

Inspiring Hope

FY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR DEDICATED TEAM

Nearly 160 people are employed by the Bridge Family Center. Youth workers, nurses, mentors, therapists, parent educators, program directors and many more are on the front lines of our work every day. A strong leadership team and engaged Board of Directors support them and steer our course. We thank our entire team for their tireless commitment to the children, adults and families in our community.

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Executive Director

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Chief Operating Officer

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Director of Human Resources

Kyesha Clayborne
Director of Residential Services

Kris Cool
Director of Family Resource Center

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Vernon Riddick, Jr.
Police Department



*“Listen to the mustn’ts, child.
Listen to the don’ts.
Listen to the shouldn’ts,
the impossibles, the won’ts.
Listen to the never haves,
then listen close to me...
Anything can happen, child.
Anything can be.”*

Shel Silverstein

*Thank you for taking the time to
learn more about the Bridge.*

Inspiring Hope

Hope is the powerful feeling inside of you that something better is waiting. It inspires us to persevere through difficult times, follow our dreams and goals, and overcome obstacles and setbacks.

At the Bridge, we help our children and families develop the courage and strength to find hope; to reach for it, work for it, and fight for it. We offer a fresh perspective and light the way for those who are struggling with life's challenges. Through our many programs and services, we support, inform, empower, and help navigate a path to hope and healing.

So many of the young adults who are living in our residential programs come to us shattered and hopeless. They have experienced unspeakable trauma throughout their short lives. By providing shelter, compassion, and guidance, we are offering them a promise of hope and a chance for a better life.



Margaret A. Hann, Executive Director

Often times parents and caregivers feel isolated and frustrated as they struggle to raise their children. At our Family Resource Center, we provide them with the necessary skills and resources to grow a hopeful, healthy family.

We are sure you can remember times during your middle school years when you thought nothing was right in your life and you disliked the whole world. Since kids still feel that way, we have mentors and counselors in the schools to work with students to gain a more realistic perspective and sense of hope that things can and will change.

As you walk through the doors of our Mosaic Parenting Center, hope permeates throughout the house. It is why a mom who has been separated from her daughter works so hard with our coaches to develop a positive parenting relationship.

The children, adults, couple, and families who come to our Counseling Centers are gaining the necessary coping skills to manage their challenges. With our support, they begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel and hope just around the corner.

The Bridge is a special place. We are an organization dedicated to helping people, some who are going through the most difficult and vulnerable times in their lives. By supporting the Bridge, you are bringing hope into their lives and helping to build brighter futures. Thank you!



Peter Macdonald, Board President

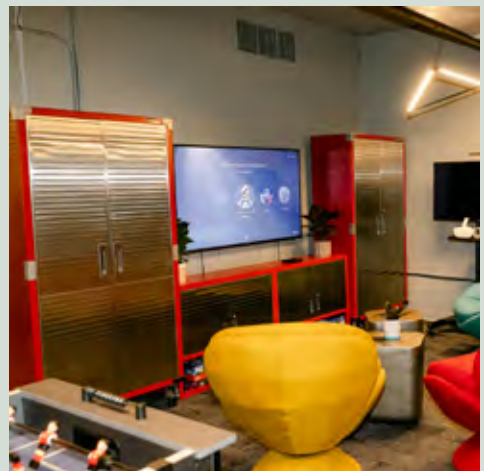
“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” —
Desmond Tutu



Members of our Teen Leadership Group coordinate many community activities including food and diaper drives.



Counseling Groups focusing on a variety of issues are available through our school-based services.



The new gaming area designed by Camden-Grace Interiors

Children and their families continue to grapple with the effects of the pandemic and the escalating epidemic of anxiety, depression and trauma.

Through our Positive Youth Development Programs, we are meeting the ever-evolving needs of youth and families in our communities.

Our work with elementary, middle, and high school children in the town of West Hartford is both critical and transforming.

Positive Youth Development Programs Help Students Navigate Life's Challenges

Nearly five decades ago the town of West Hartford designated the Bridge Family Center as its Youth Service Bureau responsible for assessment, resource development, community involvement, and advocacy on behalf of children, youth, and families. Serving as the Youth Service Bureau, it is our job to engage with the community and tailor our services to the needs that arise. Our strong relationship with town leaders and school administrators allows us to continue to provide comprehensive prevention and intervention services for West Hartford students and parents.

