

REMARKABLE WOMEN

Meet Connecticut's 2025 Remarkable Woman of the Year

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Posted: Apr 1, 2025 / 09:34 AM EDT

Updated: Apr 2, 2025 / 05:17 AM EDT



NEW HAVEN, Conn. (WTNH) — News 8 honored [some of Connecticut's remarkable women](#) during the month of March. Laura Hutchinson introduces our final remarkable woman, who has turned her dark and difficult past into a brighter future for our youngest and those who care for them.

If you walk down the hallways of the [Friends Center for Children](#) in New Haven, you'll notice lots of natural light, bright spaces to play, happy kids, and perhaps even more importantly, happy teachers.

Allyx Schiavone is the executive director and the creative mind behind an innovative child care model.

“When I was younger, I was in unsafe situations a lot of my early life, and as a result of that, I felt like I had no voice after a really, particularly hard event, really traumatic event,” Schiavone said. “And when I was 15, I made the decision that if I was going to get out of this and make it to be an adult, I was going to create safe spaces for children.”

The product of that determination is the Friends Centers for Children in New Haven, which has multiple locations around Elm City. It’s not just a safe space for kids; it’s chipping away at a nationwide problem of underpaid caretakers and expensive tuition.

“We have a sliding scale tuition, which means some families pay nothing, and some families pay for tuition based on their income,” she said. “We also work with multiple funding sources.”

Teachers get to live for free.

“Yeah, right now, we have nine educators living rent-free and 16 residents,” Schiavone said. “So, it’s their children or their dependents who are living with them in housing in New Haven, all in New Haven.”

Returning to the theory: the kids thrive when the adults around them thrive.

“So 62% of the teachers we have in housing are now back in school,” she said. “That’s just, I mean, the first time they’ve been able to further their career because we have stable housing. They have extra money now, you know, all the things that they should have been getting from in the beginning, but that’s a pretty high statistic.”

Schiavone is changing the landscape for educators to provide a brighter future for kids and their families.

It’s what makes her remarkable and why she’s our remarkable woman for 2025! She’s receiving a check to a nonprofit of her choice and the chance to share her story on a national stage.

“To me, there’s nothing more important than how we treat the youngest members of our society, and if we can talk about that and shed some light and share some experiences, that would be amazing,” Schiavone said.

[Transcribed from this on-air segment from April 1, 2025](#)



