



Community Boating Center

41° 36' 30.91" N, 70° 55' 56.20" W
NEW BEDFORD, MA

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





2025

Community Boating Center's mission is to instill positive life values in youth through boating.



INTRODUCING FELICIA SOARES: FROM FIRST SAIL TO BECOMING A LEADER

Felicia's CBC journey began in 6th grade through our partnership with Our Sisters' School. What started as an introduction to the water grew into a passion and opportunity to become a leader — she became a Junior Instructor at 14 and in 2025, joined CBC as a full-time Program Associate. In her role, Felicia supports program delivery across school partnerships and daily operations, strengthening initiatives while helping train the next generation of CBC instructors.

Felicia now gives new participants that same introduction to the water and is helping shape CBC's future.



"The best part of my time at CBC is seeing people who were once my students become my coworkers. Watching them grow as sailors and as people to who they are today."



SALT: SAILING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Felicia spent many years at CBC as part of our SALT program, which continues to grow each year. In 2025, 44 youth served as paid instructors in the Summer Youth Sailing Program, with 14 continuing year-round supporting programs and campus operations. Stories written by Junior Instructors appear throughout this report.

2025 SUMMER STAFF



OUR IMPACT - 2025 IN NUMBERS



2017



2025

“At CBC, resilience shows up in the small moments that happen on the water. Sometimes things do not always go smoothly. Boats flip, the weather changes, and sometimes a sailor just gets overwhelmed. But what matters is what happens next. We reset, we try again, and we keep going with a positive tone without lowering the initial standard.

As an instructor, that mindset has stuck with me. I have watched students go from “I can’t do this” to “Let me try one more time,” and that shift is huge. CBC is a place where it is normal to struggle a little, learn from it, and come back stronger and more knowledgeable. That confidence follows students way beyond just sailing.”

– Grace, Instructor

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM CBC'S YEAR

Growth at CBC happens in small moments — trying something new, solving a challenge, stepping into leadership, or simply finding a place to belong. These pages bring together stories and reflections from across the year that show how confidence, skills, and community take shape over time.



OFFSHORE PROGRAM: BEYOND CLARK'S COVE

It is almost midnight and the wind is building fast. Boatspeed climbs — 9, 10, 11 knots. Watch leader Shea ease the mainsheet to depower as the boat sails into a cluster of stern lights ahead. It's time to douse the spinnaker. A halyard stopper is opened by mistake — but before the sail can touch the water, Shea and crew snatch it from the dark air and secure it below.

CBC's Offshore Program grew from our Sailing and Leadership Training (SALT) program and is designed to build teamwork, communication, and confidence through real responsibility at sea. While the team trains and competes in races, the goal isn't racing itself — sailing alongside other boats creates a structured and supportive environment for youth to safely experience overnight offshore passages.

Every Junior Instructor spends a week in the program, discovering whether offshore sailing is right for them. Those who continue train with mentors, build leadership skills, and prepare for bigger challenges.

During the summer of 2025, the team competed in their first international race — the historic Marblehead to Halifax — earning a division win. In just four years, CBC's Offshore team has logged more than 7,500 nautical miles with 150 young sailors and coaches.

Next on the horizon: the 636-nautical mile Newport to Bermuda Race in June 2026 — and the journey home.

A DAY IN THE LIFE: ANCHOR ACADEMY AT CBC

On a cold January morning at Community Boating Center, Anchor Academy students arrived for a morning of boat building fun. Students start to trickle into the basement classroom, displaying a sense of awe and curiosity. They are looking at a large amount of thin sheets of plywood, all around nineteen feet long. Initially, the class struggled to envision how these flexible strips of wood could become a seaworthy vessel. Two hours later, we were looking at five, nineteen foot strips stitched together. We were able to discern the start of a hull shape, the bow, and ended the day by loosely fitting the transom.

The day began with uncertainty about our ability to accomplish the task and ended with a recognizable boat! Observing the group's creative problem-solving in a supportive environment and witnessing the tangible growth in both their confidence and skills made this a significant moment in our work with these students. Anchor Academy is a special education therapeutic day school that provides challenging academics in a safe and supportive environment. At CBC, Anchor students engage in experiential learning through activities such as sailing, boat building, coastal exploration, and oar construction. In 2025, students build a 20' Annapolis Wherry, a tandem rowing skiff.