The Bridge Family Center's Positive Youth Development programs are comprised of a constellation of services and activities for students in West Hartford inside and outside of the school. The programs focus on young peoples' strengths and offer them education, community, and opportunities to engage in new experiences. Examples include a school-based Boys Leadership group, the Prevention Skate Night event for middle school students, and the Teen Leadership Committee.

Youth need substantial structure and support from compassionate, safe adults to develop coping skills to manage life's complications. Our staff work to help students develop life skills including decision-making, communication, stress management, and a sense of positive self-regard so they feel empowered to navigate life independently. Over time, significant changes happen; behavior in the classroom improves, youth build healthy relationships, involvement and leadership in groups increases, and ability to mentor and share what they have learned with other students grows.

One of our long-standing community offerings is the West Hartford Teen Center, which continues to be a safe, substance-free space for teens. The Teen Center offers drop-in hours three days a week where teens can gather to socialize, play pool, basketball, video games, and engage with our mentoring staff as needed. The center also houses our Teen Leadership Committee which focuses on community service and program planning, and strives to support the youth's development of problem-solving and team-building skills. This year, thanks to the hard work and generosity of Camden-Grace Interiors, the Teen Center underwent a major transformation creating a fresh and vibrant room for our youth.

Our programs include:

Community Events

Juvenile Review Board
Membership and
Mentoring

Parenting Programs

Positive Youth
Development Groups
and Activities

School-based
Counseling

School-based
Mentoring

Summer Youth
Employment Program

Teen Center

West Hartford
Prevention Council
and Partnership
Membership

West Hartford
Community Network
for Children

Brian R. Smith

Impacting the Lives of Children and Families

From the Bridge's beginnings more than 50 years ago, generous community members have contributed their "time, talent, and treasure" to fulfill our mission of helping children and families overcome life's challenges and build fulfilling lives. Brian Smith has given of himself in countless ways to help realize our vision of serving "Every family, Every child, Every time."

A partner at Robinson + Cole, Brian has been a tireless supporter of the Bridge for over 25 years. We met him through George Hastings, a founding father of the Bridge, who was a cherished colleague and mentor to Brian.

In 2011, Brian joined our Board of Directors and served as Chair of the Governance Committee for most of his tenure. His sage legal counsel, coupled with his wonderful sense of humor, has been an asset to the Bridge. Brian has the uncanny ability to deliver the message we need to hear and to make complicated situations easily understood and less stressful. Though he has a reputation as a fierce litigator, we are more familiar with his warm and compassionate side. Brian is as tough as he is kind, and is driven to overcome challenges and achieve social justice.

Brian, and his wife Kim McClain, are generous supporters of our Children's Charity Ball encouraging the firm and its colleagues to participate in the event. They were also early donors to the Bridge Family Center Fund, our endowment fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Brian was the recipient of the inaugural George C. Hastings Award from the Bridge in 2019. In selecting him to receive this award, we chose someone who mirrors George's values, ethics, and desire to improve the lives of the children, adults, and families in our community.

We are grateful for his guidance, friendship, and continuing support of our mission. As a colleague of Brian's recently noted, "They don't come any finer than Brian, and the Bridge is a better organization because of his outstanding contributions."



*We work every day to help children,
youth, adults, & families thrive*



Here's how we do it:

WE EDUCATE

young children and caregivers

...

WE MENTOR

adolescents

...

WE COUNSEL

children and families

...

WE PREVENT

substance abuse

...

