

Building Bridges

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2021



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.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Margaret A. Hann <i>Executive Director</i>	Deborah Zipkin <i>Director of Family Resource Center</i>
Hildee Fontanella <i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	Bryan Block <i>Director of Independent Living Program</i>
Doreen Tarascio <i>Director of Development and Communications</i>	Kaemaii Pierre <i>Director of Girls Services</i>
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*Every path in life has a bridge
...the journey is crossing it.*



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

Building Bridges

While there are many paths to the Bridge, and each journey is personal, the destination remains constant. We provide a time, place, or means of connection or transition – in fact that is the very definition of a bridge – for every individual we encounter. It is the principle on which we were founded over five decades ago, and it continues to serve as our guiding light today.

The incredible challenges we have faced these past two years have illuminated just how essential our work in building bridges has become. As we emerge from the pandemic, we are experiencing its devastating effects on our emotional and mental health.

The demand for mental health services remains high and continues to grow. Grief, anxiety, and depression have increased dramatically. In young children, we see a rise in disruptive behaviors and difficulty managing feelings. In teens, we see a dramatic increase in panic attacks, self-isolation and suicidal thoughts. Families are struggling with a wide variety of increased stressors including loss of loved ones, financial difficulties, and job insecurity.



Margaret A. Hann, Executive Director

The Bridge continues to build bridges in all of our program areas to ensure the needs of our children and families are met. A fourth counseling center, located at 1021 Farmington Avenue in West Hartford, will open later this year in response to the significant increase in the number of clients who are turning to us for care. Working closely with school counselors, nurses, and teachers we are identifying students who are struggling and providing them with mentoring or counseling services. Gift cards and in-kind donations are distributed to help parents bridge the gap between their expenses and income. Teens and

young adults are transitioning to stable, independent living arrangements. And, we are working to successfully reunify families after a child has been removed from the home.

The Bridge is able to build these bridges because of you. Your unwavering commitment to our children and families fuels our passion, propels our work, and delivers outstanding care to those who turn to the Bridge for hope and healing. Thank you for providing the strong foundation and robust support that enables us to increase our span throughout the community.



Susan Hamilton, Board President



The Bridge Family Center Receives Accreditation

The Bridge Family Center was recently recognized by the Council on Accreditation. It was a rigorous process that challenged us to look closely at our policies and procedures to ensure best practices were incorporated into all of our work.

This accreditation is regarded as one of the key benchmarks for measuring the quality of an organization and its programs. We received this distinction on our first application and without any performance issues noted - a remarkable achievement that very few non-profits attain.

While the ultimate goal is delivering superior services to our clients, the accreditation will also instill confidence in legislators, donors, and the community that the Bridge meets the high standards of care established by the Council.



Parents are developing the necessary skills to safely and lovingly care for their children.



Culturally sensitive staff form connections with parents and their children.



Children feel comfortable sharing their feelings with their coaches.



Healthy attachments between parent and child are nurtured during coaching visits.



The goal of the MPC is to strengthen the relationship between parent and child.



The Center is warm and welcoming and resembles a home-like environment.

Mosaic Parenting Center

A young mom, addicted and unemployed, knew all about foster care. She lived with several foster families throughout her childhood. As an adult, she struggled with unaddressed mental health issues and unresolved traumatic experiences. She was not able to adequately care for her two children and they were removed from her home and placed in foster care.

This mom is similar to many parents who are engaged with our new Mosaic Parenting Center (MPC) to develop the necessary skills to safely and lovingly care for their children. Located in Hartford, the Center provides structured support and coaching during family visitation sessions for parents who are working on family reunification.

The Center is warm and welcoming and resembles a home-like environment including diverse artwork and symbols, comfortable furniture, toys and books. Within the Center, culturally sensitive staff with expertise in family dynamics, child development, and parenting skills are forming connections with parents and their children and assessing the needs of the family.

The goal of the MPC is to strengthen the parent/child relationship, promote healthy attachments and ensure that the parents understand the stages of development for their children. Typically, families visit the MPC for six months. Weekly progress reports are given to both the parent(s) and the Department of Children and Families Social Worker. MPC staff meet monthly with the department's social worker to discuss each family's improvement in the program and develop plans for the possibility of reunification.

Although the Center has only recently opened, we are already seeing many positive results. The children interact enthusiastically with staff and are becoming more comfortable sharing their feelings and thoughts. Parents are encouraged by the support they are receiving from a coach who is really rooting for them to succeed. And, healthier relationships are being formed between parent and child.

The young mom now looks forward to seeing her children. With the hope of reestablishing her family, she is motivated to stop using drugs and find employment. For the first time in a very long time, she feels a promising future is well within her grasp.

