



# Outcomes & Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2024



[www.utecinc.org](http://www.utecinc.org)



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**On the cover:** De'Andre, a young adult at UTEC, celebrated his accomplishment during UTEC's HiSET graduation in August. 19 young adults earned their high-school equivalency in FY24.





## A Note from our Chief Executive Officer

As we look back on 2024, I'm proud to reflect on an incredible milestone: UTEC's 25th anniversary. What began in 1999 as a small but ambitious effort to connect with young adults on the streets of Lowell has grown into a nationally recognized model for breaking cycles of poverty, violence, and incarceration. Over the past 25 years, UTEC has evolved in ways we could only have dreamed of.

From our first restorative justice circle to today's innovative, multi-faceted approach, we've stayed true to our mission of igniting and sustaining social and economic success for young adults. Along the way, we've expanded our impact, opening new locations in Lawrence and Haverhill, launching transformative programs such as our work in correctional facilities, and providing wraparound services that meet young adults where they are.

Inside this year's report, you'll find a timeline highlighting our key moments and achievements. Each step reflects the resilience and determination of the young adults we serve, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our community.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be another year of growth and opportunity. We're excited to deepen our impact with the launch of new initiatives, including our Transitional Housing Program, while continuing to address the systemic challenges young adults face.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Your belief in our mission and investment in young adults make everything we do possible. Here's to the next 25 years of progress, hope, and possibility!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Croteau'.

Gregg Croteau, MSW  
Chief Executive Officer



## Mission & Values

UTEC's mission and promise is to ignite and nurture the ambition of our most disconnected young people ages 17 - 25 to trade violence and poverty for social and economic success.

Today we serve the communities of Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill, MA and are nationally recognized as a model agency serving young adults involved in the criminal justice system.







# 25 Years of MADD LOVE



## 1999

UTEC was founded by teens as a drop-in center in response to gang violence in Lowell alongside our founding partners (the City of Lowell, St. Anne's Church, Downtown Neighborhood Association, and Community Teamwork) with a budget of \$40,000.

## 2006

UTEC purchased its current program location, a beautiful church (formerly St. Paul's United Methodist Church) in downtown Lowell built in 1839.

## 2009

After ten years as a drop-in center for young people of all ages, UTEC engaged in a Theory of Change process that led to a programmatic restructuring to provide more intensive services for the most disconnected youth (ages 16-24) in the community.

## 2011

UTEC began the renovation of its youth center in downtown Lowell to accommodate increased enrollment and grow its woodworking and culinary social enterprises.

## 2014

UTEC launched its Mattress Recycling enterprise in Lawrence, providing a service to the community and criminal record-friendly employment to young adults.

## 2017

The Nancy L. and Richard K. Donahue Hub for Social Innovation opened its doors, expanding UTEC's Lowell campus. It houses UTEC's 2Gen Early Childhood Education Center, which provides free on-site childcare and education, along with a large commercial community kitchen and event space.

## 2019

UTEC opened its Haverhill location, expanding its presence in the Merrimack Valley.

UTEC was selected by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the provider for its Gun Violence Prevention Training Center for Excellence, focused on developing training programs to reduce gun violence and promote community safety statewide.

## 2020

UTEC launched Madd Love Meals to provide free meals to those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UTEC opened its Lawrence site which became home to its Transformational Beginnings orientation program.

## 2021

UTEC's Organizing Crew was founded to help young adults find their voice and affect change at a policy level.

## 2022

UTEC's work with incarcerated young adults behind-the-walls expanded with the creation of a dedicated Reentry team.

The organization also increased mental health supports, providing 1,245 mental health sessions for young adults in FY23.



# 2024 Highlights

In FY24 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024), UTEC continued to transform lives and break cycles of violence and poverty, achieving meaningful outcomes for young adults in our community. This impact was made possible thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and advocates. Together, we are creating brighter futures—one young person at a time.

**525**

UTEC staff served 525 young adults behind the walls, on the streets, and through programming.

**133**

133 of these young adults participated in UTEC's intensive programming.

**71%**

71% of young adults had no new arraignments within one year of enrolling in UTEC's intensive programming. 65% had no new arraignments after two years.

**33**

UTEC's Training Center for Excellence conducted 33 trainings that provided the tools needed to support violence prevention professionals statewide.