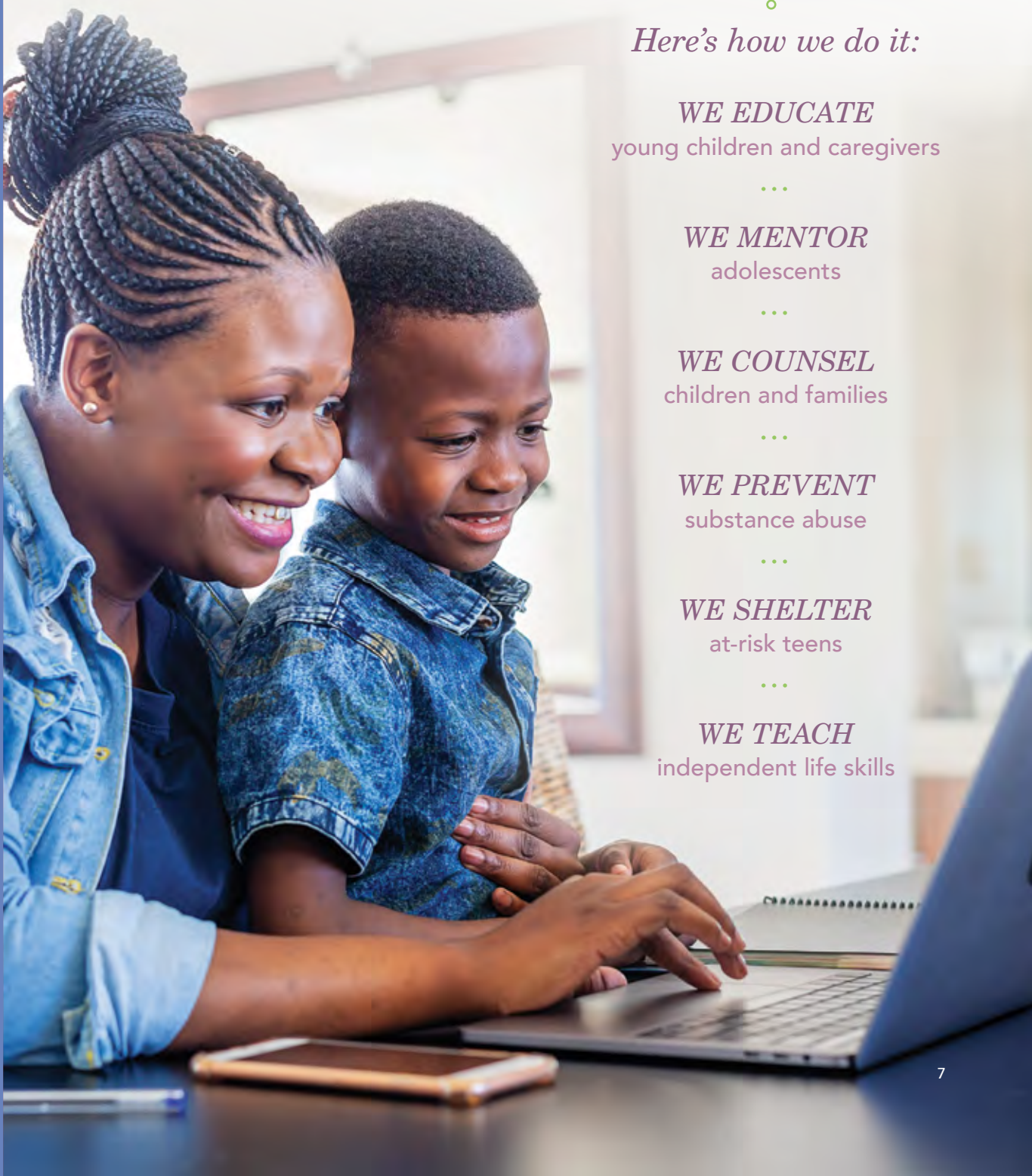
WE SHELTER

at-risk teens

...

WE TEACH

independent life skills



OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER



The 25th Annual Children's Charity Ball

Our 25th Anniversary Ball celebrated the thousands of lives we have positively touched, and reinforced the importance of our critical work. We are so grateful for the countless people who have supported our efforts for the past 25 years. Their generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure provide hope and healing to those who are struggling with life challenges and enable us to increase our span throughout the community.

With over 200 guests in attendance, the Ball raised \$220,000 to sustain and enhance our vital programs and services. Thank you for making this possible.