"CBC has helped me learn in all aspects of life. It has helped me discover new friendships, interests, and skills. Throughout my experiences at CBC, I have discovered the importance of stepping outside of my comfort zone and trying new things. Participating in programs such as the Offshore Program and the Youth Summer Sailing Program has introduced me to many new experiences. Having the opportunity to be part of CBC has helped me discover new friendships and interests I never thought possible.

Without CBC, I would never have had the opportunity to experience events such as sailing near dolphins, navigating the ocean at night, and spending extended periods sailing uninterrupted. Sailing has granted me the opportunity to form new connections and make many new friends. I have also discovered what aspects of sailing interest me, such as offshore racing, overnight sails, and any opportunity to learn from others' experiences."

— Hannah, Instructor



BLUE LANE AND Y.O.U. PARTNERSHIP: "KAYAK THE COVE" OUTDOOR EXPLORATION PROGRAM

2025 was the third year that CBC partnered with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) to bring even more New Bedford youth to the water, giving most participants a first glance into what it's like to be on Buzzard's Bay. This partnership offers a safe introduction to boating while also giving kids the opportunity to discover the surrounding marine environment. Half of the time spent in this program is dedicated to learning about boats (basic nautical language) and how to kayak, while the second half is dedicated to exploring the beach and the coastal waters. By blending hands-on boating skills and environmental discovery, CBC and Y.O.U. have found a balanced approach to keeping kids engaged while sparking their curiosity for boating and the environment that makes these on-the-water activities possible.

"In the summer of 2021, I applied to be a junior instructor at CBC. This summer was the first "normal" summer since the covid pandemic caused mass isolation that weakened the feeling of community that comes from being in shared spaces with others. On the very first day of training, I woke up anxious to be around so many new people, and to be trained in a sport I only was able to participate in because of school. I feared feeling inferior when they realized I wasn't as knowledgeable at sailing as they were, but even more afraid I wouldn't make friends.

That first day, we were forced into pairs with strangers to sit in 420's. We sat silent, only talking when the jib needed to be trimmed or the skipper planned to tack, occasionally asking, "would you like to steer now?" But then lunch came, and underneath a cramped tent with less chairs than there were people, a family started to form. We swapped sandwich halves we packed in plastic bags earlier that morning and laughed at how nervous we were to be alone, only to recognize faces from school. We swapped stories about mistakes we made sailing and suddenly I realized just about everyone was as nervous as I was for today.

In the afternoon, we reconvened with our pairs from earlier, letting go of the awkward tension from the morning and sparking conversation about shared interests. By the end of the day, I felt I had found a community I would belong to, that accepted me for who I was-regardless if I was the best sailor or not-and the anxiety of feeling lonely turned into sadness as I realized the time we had together that day was running out. The next day, I returned ecstatic, and every day in the summer for the next 4 years, that feeling of joy to be around some of the most inspiring people wakes me up ready for another day at CBC."

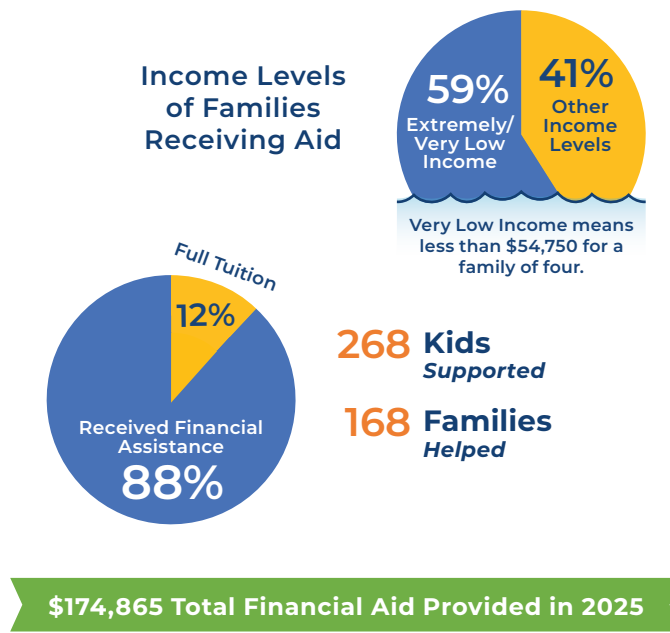
- Anyis, Instructor



SUMMER YOUTH SAILING PROGRAM: WE BELIEVE EVERY YOUNG PERSON SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH THE WATER

Our Summer Youth Sailing Program takes place over 8 weeks in the summer, serving youth aged 5-17. 510 youth participated in 2025.