**19**

19 young adults earned their high school equivalency credential.


**20**

20 children were enrolled in our 2Gen Childcare Center.

**19**

UTEC Streetworkers held 19 events to build community and provide helpful resources to those who might need it.



## Who We Serve\*

**70%** Latino or Hispanic

**68%** young men

**22** average age

**61%** gang-involved (family or self) at intake

**44%** pregnant or parenting at intake

**67%** lack a high school credential at intake

*\*Defined as young adults enrolled in UTEC's intensive programming.*



# Meet Desiree

“When I started at UTEC, I was 19 years old with an open case. The Transitional Coaches and Streetworkers I met helped me right away by attending court dates with me, getting my ID and my driver's license, and helping me earn my high school equivalency credential. I also got free childcare for my daughter in UTEC's 2Gen Center which was a big relief since I didn't have to worry about paying out-of-pocket for daycare or getting family members to watch her.

**UTEC creates a sense of family and home in a way that gave me a sense of stability.**

UTEC's mental health staff made sure I got into counseling right away, too. It really helped me learn coping skills that helped me deal with what I was going through at the time. I think this support helped me get back on my feet so I could learn how to walk on my own in life.

I also participated in UTEC's Workforce program. It prepared me for a real job by giving me structure and showing me what skills I needed to succeed. I got to work at my own pace and they never turned me away even when I needed extra support.

**I learned how to speak up and advocate for myself. Now I can teach my daughters these valuable life skills and be the best possible role model for them.”**





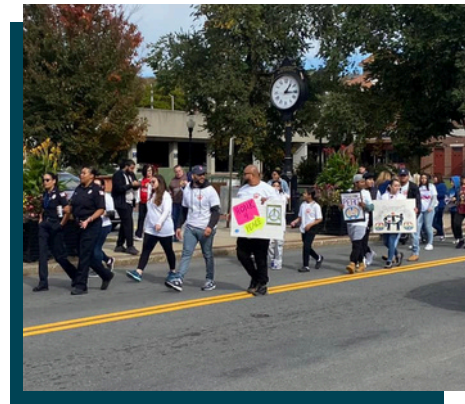


# Streetwork

Streetworkers are the heartbeat of UTEC's approach to breaking cycles of poverty, violence, and incarceration. These dedicated individuals are often the first point of contact for young adults in our program, meeting them where they are—whether on the streets or during critical moments of crisis such as a fight, an arrest, or hospitalization. **They build trust, foster relationships, and guide young adults toward positive change, encouraging participation in UTEC's programs.**

Streetworkers play many roles: they mediate gang conflicts to promote peace, respond to crises, and organize events that create safe spaces for connection and support. Their work extends far beyond individual relationships; it strengthens entire communities by fostering collaboration and resilience.

In FY24, UTEC Streetworkers held 19 community events to promote unity, including a summer basketball tournament in Lowell, a community peace walk in Lawrence following a rise in local violence, and a job fair in Haverhill.



**382**

## Young adults

Streetworkers worked 1:1 with 382 young people in the Merrimack Valley.

**51**

## Crisis situations

Streetworkers responded to 51 crisis situations in Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill.

**19**

## Community events

Streetworkers held 19 events to increase awareness of UTEC and strengthen our communities.



# Reentry

UTEC's Reentry team supports young adults in correctional facilities throughout Massachusetts and as they transition back to our community. The team also assists young people in the Department of Youth Services by connecting them with supports as they transition to the Department of Correction. FY24 highlights include:

**Team Expansion:** UTEC's Reentry team welcomed two new staff members, enhancing its ability to provide personalized, intensive support to more young adults.

**Reentry Prep Packs:** Our team provided essential items like clothing, hygiene products, and battery packs for ankle monitors upon release. This practical support eases anxiety and ensures compliance with monitoring requirements.

**Strengthening Bonds Beyond the Walls:** The team provided resources to help incarcerated individuals stay connected with loved ones. Family gatherings help maintain bonds, while initiatives like holiday packages with Concord Prison Outreach ensure families feel supported from a distance. Strengthening these connections is key to a successful transition back into the community.