Members of the West Hartford Fire Department and their guests enjoy the Cocktail Hour



Emcee Scott Haney, Executive Director Margaret Hann, and her husband Bill



Members of the Children's Charity Ball Committee toast to the event's success



Committee Member Deborah Dunlap celebrates winning the Golden Ticket



25-year Committee Members Ellen Sayers, Cheri Stabnick, and Judy Bierly

OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER



Top Left: Guests participate in a game of Heads or Tails

Top Right: Committee member Kara Langan with her husband Kevin

Middle: Board Member Kathy Christensen (second from right) with her guests from Connecticut Wealth Management

Bottom Right: Guests enjoy music from the NYC Band, After Party



THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY BALL



Top: Board and Committee Member Heather Clifford (third from right) with her family

Middle Left: Board Chair Peter Macdonald (second from left) enjoys the evening with his guests

Bottom Left: Jean Lafayette and Skye Delaney are ready to dance.

Bottom Right: Emcee Scot Haney celebrates winning his live auction item.



Bridge Leadership Circle

As a group of our most distinguished donors, *Bridge Leadership Circle* members are committed to ensuring a bright future for children and families in our community by donating \$1,000 or more annually for three consecutive years. Their outstanding commitment is helping to build a solid foundation the Bridge can count on for its critical work.

MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE ARE:

Deanna and Peter Appleton
Amanda and Scott Aronson*
Susan Averna and Jason Ryan
John and Judy Bierly*
Paul and Mary Butler*
Anne and Jim Carroll*
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Kathryn and Stephen Deane
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Viviann and Jon Rubin
Jason and Devon Rusche
Brian R. Smith and Kim K.V. McClain*
Dick and Cheri Stabnick*
Doreen Tarascio
Mark and Ava Torello
Sherri and Patrick Thompson
Sarah Townswick
Felicia Wilion and Jay Frankel

* Founding Member

THANKS TO OUR SPECIAL DONORS WHO ARE SUPPORTING THE BRIDGE'S FUTURE

Builders for the Future

The Bridge's Planned Giving Society, *Builders for the Future*, honors donors who have made a bequest or other planned gift to support our future and leave a legacy for many generations to come. Joining is simple: just include us in your will and let us know you have done so. No gift is too small for permanent membership, and the impact will be deep and long-lasting. We are grateful for this most profound level of support for the Bridge and are proud to recognize the members of *Builders for the Future*:

Amanda and Scott Aronson
Lori M. Budnick
Robert J. Burke
Miriam Butterworth^
David L. Clay
Edward Cohen^
Thomas Driscoll and Patricia Teufel
Greg Hammond
^ Deceased

Margaret A. Hann
George C. Hastings^
Benjamin E. Kehl and Barret Katuna
Amy Lowenstein^
Nancy Clinton Parker
Emily W. Rankin^
Sali G. Riege^
June Rosenblatt^
Mark Torello

The Bridge Family Center Fund

The Bridge is also pleased to recognize the generous donors to **The Bridge Family Center Fund**, our endowment fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Along with members of *Builders for the Future*, these donors are committed to ensuring our ability to meet the needs of children and families far into the future. Contributors from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2023 are:

Carrie Berman and Ronald Apter
Karen and Tim Brown
Robert Cosgrove and Jennifer Charbonnier
Ann and Mitch Cohen
Theodore Doolittle and Kathryn Engustian
Tim and Beth Herrick

Dick and Beverly Hughes
Carl and Diana Malchoff
Jonathan and Bev Seymour
Brian R. Smith and Kim K.V. McClain
Frank R. Sterpka, Jr.
Doreen Tarascio

You can make a lasting difference for the children and families of our community by making an outright or planned gift, such as a bequest, to **The Bridge Family Center Fund**. The Hartford Foundation provides management expertise, is a resource for advice on planned giving to the Bridge, and can work directly with you and your advisors on structuring a gift to the Fund.

To learn more about making a gift to **The Bridge Family Center Fund**, please contact Doreen Tarascio, Director of Development and Communications, at (860) 521-8035 ext. 1108 or dtarascio@bridgefamilycenter.org.