FINANCIAL ACCESS TO CBC PROGRAMS



In 2025, for the first time, during the Summer Youth Sailing Program we ran eight optional, after program field trips or experiences, one each week. These expanded our goal of opening youth's eyes to new opportunities in our community.

- This series included:
- A bee program at the Rotch Jones Duff House
 - Croquet & lawn bowling at Hazelwood Park
 - Digital art with SketchyGOlchie
 - Guided tour of Buttonwood Park Zoo
 - Dance lesson with JunnYahh from 3rd Eye Youth Empowerment
 - Program on monarch butterflies with Mass Audubon
 - Visits to the Fishing Heritage Center and the National Park maker's space with the artist-in-residence

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
A partnership with Book Rich Environments, the New Bedford Housing Authority, and the New Bedford Free Public Library provided free books to youth throughout the summer. Participants also received daily healthy snacks through Coastal Foodshed and joined weekly art projects led by local artist Devin McLaughlin.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS SUPPORTING ACCESS

- Anchor Academy
- Child & Family Services
- Kennedy Summer Day Program
- Nativity Prep
- New Bedford Health Department
- New Bedford Housing Authority
- New Bedford Police Department
- New Bedford Public Schools
- Our Sisters' School

"We truly feel blessed to be a part of CBC. Your organization has made a powerful impact in (my son's) life. He feels so much better about himself as a leader and a person since joining."
- Parent of a Junior Instructor

2017



2025



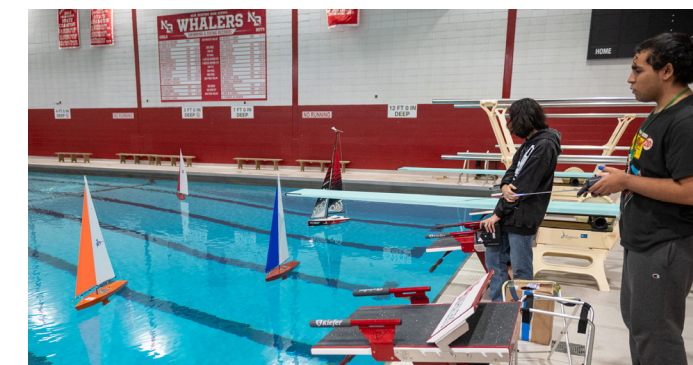
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM) PROGRAMS

SEA LAB

Sea Lab is a marine science education program funded through New Bedford Public Schools that has inspired students since 1968. CBC has been teaching at Sea Lab since 2016. During the 2024-2025 school year, the program reached 860 fifth-grade students, engaging them in hands-on exploration of scientific concepts related to boating, sailing, and our local marine environment.

As Sea Lab entered the 2025-2026 school year, new leadership is building on this strong foundation with an updated program structure, designed to deepen student learning. This year, every fifth grade student will participate in a three part, place based investigation centered on one of New Bedford's most treasured marine resources: scallops. Students will discover how scallops drive our local economy, explore the environmental challenges threatening their survival, and design technology solutions to protect them.

Our role in this three part series is to introduce students to ocean acidification and explore its impacts on scallops and the broader marine ecosystem. We are deeply honored to contribute to this exciting new chapter of Sea Lab and are inspired by the meaningful, lasting impact this work will have on New Bedford's students and their connection to our coastal community.



STEM

During the 2024-2025 school year, for one of our STEM programs, we partnered with 4th and 5th grade students from three New Bedford public elementary schools through their 21st Century After School Programs. Over the course of the year, students participated in eight hands-on STEM lessons rooted in local environmental learning and ocean stewardship, encouraging students to see their own community as a living classroom.

The experience extended beyond the classroom when students were invited to CBC for two sailing field trips. On the water, each STEM concept came to life as students learned the basics of sailing and explored the cove, deepening their understanding through real-world application and shared discovery.

NBHS/ROBO SAIL & WHALERS SAILING CLUB

For the first time in many years, New Bedford High School had a sailing club in 2025! With the help of various administrators and an enthusiastic advisor, about 30 kids signed up to come sailing at CBC once a week this fall. Some were brand new to the sport, while others had been sailing here for years, bringing a great mix of energy and experience to the new program. This will hopefully be the first step in creating a NBHS Sailing Team since Whalers belong on the water!

Also in the fall, we taught a class at NBHS for students to build model boats and then code them to sail autonomously. The boats were tested--successfully--in the pool at the end of the semester.

“The students enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the activities. The program was informative, interactive, and easily accessible.”