**Education and Advocacy:** The team conducted panels and trainings, including a session at Holy Cross with UTEC's Training Center for Excellence. They also presented at the 43rd American Jail Conference with the Essex County Sheriff's Department, highlighting successful institutional partnerships.

## Strengthened Partnerships:

- When the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Concord closed, the team shifted work to North Central Correctional Institution in Gardner, including a partnership with DJ Lus' "Changing the Play" to introduce entrepreneurship through hip-hop.
- The team partnered with local organizations like Thrive Communities to address mental health, employment, and housing challenges for young adults reentering our community.



53

## Restorative justice circles

The team held 53 restorative justice circles in correctional institutions to promote healing, open dialogue, and support for those preparing to reenter the community.

# Transformational Beginnings



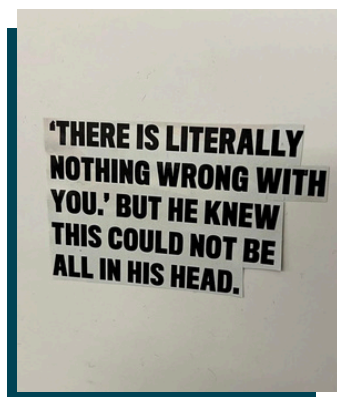
After being introduced to UTEC by a member of our Streetwork or Reentry team, young adults begin their journey in our Transformational Beginnings (TrB) program. Located at our Lawrence site, TrB serves as an orientation to UTEC's wraparound services. The program is designed to **meet young adults where they are**, introducing them to an environment of trust, support, and accountability.

During this orientation phase, young adults learn about UTEC's culture, which centers on fostering personal transformation through relentless engagement and multiple chances. They participate in life skills workshops, restorative justice circles, and 1:1 coaching sessions, helping them develop the habits and mindset needed for long-term success.

Transformational Beginnings is more than a program—it's a bridge to possibility, paving the way for young adults to redefine their futures. When they complete TrB, young adults transition into UTEC's Workforce program, ready to build critical job and leadership skills.

63

**63 young adults started in UTEC's Transformational Beginnings program.**



**Exploring Identity and Envisioning Change:** Transformational Beginnings provides young adults with a safe space to reflect on their identities and experiences. Through creative projects like these collages—showcasing how they see themselves versus how the world sees them—they begin to process their journeys and envision a better future.



# Workforce Development & Education

After completing Transformational Beginnings, young adults join Workforce programming where they rotate through Culinary and Woodworking Social Enterprises and have the opportunity to prepare for the five-part HiSET (High School Equivalency Test). They gain hands-on experience and versatile skills to help prepare them for employment in diverse fields while fostering personal and professional growth. Young adults who graduate from the program leave with marketable skills and tools to build brighter futures.

At the core of this program is UTEC's dedicated 1:1 transitional coaching model. Each young adult is paired with a coach who provides individualized support to help them overcome personal barriers. Coaches work alongside young adults to set goals, address challenges, celebrate achievements, and ensure they have the resources needed to succeed.

**Enterprise Level:** After their rotations through our Social Enterprises, young adults take on key roles supporting our Social Enterprises. This allows them to gain more targeted, hands-on experience while building technical and social-emotional skills essential for long-term success. Those with different career goals can intern within UTEC or with external partners, ensuring that all young adults receive meaningful opportunities to develop the skills and experience needed for their future careers or education.

54

**54 young adults in UTEC's TrB program progressed to our Workforce Development program.**

**Pathways:** After completing our Enterprise level, young adults move into Pathways, where they get intensive support to prepare for life beyond UTEC. From resume building and interview prep to job searching and financial literacy, our team stays connected through their final program cycles and for two years after they exit.



UTEC  
WORKFORCE

# Social Enterprises

UTEC's Social Enterprises—Culinary, Woodworking, and Mattress Recycling—are a cornerstone of our mission to equip young adults with the skills, confidence, and experience needed to thrive personally and professionally. By creating real-world work environments, these enterprises empower young adults to take charge of their futures while generating revenue to help sustain UTEC's broader programs.

## Goals of UTEC's Social Enterprises:

**Sustainability:** Achieve net profitability with proceeds reinvested into UTEC programs.

**Career Development:** Provide dedicated vocational trainee slots and internships, ensuring young adults gain hands-on career preparation.