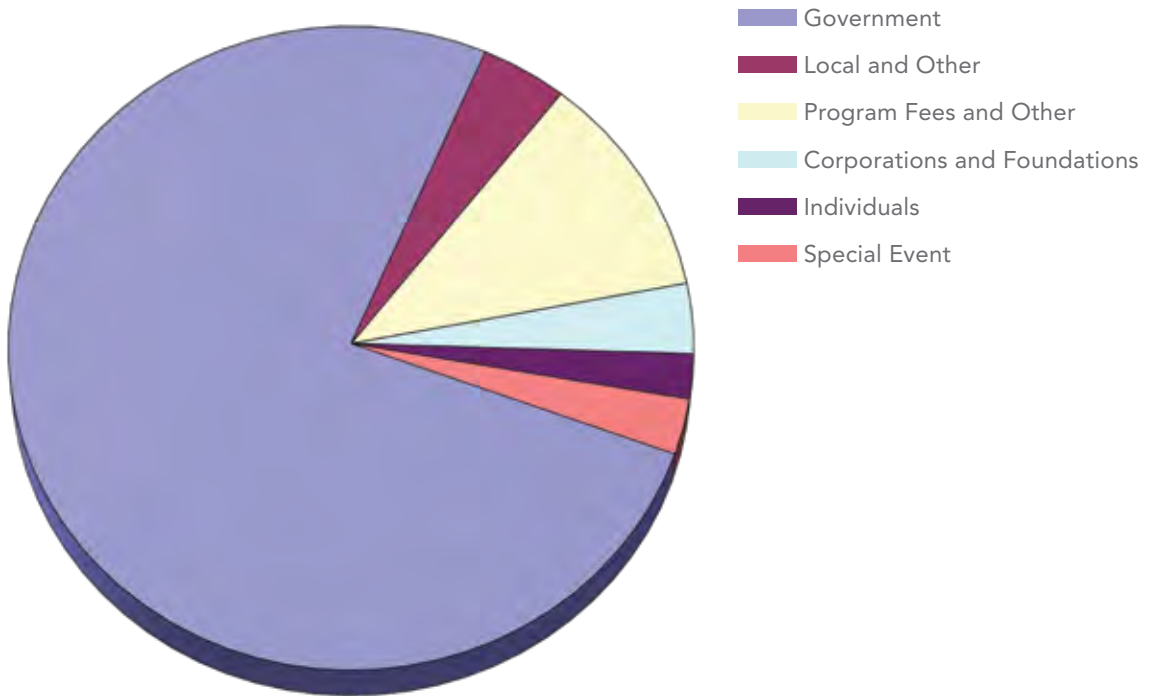
More information is available on our website, www.bridgefamilycenter.org.

Income and Expenses

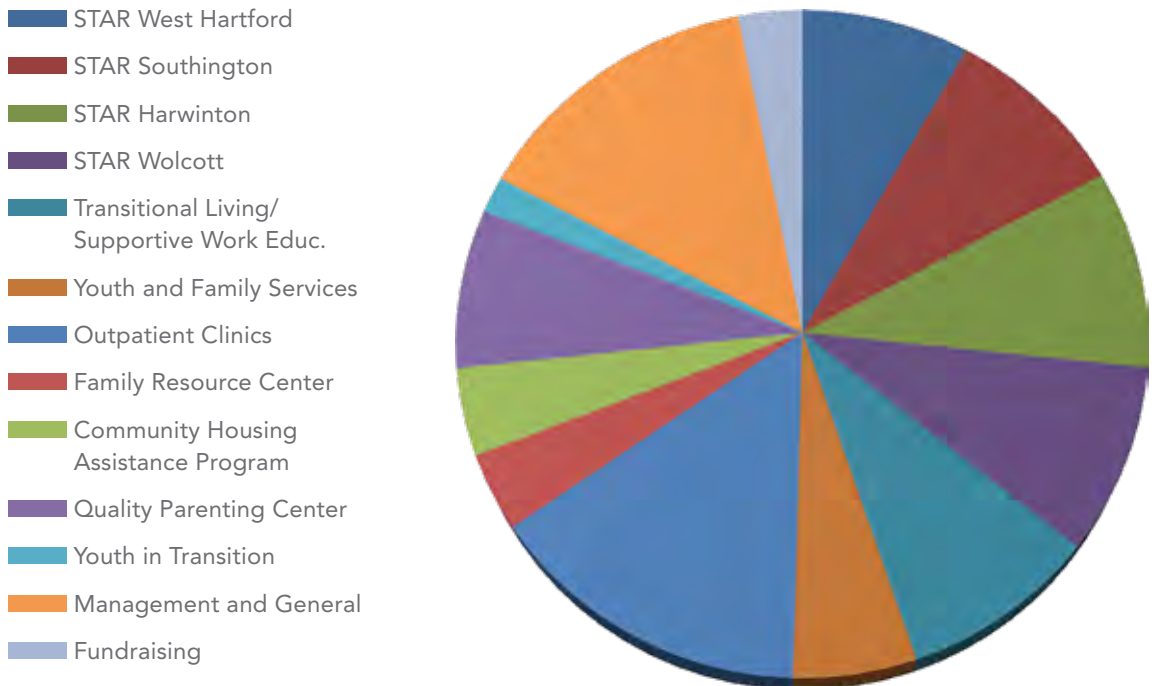
Year Ending June 30, 2023 | The Bridge Family Center, Inc.