Susan Aversa & Jason Ryan

Impacting the Lives of Children and Families



"We wanted to make a bigger impact this year given all the strains of the pandemic," Susan Aversa replied when asked what prompted a very generous gift. She continued, "the Bridge seemed like an obvious choice. They provide several essential services. Counseling is critically important right now as we come out of the pandemic."

Susan and her husband, Jason Ryan, donated \$25,000 to the Bridge Family Center this year. Only one other gift of this amount has been received in the 53 year history of the Bridge. Although Susan had volunteered at the Bridge and the couple attended the Children's Charity Ball a few times, the Bridge staff were astounded when this unsolicited gift arrived.

Jason had e-mailed the Bridge saying he and his wife were interested in supporting the mission and asked that someone contact them to discuss ways to make a contribution. When reached at their summer home on Block Island, Jason explained "We have had a pretty good year and are in a place to contribute to an organization that is helping people through the pandemic. Our first thought was the Bridge."

Together they decided the Bridge was the perfect place to make their donation. Susan remembered the connection she made with the young women in one of the Bridge's residential homes when she offered trauma-informed yoga classes. As a psychologist, she understood their complex emotional needs and recognizes the importance of the counseling work the Bridge is doing during a critical time.

Jason, a cardiologist at the University of Connecticut Health Center and Founder and CEO of Boards and Beyond, said they are grateful for the efforts of the Bridge. "The Bridge is a vital part of our community providing comprehensive services to support basic needs and mental health of children and families. It is especially important now, in the wake of the pandemic, where families and individuals are struggling, that the Bridge receive support to continue their good work," Susan and Jason noted.



The philanthropic investment of Susan and Jason supports the general operating fund of the Bridge, ensuring its vital programs and services are available to families and children in our community. "Their incredible generosity allows us to move quickly and responsibly for the folks that need us. It allows us to close gaps in service. Susan and Jason's gift helps us carry out our mission every day. The positive impact their gift will have is immense, and our gratitude for their caring and compassion is beyond measure," said Margaret Hann, Executive Director of the Bridge Family Center.



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 pledging \$1,000 or more annually for three years. Their outstanding commitment is helping to build a solid foundation the Bridge can count on for its critical work.

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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

^ *Deceased*

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Amy Lowenstein^
Nancy Clinton Parker
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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 this year are:

Carrie Berman and Ronald Apter
Karen and Tim Brown
Robert Cosgrove and Jennifer Charbonnier
Ann and Mitch Cohen
Suzanne Gates

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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.

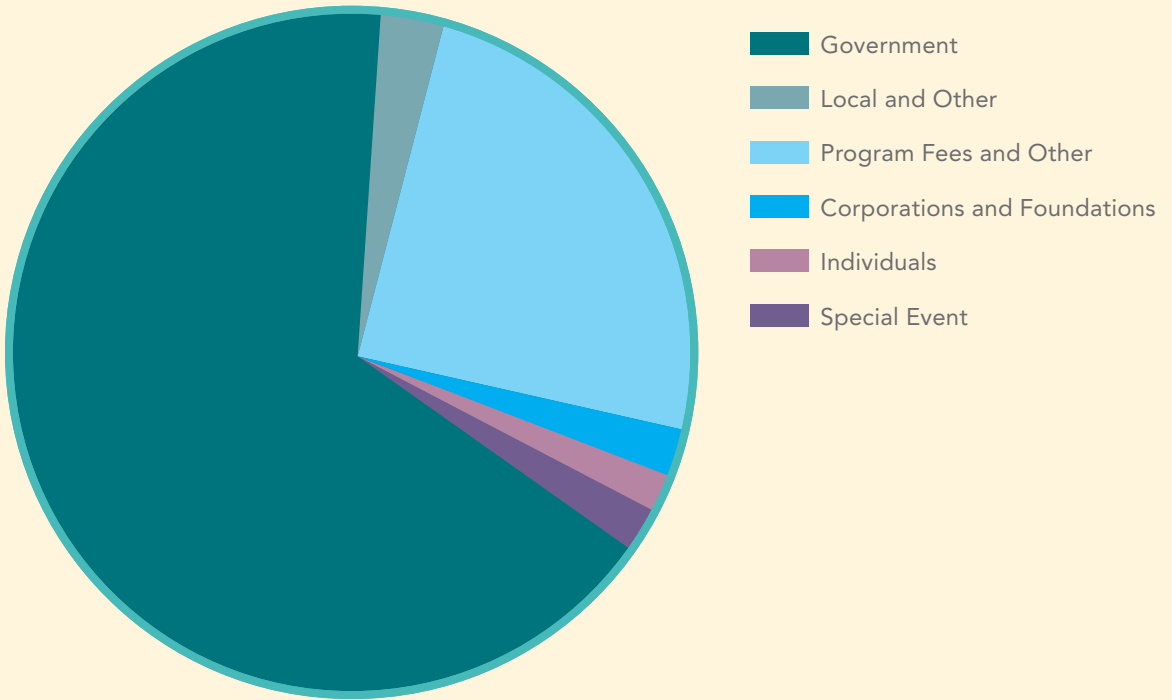
More information is available on our website, www.bridgefamilycenter.org.