**Employment Pathways:** Offer direct employment opportunities for program graduates, supporting their transition into the workforce.

## FY24 Accomplishments:

- **Driving Impact Through Success:** We surpassed revenue goals in two of three social enterprises to help sustain and expand UTEC's programs for young adults.
- **Increasing Engagement:** We introduced targeted job slots for program participants and recent graduates that resemble external employment, fostering greater independence and professionalism among participants.
- **Creating Pathways to Success:** This year, UTEC's Social Enterprises proudly hired two program graduates as staff, promoted another former young adult to a managerial role, and supported a logistics trainee in securing sustainable external employment—showcasing the untapped potential of the young adults we serve.





## Social Enterprise Highlights:

### Mattress Recycling

Our Mattress Recycling enterprise offers criminal record-friendly jobs and diverts more than 55,000 mattresses from landfills annually, recycling **85%** of each one.

40

### Municipal partners

UTEC partners with 40 municipalities and 20 schools and hotels, making it the largest mattress recycler in the area.

### Food Services

This year, UTEC proudly launched See Beyond Catering, providing young adults with hands-on culinary training and career preparation. A highlight was catering a bust dedication ceremony for Chief Justice Ralph Gants at the State House on May 29, 2024.

Madd Love Meals provided more than 12,900 boxes of fresh food to food insecure neighbors in Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill. This year, the team focused on making meals more culturally appropriate and locally sourced. In the fall, young adults traveled to Gaining Ground in Concord, MA to pick farm-fresh vegetables to use in the boxes.

### Woodworking & Madd Love Market

Young adults design and craft unique wooden products sold at UTEC's Madd Love Market, gaining entrepreneurial skills and confidence. The market also serves as a platform to showcase their craftsmanship and engage with the broader community.



## Breaking Barriers Kitchen: A New Frontier for Culinary Training

Exciting things are cooking at UTEC! Our Breaking Barriers Kitchen food truck is gearing up to hit the streets, offering young adults hands-on training in mobile food operations. Beginning in 2025, this innovative program will serve delicious meals while building job skills and fostering community connections. Stay tuned!



# Community Organizing & Policy Advocacy

UTEC's direct services are just one part of creating meaningful change. To achieve lasting, systemic change, we empower young adults to engage in advocacy and organizing, giving them the tools to amplify their voices and drive progress in their communities and beyond.

In FY24, UTEC's policy and organizing work focused on engaging young adults in impactful civic activities, legislative advocacy, and community organizing. Here are some highlights:

**UTEC at the White House:** President Joe Biden met with UTEC Streetworker Jose Pizzini outside the White House (above). Jose and UTEC CEO Gregg Croteau were invited to the nation's capital as Biden announced the new Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

**Budget Advocacy:** UTEC's Organizing Crew led coalition efforts to maintain and increase funding in critical areas such as gun violence prevention and reentry support for emerging adults. Young adults engaged directly in advocacy by meeting with legislative leaders at the State House and within their communities.

**Supporting Community Needs:** UTEC's Organizing Crew is dedicated to helping community members facing hardship. In the fall, the group spearheaded an effort to provide meals to homeless individuals in downtown Lowell. This initiative brought together young adults and staff, working side by side to deliver nourishment, compassion, and hope to those in need.

**Engaging in Local Elections:** Young adults at UTEC held a series of city council and mayoral candidate meet-and-greets in Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill to educate young people about important local issues and get to know the candidates.

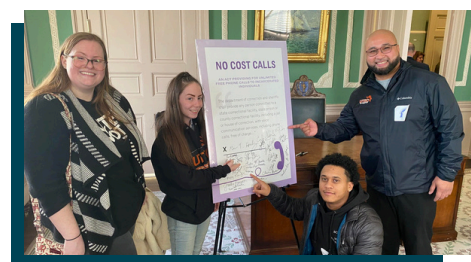




**Raise the Age:** Advocating to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 21 (H.1710 & S.942) was a central focus of UTEC's advocacy efforts, driven by the need to provide young adults with age-appropriate rehabilitation and support, rather than punitive measures. Young adults and staff members testified before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary at the Massachusetts State House, sharing powerful stories that demonstrate the need for this legislative change. UTEC staff and young adults also rallied at the State House multiple times and marched in celebration of NBA Champions, the Boston Celtics, who also proudly support the Raise the Age initiative.



