistance to 54 individuals in 2025 who needed help applying for HEAP, further supporting household stability during critical times.

This role continues to be a cornerstone of the Camden Life Center’s mission—ensuring individuals receive personalized guidance, coordinated care, and access to essential services close to home.

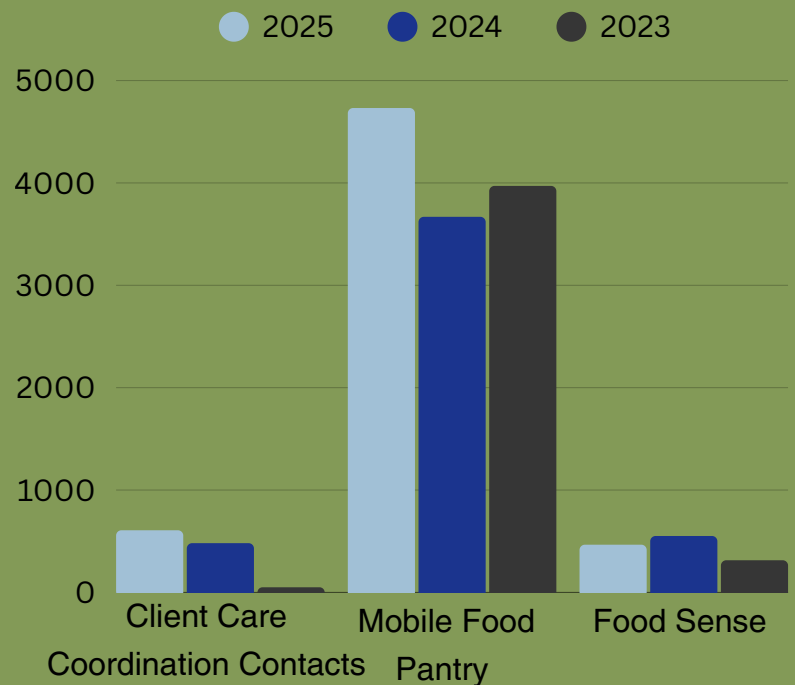
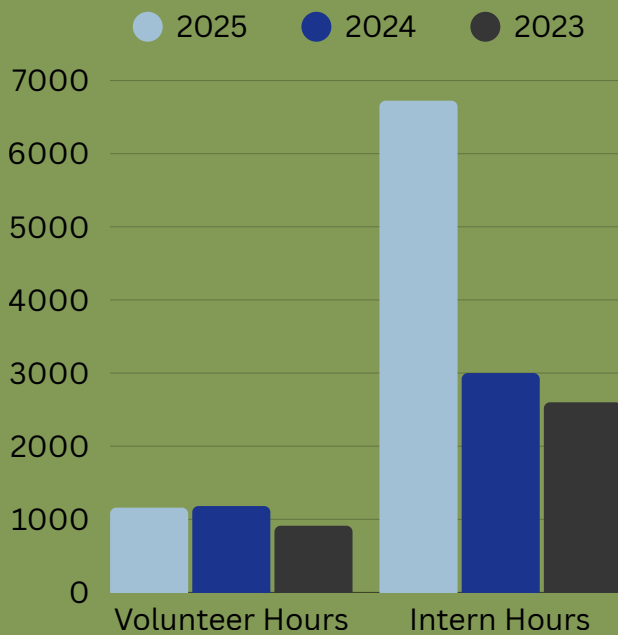
Client Care Coordination Referrals



Data Comparison

2023-2025

Key Highlights



Since opening at 20 Main Street in 2023, the Camden Life Center has steadily grown into a trusted hub for connection, care, and community support. The data presented in this report reflects not only year-over-year progress, but the evolution of services designed to meet the changing needs of our rural community.

From 2023 through 2025, we have seen consistent growth in direct service delivery, outreach, and community engagement. Programs such as Client Care Coordination and the Mobile Food Pantry expanded significantly, reflecting increased demand for individualized support and food access.

Overall, the data tells the story of a center that has grown from vision to reality, deepening its reach and strengthening its role as a responsive, people-centered resource for the community.