| INCOME | UNRESTRICTED | TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | TOTAL |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| REVENUE | | | |
| Government | 7,215,497 | | 7,215,497 |
| Local and Other | 393,864 | | 393,864 |
| Program Fees and Other | 1,078,750 | | 1,078,750 |
| Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes | 217,614 | (217,614) | 0 |
| CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS | | | |
| Corporations and Foundations | 205,637 | 128,250 | 333,887 |
| Individuals | 213,622 | | 213,622 |
| Special Event | 266,367 | | 266,367 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 9,591,351 | (89,364) | 9,501,987 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| PROGRAM SERVICES | | | |
| STAR West Hartford | 754,072 | | 754,072 |
| STAR Southington | 832,740 | | 832,740 |
| STAR Harwinton | 894,148 | | 894,148 |
| STAR Wolcott | 850,611 | | 850,611 |
| Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ. | 838,882 | | 838,882 |
| Youth and Family Services | 519,803 | | 519,803 |
| Outpatient Clinics | 1,387,346 | | 1,387,346 |
| Family Resource Center | 348,245 | | 348,245 |
| Community Housing Assistance Program | 393,411 | | 393,411 |
| Youth in Transition | 163,304 | | 163,304 |
| Quality Parenting Center | 715,510 | | 715,510 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES | 7,698,072 | | 7,698,072 |
| SUPPORTING SERVICES | | | |
| Management and General | 1,318,958 | | 1,318,958 |
| Fundraising | 286,392 | | 286,392 |
| TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES | 1,605,350 | | 1,605,350 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 9,303,422 | | 9,303,422 |
| Change in Net Assets | 287,929 | (89,364) | 198,565 |
| NET ASSETS, beginning of the year | 4,659,191 | 171,642 | 4,830,833 |
| NET ASSETS, end of the year | 4,947,120 | 82,278 | 5,029,398 |

Revenue



Expenses



DONORS

Thank you, generous donors. You helped us serve nearly 9,000 children, adults, and families in FY 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

HEROES (\$10,000+)

Susan Aversa and Jason Ryan
John and Judy Bierly
Bob and Frankie Goldfarb
June Rosenblatt^

CHAMPIONS (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Amanda and Scott Aronson
Shelly and Don Aronson
Kathryn and Stephen Deane
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John J. Keleher
Robert and Dawn Koff
Kim Knox and Peter Macdonald

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by The Burkehaven Family
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by Diana DiFiore
JOHN AND JUDY BIERLY
by Beverly Buckner Baker
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by Julie Jacques
by Keats and Joe Jarmon
by Eric and Martha Rennie
by Carol and John Small
by Doreen Tarascio
by Beth Bye and Tracey Wilson

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In memory of:
BRUCE BATTS
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GLORIA BLAUVELT
by Diane and Jim Fishman
DEBRA DRESNER
by Mara Dresner

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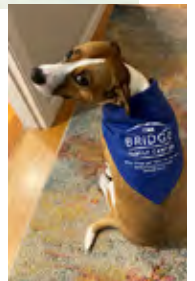
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