**Promoting Reentry and Housing Initiatives:** In May, seven young adults joined UTEC staff and state officials in a reentry housing roundtable, contributing their lived experiences to discussions with the Secretaries of Housing and Livable Communities and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.



**Policy Win:** Young adults from UTEC's Organizing Crew attended a ceremonial bill signing at the Massachusetts State House to celebrate the passage of the No Cost Calls legislation. The policy ensures that incarcerated individuals and their families can communicate without the financial burden of costly phone fees, strengthening family connections, reducing stress on loved ones, and supporting the reentry process.



16

**16 young adults participated in UTEC's Organizing Crew, leading community advocacy and social justice efforts while empowering their peers to engage in activism and create positive change.**

# 2Gen Early Childhood Education Center

At UTEC, we believe breaking cycles of poverty and violence requires addressing the needs of two generations. The 2Gen Center exemplifies this commitment by supporting young parents and their children. Far more than a childcare facility, 2Gen fosters meaningful connections, practical resources, and transformative opportunities for young families.

While the heart of the Center lies in its three classrooms for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, its approach extends beyond the classroom. 2Gen staff offer resources and programs tailored to young families. From prenatal support to access to essential items like cribs, diapers, and formula, UTEC partners with parents at every stage of their journey.

20

**20 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers were enrolled in UTEC's 2Gen Center.**

## Welcome to the expanded 2Gen Parent Center!

This year, UTEC updated its 2Gen Parent Center, a welcoming space designed to support families with convenience and care. The center features laundry facilities (two washers and dryers), a computer with a printer for work or personal use, a lounge with a TV, coffee, microwave, and children's toys, and a private breastfeeding-friendly area.



## 2024 Highlights:

Held 5 family events to foster connections among young parents and their children.

UTEC's Madd Love Meals program expanded to provide a nutritious breakfast and lunch to each child.

2Gen children and teachers completed the 100 Books Challenge to inspire a love of learning and to encourage families to read together.



## An Italian Sabbatical and the Reggio Emilia Influence

2Gen Director Rula Jaber took a sabbatical to Italy to study the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education, a philosophy that emphasizes child-led learning through exploration and

creativity. Inspired by this curriculum, Rula's work continues to enrich classrooms and foster meaningful connections with young parents.



# Training Center for Excellence

UTEC's Training Center for Excellence (TC4E) is a hub for innovation, collaboration, and leadership development, offering training and resources to professionals and young adults in the community violence intervention space. By sharing expertise and developing leaders, it ensures that future generations have the tools to ignite and sustain change.

**33**

**UTEC's Training Center for Excellence conducted 33 trainings statewide with nearly 800 total attendees.**

## Annual New England Streetworker Conference

A cornerstone of TC4E's work this year was the New England Streetworker Conference, which brought together more than 325 outreach professionals from 75 organizations. The event provides a platform for streetworkers to share strategies, learn best practices, and deepen their impact in addressing youth violence and fostering community safety. The conference featured workshops, expert panels, and keynote speakers, equipping participants with practical tools to engage and support our communities.



## Emerging Leaders Learning Collaborative

The annual Emerging Leaders Learning Collaborative empowers those working with justice-involved youth to step into leadership roles. Through six trainings over the course of the program, participants developed skills in public speaking, advocacy, and peer mentorship.





# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

At UTEC, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) are more than organizational values—they are vital to building an inclusive space where young adults and staff see their identities reflected and honored, fostering more meaningful engagement.

This year, UTEC's DEIB committee (pictured below) focused on two primary goals: increasing visibility and fostering inclusion and belonging among staff and young adults.

## Increasing Visibility of the Committee's Work:

- Partnered with UTEC's leadership team to boost participation in our annual DEIB survey, achieving a nearly 80% response rate—a 30% increase from last year.
- Installed DEIB informational boards in every UTEC building with information on committee members, cultural dates, and how to reach out for support.
- Created a slideshow in UTEC's main building to introduce the committee and its mission.
- Hosted monthly office hours, providing a space for staff to share concerns and learn about DEIB efforts.