– Teacher from JB DeValles Elementary School

“I remember the first day I went to CBC. It was early in the morning, and I wasn't very excited or energetic about going to a camp I had never been to and wouldn't know anyone. I was assigned to the pink pod and as soon as I sat down my instructors asked the basic questions: What's your name? How are you? Things like that. As a new camper, I wasn't very chatty or happy, but I answered the questions. Everyone there seemed like they knew each other, like they had spent every summer here together.

I sat and listened more than talked, watching everyone laugh and catch up. I felt out of place, not excluded, just...new. It was time to get ready to go on the water, get our life jackets on, our sunscreen, and we split into groups with assigned instructors. I was nervous, but there was no way anyone was going to know that. So, I followed the group, got on the boat and watched the beach as we sailed farther away.

The boat felt uneasy, like it could tip at any moment. I was quiet, though, sitting there watching the water float by the edge of the boat. I felt less scared, less unsure as we sailed into the bay. A sense of reassurance that it was gonna be okay, like this place, this camp, wasn't as nervous or scary as I thought it was. Once we got back to shore, docked the boats, I was still quiet, but I felt better about being there. I stayed the whole day, didn't ask to go home, and I didn't quit. I didn't feel as unfamiliar as I did that morning. I understood the reason why everyone was excited to come back and see everyone. They were having fun.

I think about that first day a lot. I think about how close I was to deciding that CBC wasn't for me. How easy it would have been to shut down completely. I never would have guessed that years later, I'd be the one sitting in the pod asking those same basic questions, watching new campers walk in with the same nervous look I once had. And, I didn't know it then, but the nerves I felt walking into CBC were the start of opportunities that helped shape who I am now. CBC is something I talk about every day, and every summer I still remember how the first day feels—only now I'm the instructor, asking those same basic questions and making sure every camper feels comfortable and welcomed at CBC.”

– Rhea, Instructor

2025 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Individual Giving	\$851,736
Foundation Giving	\$628,000
Corporate Giving	\$121,700
Government Giving	\$70,000
Program Revenue	\$131,000
Sale of Assets	\$2,352
Facilities and Equipment	\$12,050
Rental Operations	\$3,496
Event Income	\$36,314
Other Income	\$49,340
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$1,905,988

EXPENSES

Wages	\$1,199,299
Facilities & Equipment	\$156,100
Program Expense	\$125,500
General	\$236,596
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$1,717,495

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Thank you to all our donors and supporters for making 2025 a successful year.

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 Kate Will



"When I first started at CBC, I didn't feel confident in my abilities. I questioned every move I made, whether I was doing enough or doing the right things. One day, I was assigned to a one-person boat. Just the thought of it made me panic. Being alone on a boat meant trusting my own instincts and decisions without being able to confirm with others. As I began sailing, my perspective shifted. I realized I didn't know what I was doing. Sure, I was stressed at times, but I also had a really fun time. Once I stopped letting my fear take over, I was able to trust myself and enjoy the moment.

Over time, these moments became learning experiences. Each new challenge helped me manage my stress better, trust myself more, and push myself to try new experiences. I learned that being resilient and strong is not about never feeling overwhelmed. It is about showing up anyway and growing through those feelings. Through CBC, I gained not only sailing skills but also important life lessons about perseverance. These experiences have changed how I approach challenges in my everyday life. Instead of ignoring and putting off stressful things, I get them done. I work through how I am feeling and always end up feeling better on the other side. CBC has taught me that growth comes from putting yourself in uncomfortable positions. If our environment and habits never change, we limit our own ability to change and grow."

– Avni, Instructor

TO ALL OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,

As we reflect on this year at the CBC, We're filled with pride—not just in how many young people we served, but in how deeply this community shows up for them. Our programs are strong, our staff and instructors are growing as leaders, and our waterfront is alive with learning, confidence, and possibility.

At the same time, we feel the momentum. Demand continues to grow, our programs reach capacity, and more families and partners are seeking what CBC offers. These are good challenges to have—and they invite us to look ahead with intention.

Thanks to your support, we are ready for what's next. We're proud of what we've built together, and excited for the future we're shaping. We're just getting started.

See you on the water,



Andy Herlihy
ANDY HERLIHY
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Oliver Moore
OLIVER MOORE
 PRESIDENT, CBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CBC BOARD AT 2025'S OPENING OF THE BAY





THANK YOU!

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1641 Padanaram Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02740
Phone: (508) 992-6219
cbc@communityboating.org

www.communityboating.org