Income and Expenses

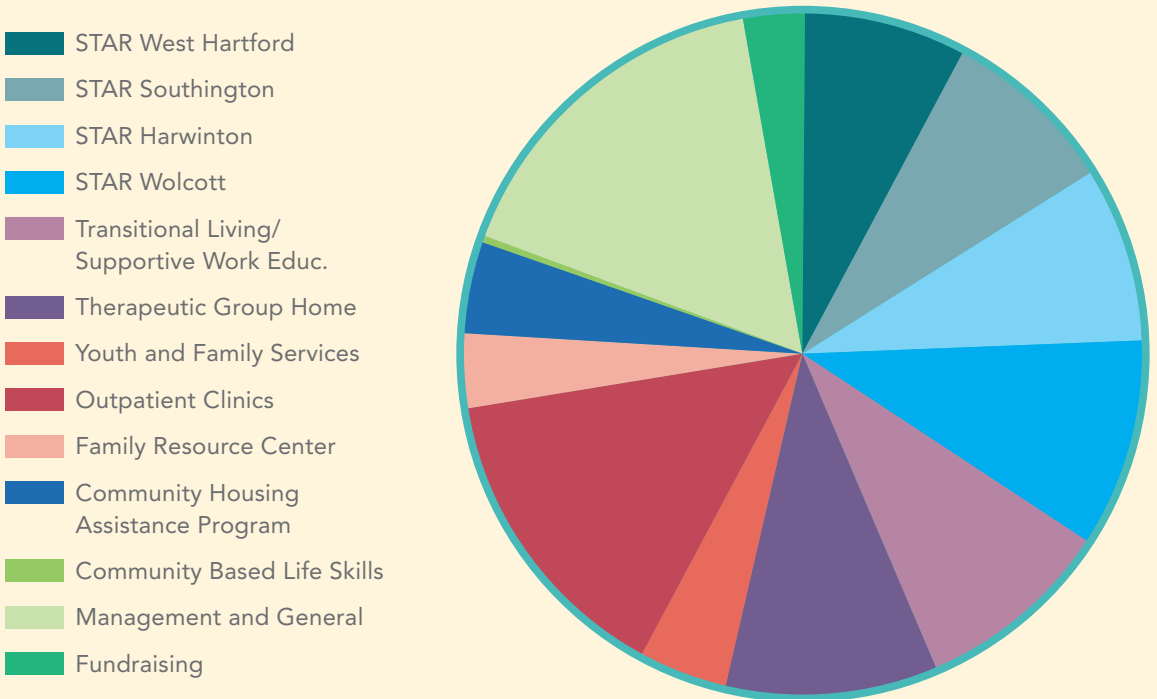
Year Ending June 30, 2021 | The Bridge Family Center, Inc.

INCOME	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUE			
Government	6,130,118		6,130,118
Local and Other	276,761		276,761
Program Fees and Other	2,252,369		2,252,369
Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes	195,933	(195,933)	0
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS			
Corporations and Foundations	46,561	161,702	208,263
Individuals	171,288		171,288
Special Event	192,410		192,410
TOTAL INCOME	9,265,440	(34,231)	9,231,209
EXPENSES			
PROGRAM SERVICES			
STAR West Hartford	628,645		628,645
STAR Southington	664,987		664,987
STAR Harwinton	675,089		675,089
STAR Wolcott	789,401		789,401
Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ.	750,299		750,299
Therapeutic Group Home	803,404		803,404
Youth and Family Services	335,760		335,760
Outpatient Clinics	1,170,078		1,170,078
Family Resource Center	296,075		296,075
Community Housing Assistance Program	359,889		359,889
Community Based Life Skills	3,910		3,910
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	6,477,537		6,477,537
SUPPORTING SERVICES			
Management and General	1,333,433		1,333,433
Fundraising	228,278		228,278
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	1,561,711		1,561,711
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,039,248		8,039,248
Change in Net Assets	1,226,192	(34,231)	1,191,961
NET ASSETS, beginning of the year	3,070,005	327,000	3,397,005
NET ASSETS, end of the year	4,296,197	292,769	4,588,966

Revenue



Expenses



Thank you, generous donors. You helped us serve nearly 8,500 children, adults, and families in FY 2021 (July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021).

HEROES (\$10,000+)

John and Judy Bierly
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CHAMPIONS (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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^ Deceased

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by Sondra Camhi

by Carol and John Small

by Sam Polak

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