## Fostering Inclusion and Belonging:

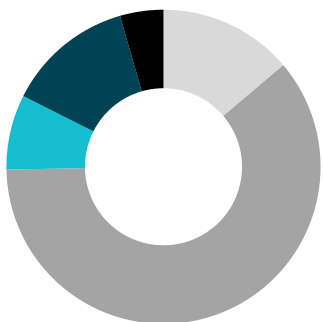
- Celebrated Juneteenth with young adults and staff through food, education, and an engaging Jeopardy game.
- Hosted cultural observances like Southeast Asian New Year, creating opportunities for education and connection.



## Looking ahead, UTEC plans to deepen its DEIB efforts by:

- Working with consultants, Peace of Culture, to ensure that DEIB remains at the forefront of our work as we search for a Director of DEIB.
- Hosting biannual training sessions to strengthen cultural competency.
- Expanding cultural celebrations to honor diversity across the organization.
- Reviewing current policies and proposed updates to align practices with DEIB goals. New objectives will be informed by the most recent DEIB survey results to address areas for growth.

# Finances



## Revenue

**61%** Government Grants & Contracts  
**14%** Individual & Corporate Giving  
**13%** Social Enterprise Revenue  
**8%** Private Grants  
**4%** Other



## Expenses

**60%** Programs  
**34%** General & Administrative  
**6%** Fundraising

# Board Members

### Chair: Scott Mellen

President & CEO, wTe Corporation

### Vice-Chair: JuanCarlos Rivera

Deputy Executive Director,  
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell

### Treasurer: Jonathan M. Kelly

Fidelity Management & Research (retired)

### Secretary: Tim Nichols

Chief of Organizational Effectiveness, Ropes & Gray LLP

### Brandon Colón

Co-Chief Investment Officer, Battery Global Advisors

### Gregg Croteau, MSW

Chief Executive Officer, UTEC, Inc.

### Jonathan Dowst

Banking Executive

### Neil Maniar, PhD, MPH

Professor of Public Health Practice  
& MPH Program Director, Northeastern University

### Lon Povich

Counsel, Anderson Krieger  
Former Chief Legal Counsel for the Office of the  
Governor of Massachusetts

### Marianela Vazquez

SVP, Chief Operating Officer,  
Reading Cooperative Bank

### Barb Vlacich

VP of Global Sales Ops & Chief of Staff, UKG

### Juanita Zerda

Director, Collective Change Lab



# Advisory Members

## **Nishith Acharya**

CEO, Equal Innovation Consulting

## **Jennifer Aronson**

Deputy VP for Programs, The Boston Foundation

## **Don Berwick**

President Emeritus, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)

## **Szifra Birke**

Principal, Birke Consulting

## **Honorable Jay Blitzman**

First Justice, Middlesex County Juvenile Court (retired)

## **Dinah Buechner-Vischer**

President, Lookout Foundation

## **Mary Burns**

Principal, Splash Media Group Boston, LLC  
& Capital Advertising, LLC

## **Paula M. Carey**

Chief Justice of the Trial Court (retired)

## **Julie Chen**

Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Lowell

## **Tom Clay**

CEO, Xtalic Corporation

## **Fred Conover**

President, CTP Boston

## **Laura Derba**

Senior Vice President, Global Partners LP

## **John DiGiovanni**

President, Trinity Property Management, LLC

## **Nancy L. Donahue**

Philanthropist

## **David Ennis**

President, Affirmative Investments

## **Michael Gallagher**

Founding Partner, Gallagher & Cavanaugh, LLP

## **James Geraghty**

Executive Director, Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management

## **Rufus Gifford**

Chief of Protocol for the United States,  
Former US Ambassador to Denmark

## **Philip Giudice**

Former CEO and President, Ambri, Inc.

## **Tito Jackson**

Founder and CEO, Apex Noire Cannabis Dispensary

## **Belinda Juran**

Partner, WilmerHale (retired)

## **Juliette Kayyem Belfer**

Lecturer in International Security, Harvard University Kennedy School

## **Thaddeus Miles**

Director of Community Services, MassHousing

## **Steven Panagiotakos**

Former State Senator, Former Chair of Senate Ways and Means Committee

## **Doug Rauch**

Founder and President, Daily Table,  
Former President, Trader Joe's

## **Bob Rivers**

President, Eastern Bank

## **Sally Sharp Lehman**

Principal, Sharp Lehman Consulting, LLC

## **Richard Snyder**

Of Counsel, Duane Morris, LLP

## **Mark Sylvia**

Managing Director, BlueWave Solar

## **Dan Wolf**

CEO, Cape Air

# Year in Headlines

Throughout the year, we've been proud to share our mission and celebrate the impact we're making together. It's exciting to see such a variety of media coverage showcasing our collective efforts. But the most powerful story is the behind-the-scenes personal transformation that young adults at UTEC achieve every day with the support of our staff.

Thank you for being part of our journey!

## The Boston Globe

**Mass. nearly halved its incarceration rate in 10 years, report finds**

By **Alexa Couhuff** Globe Correspondent/Updated January 24, 2024, 3:52 p.m.



From left to right: Jennifer B. McKim, deputy investigative editor at GBH (moderator), Viengsamay "Paul" Chaleunphong, re-entry manager at UTEC; Arnie Stewart, deputy chief counsel, public defender division at the Committee for Public Civil Services (CPCS); Gregg Croteau, chief executive officer, UTEC; and Pamerson III, commissioner of probation at Massachusetts Probation Service DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

**UTEC staff discuss criminal justice reform in Massachusetts.** A five-year progress assessment shows there are 5,800 fewer people in prisons and jails compared to 2017, the year before reforms were introduced, a 34% reduction. UTEC's CEO and Reentry Manager contributed valuable insights to the discussion.

**“What we’re seeing in the big picture is incarceration is going down, and crime is going down,” said Gregg Croteau, Chief Executive Officer of UTEC. “We’re on the right path.”**

## The Eagle-Tribune

**Locals on hand for DC unveiling of Office on Gun Violence Prevention**

By the Heralds  
Executive Editor Gregg Croteau, deputy editor and UTEC reentry manager Paul Chaleunphong, and UTEC CEO Gregg Croteau, along with UTEC staff, were on hand for the unveiling of the Office on Gun Violence Prevention in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. The office is part of the U.S. Department of Justice and will lead the federal government's efforts to reduce gun violence. UTEC staff were joined by other local leaders and officials from the state of Massachusetts.



UTEC staff and other local leaders at the unveiling of the Office on Gun Violence Prevention in Washington, D.C.

DC

Continued from Page A1

we are proud to highlight the dedication and hard work of our staff and the community members who are working to reduce gun violence. UTEC staff were joined by other local leaders and officials from the state of Massachusetts.



Gregg Croteau, UTEC CEO, and Paul Chaleunphong, UTEC reentry manager, at the unveiling of the Office on Gun Violence Prevention in Washington, D.C.

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September 27, 2023

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## THE SUN

**RAISE THE AGE: 'YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WORTH ALL OF OUR EFFORTS'**

**UTEC expresses support for proposed legislation**



**“I believe that all emerging adults deserve a second chance at life so that they are able to contribute to their communities instead of being lost in our justice system,” said UTEC Reentry Manager Viengsamay (Paul) Chaleunphong. “Young people are worth all of our efforts.”**

## Eagle-Tribune

**Locals on Hand for DC Unveiling of Office on Gun Violence Prevention**

## The Sun

**Raise the Age: Young People are Worth All of Our Efforts**



## The Eagle-Tribune

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

### UTEC recycles more than 1,866 mattresses for Haverhill residents

By Mike LaBella  
mlabella@eagletribune.com

**HAVERHILL** — This Earth Day, UTEC, a local nonprofit that helps offer positive, involved young adults life skills to prevent recidivism, is celebrating its mattress recycling program and partnership with the city of Haverhill.

The environmentally conscious program has disposed of and recycled more than 1,866 mattresses in Haverhill since Earth Day 2023.

"This Earth Day, UTEC is proud to celebrate our partnership with Haverhill, offering mattress recycling to local residents," said Greg Cusumano, president and CEO of UTEC, which was founded 25 years ago as United Teen Equality Center.

"While this partnership, not only is Haverhill doing something that is good for the environment and residents, it is providing local young adults with valuable workforce development skills."

Since the state banned disposal of mattresses in the trash in November 2022, UTEC's unique program has helped residents safely dispose of and recycle thousands of mattresses across the region.

UTEC's team of young adults, ages 18 to 28, manually deconstruct and sort recyclable material from mattresses and box springs, with an average of 85% of the mattress being recycled. Young adults participate in deconstruction as well as recycling debris to landfills.

They develop skills in working with tools and gain an understanding of the impact the work has in helping the environment.

"For many of these young adults, our social enterprises are their first opportunity to gain work and life skills in a safe space, and we've seen firsthand how important that can be for young people and our communities."

#### Where mattress and box spring materials go?

Sorted from box springs is recycled into a variety of new construction and applications.

Wood is chipped for mulch.

Foam is recycled into carpet padding.

Metals and wires are recycled into a variety of new construction materials, including capacitors.

Up until the state banned mattress disposal, Haverhill residents had been allowed to leave them on their curbsides.

Box springs and box springs are recycled into a variety of new construction materials, including capacitors.

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## THE BEDFORD CITIZEN



### Bedford Curbside Mattress Recycling Program Offered Through Nonprofit UTEC for Third Year

## Tewksbury Carnation

Local news, insights and events from Tewksbury, Massachusetts



### UTEC: More Than 709 Mattresses Recycled in Tewksbury in One Year

**"When it comes to waste reduction, this program makes a real impact – it leads to roughly 85 percent of each mattress getting recycled," said State Senator Mike Barrett. "Beyond that, it equips young people with work experience, setting them up for professional success. Hats off to UTEC."**



### Program addresses housing, jobs for young adults leaving corrections system

### Looking ahead: UTEC to launch its first transitional housing program!

In February 2024, UTEC was selected to receive funding for a program that will serve 25 young people exiting corrections, up to three of whom may be in a mentorship role that provides peer support. More to come in 2025!

## THE SUN

Friday, April 19, 2024 8:40 PM FORBES.COM/CONNECTIONS THE SUN.COM/CONNECTIONS

lowell.com

SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS

### UTEC TO MARK 25 YEARS



### UTEC's 25th Anniversary celebration begins!

2024 marked the start of UTEC's 25th Anniversary—a quarter-century of transforming lives and strengthening communities. On the next page, you'll learn more about how we celebrated this important milestone.

**"Now, 25 years later, UTEC has greatly evolved from its humble beginnings into a true force of positive change for young adults." - The Sun**

# 25th Anniversary Gala

As we reflect on our impact in FY24, we're also celebrating an exciting milestone—UTEC's 25th Anniversary!

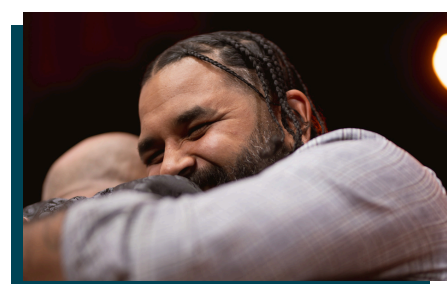
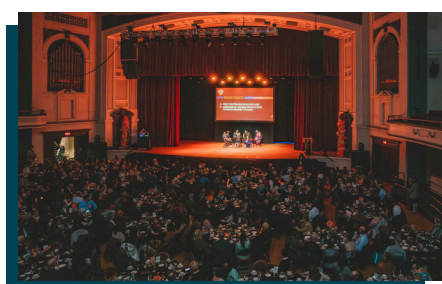
Our anniversary celebration in calendar year 2024 culminated in our 25th Anniversary Gala on November 20, 2024. More than 700 community members, supporters, partners, staff, and young adults gathered at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium for an unforgettable evening. Emceed by current UTEC young adults, the event honored 25 past participants for their continued commitment to our values.

At the gala, we launched a fundraising campaign to support UTEC's new Transitional Housing Program, which will provide stable housing for young adults returning to the community after incarceration as they work toward their long-term goals. This program launched in February 2025, marking a critical step in our efforts to break barriers and create lasting change.



Scan to  
learn more!

As we move forward, our commitment to breaking barriers and building brighter futures remains stronger than ever. Here's to the next 25 years!







**Your support helps young adults in the Merrimack Valley break the cycles of violence and poverty.**

Learn more:



Donate now:

