

Making It Happen

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2022



THE
BRIDGE
FAMILY CENTER

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
Executive Director

Hildee Fontanella
Chief Operating Officer

Doreen Tarascio
*Director of Development
and Communications*

Amy Raider
Director of Human Resources

Maiya Pierre, LCSW
Director of Residential Services

Deborah Zipkin
Director of Family Resource Center

Bryan Block
Director of Independent Living Programs

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*“With willing hearts
and skillful hands,
the difficult we
can do at once...
the impossible
takes a bit longer.”*

United States Navy Seabees



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

Making It Happen

The best interests of the children and families we serve guide every aspect of our work. We put forth our very best effort in all that we do. We are committed to quality, integrity, and a holistic approach to care in a welcoming, nurturing environment. We do not give up easily. We work hard to find a way. We make it happen.

These are our core beliefs — and just like our mission statement they are more than words on paper. They are the guiding principles that we turn to each day as we work with our children and families.

While our work is difficult, we are able to rise to the challenge with willing hearts and skillful hands. When the pandemic hit, we quickly adapted to meet the ever-changing needs of those in our care. Although the pandemic has subsided, we still face many obstacles. At times it seems the mental health crisis is impossible to conquer.



Margaret A. Hann, Executive Director

*“We do not give up easily.
We work hard to find a way.
We make it happen.”*

We have found that it is not impossible, it just takes a bit longer. With the addition of our new counseling center, located at 1021 Farmington Avenue, we are able to accommodate the significant surge in the number of people needing mental health counseling. Increased acuity in the youth, adults, and families we serve in our centers has led to clients being seen more than once per week on multiple occasions. Our new space also allows for the substantial increase in therapy sessions we hold.

Before we begin any new project, we think about who will benefit from our services. We ask ourselves who are the people who will be coming through our doors. Then we design the project to ensure everyone is able to enter, and no one is left out on the front lawn.

This past year, 653 people came through our counseling centers' doors. Children, teens, adults, couples, and families from all walks of life seeking hope and healing. Their struggles are as diverse as their backgrounds so our caring and compassionate therapists meet them where they are on their journey and engage in comfortable and meaningful ways.

We know the aftermath of the pandemic is far from over, and we anticipate an even higher demand for our services. While we are troubled that so many people are suffering, we are confident everyone who needs our help will receive it.

We are able to make it happen because of you and your generous support. Thank you for your belief in us and the vital impact of our work!

Your support provides hope, comfort, and security at a time when so many of us are struggling with great uncertainty.

Thank you for making our important work possible.



Susan Hamilton, Board President

The transformation of 1021 Farmington Avenue.

BEFORE



AFTER



It's What's On The Inside *That Counts*

Prior to the pandemic, the Bridge purchased property at 1021 Farmington Avenue in West Hartford to house our new, larger counseling center. The high demand for our services, coupled with limited space in our previous location necessitated this move. At the time we had no idea just how critical this new addition would be.

After extensive interior and exterior renovations, we opened the site in the fall of 2022. Many have commented on the incredible transformation of the building as a run-down, dilapidated house became a warm, welcoming counseling center. And while we are proud of the beautiful aesthetics, it is what happens inside the facility that counts the most.

There has been a significant increase in the number and acuity of youth and families being served in our counseling centers. While the acute phase of the pandemic seems to have passed, many individuals are still struggling with social issues, uncertainty, isolation, anxiety, and serious depression.

The new building allows us to serve thirty percent more clients than our previous location, with an estimated 700 people treated within our first year of operation. Seventy percent of the children and adults we counsel are low-income, a population that is especially underserved in the area of mental and behavioral health.

With the addition of this new facility, we now have centers in Avon, Elmwood, Rockville, and West Hartford. The counseling programs offered in the centers provide crisis counseling, stabilization, and individual, couple, and family therapy. They promote mental health, improve functioning, and effectively decrease the prevalence and incidence of mental illness, emotional disturbances, and social dysfunction. The services are available to every individual and family regardless of their ability to pay.

If you or someone you love is in need of our counseling services, please call us at 960.313.1119.

A mom and dad who recently learned their child identifies as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community find support to process the unique experience of parenting an LGBTQIA+ youth.

A six year old boy who has trouble controlling his feelings and is afraid of monsters under his bed, an asteroid falling from the sky, a tree falling on his house and being a bad person when he grows up, will gain coping skills to alleviate his anxiety and fears.

A teenage girl who struggles with negative body image, an unhealthy relationship with food and exercise, and disordered eating will begin Intuitive Eating Counseling and start to practice positive body appreciation.

Impacting the Lives of Children & Families **Patrick & Marjorie Johnson**



“The Bridge Family Center is a coronary valve in the heart of the community. It is and has been an essential manifestation of what makes this community special as it reaches out to help the least, the lost, and the last.”

– Patrick Johnson

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. Patrick and Marjorie Johnson have given of themselves in countless ways to help realize our vision of serving “Every family, Every child, Every time.”

With 48 years of non-profit executive experience in the Greater Hartford area, Pat was familiar with the Bridge and our programs and services. Upon his retirement, he was asked to serve on our Board of Directors and he quickly responded that he would be honored.

“Our knowledge of the Bridge’s work, our respect for the leadership of the Bridge, and the reputation of the Bridge for the quality of services and adherence to best practices made our decision to become involved with the Bridge a very easy one,” explained Margie.

Margie, a retired educator, and Pat have a strong affinity for our Family Resource Center and work with the public schools. “The breadth and depth of the services and the profound commitment to the mission of the agency by all staff and volunteers is very impressive. The positive outcomes from the early childhood development programs offered at the Family Resource Center and the mentoring and counseling services available in the West Hartford Public Schools are inspirational. The Bridge makes a very real difference in the lives of children and their families,” Pat replied when asked about their connection with the Bridge.

He continued, “The Bridge enables all of us to share in the mission and to effect the future through our positive impact on the children and youth we serve today. The quality of life in our community and the core values that drive the Bridge interact in a manner that says to every family we care and are here to help.”

Although Pat’s term on the Board has come to an end, we know his and Margie’s deep commitment and passion for the Bridge will continue. For their past, present, and future contributions, we are most grateful.

*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

...

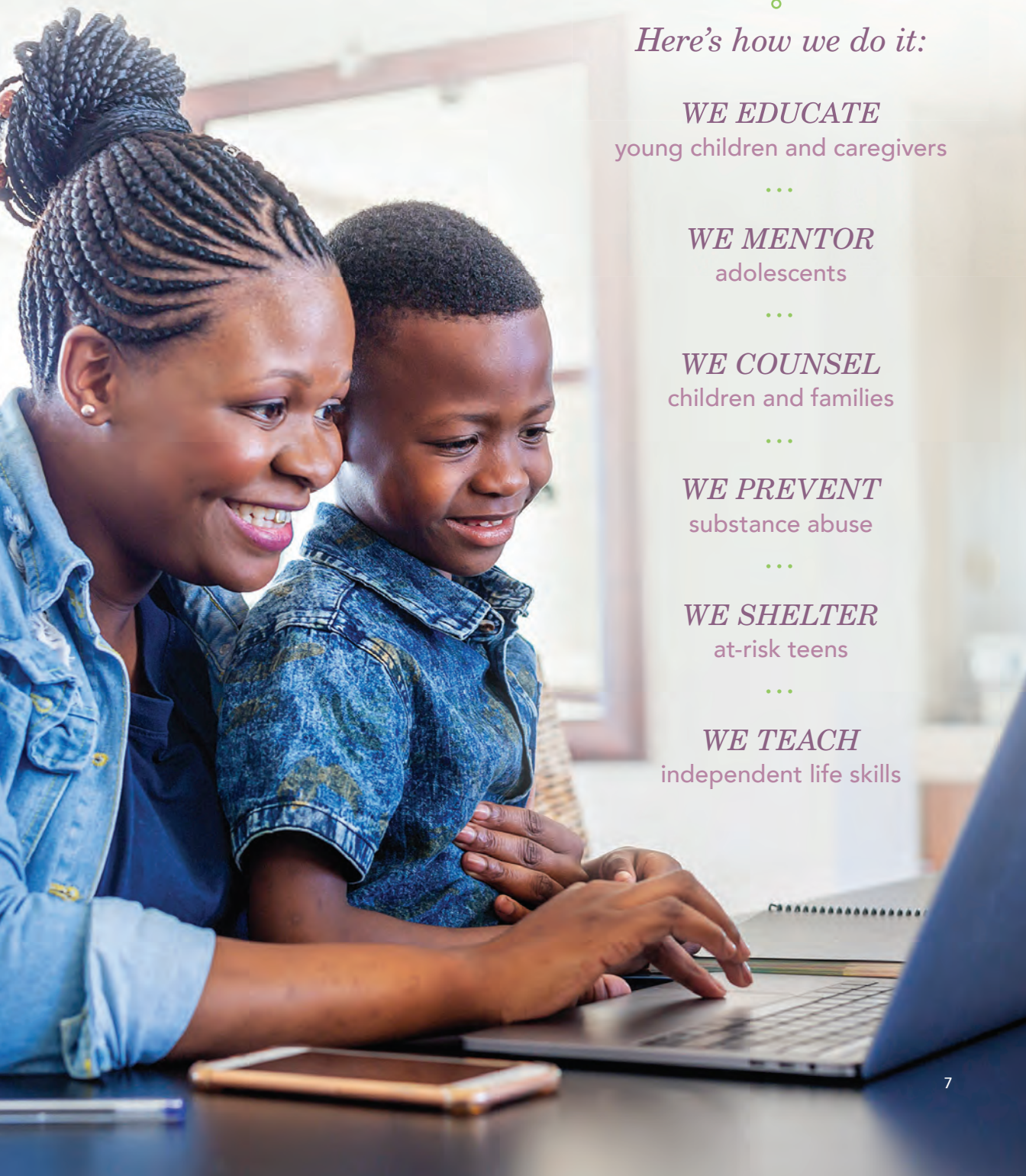
WE PREVENT
substance abuse

...

WE SHELTER
at-risk teens

...

WE TEACH
independent life skills



OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER

The 23rd Annual Children's Charity Ball



The 23rd Anniversary of our Children's Charity Ball was a tremendous success, raising over \$268,000 to sustain and enhance our vital programs and services. The theme for the event was "Here Comes the Sun", in celebration of the brighter days that are ahead for all of us. Thank you to our exceptional committee, generous sponsors and amazing guests for making this possible!



Executive Director Margaret Hann with her husband Bill, son-in-law and daughter Bill and Kate Schappert



Emcee Scott Haney welcomes guests



Honorary Chairs Robert and Tamara Laurie



Jason Ryan, Susan Aversa, and Scot Haney



Board Member Kathy Christensen, her husband Curt, and Meg and Frank Appicelli

OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER



Top Left: Board member Michele Maresca shares a laugh with friends.

Top Right: Committee member Jenni Freidman with her daughter Nona.

Middle: Committee member Kathryn Deane and friends.

Bottom Right: Committee members Cheri Stabnick, Judy Bierly, and Ellen Sayers with their spouses, Scot Haney and Dick and Mary Froeb.



THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY BALL



Top: Board Chair Susan Hamilton with Board Members Jason Goddard, Peter Macdonald and their guests.

Middle Left: Board Member Kris Cool enjoys the evening with friends and family.

Bottom Left: Matthew and Tabbetha Rivers are guests of sponsor All Pointe Care.

Bottom Right: Committee members Kara Langan, Heather Clifford, Deborah Dunlap and her husband Roger.

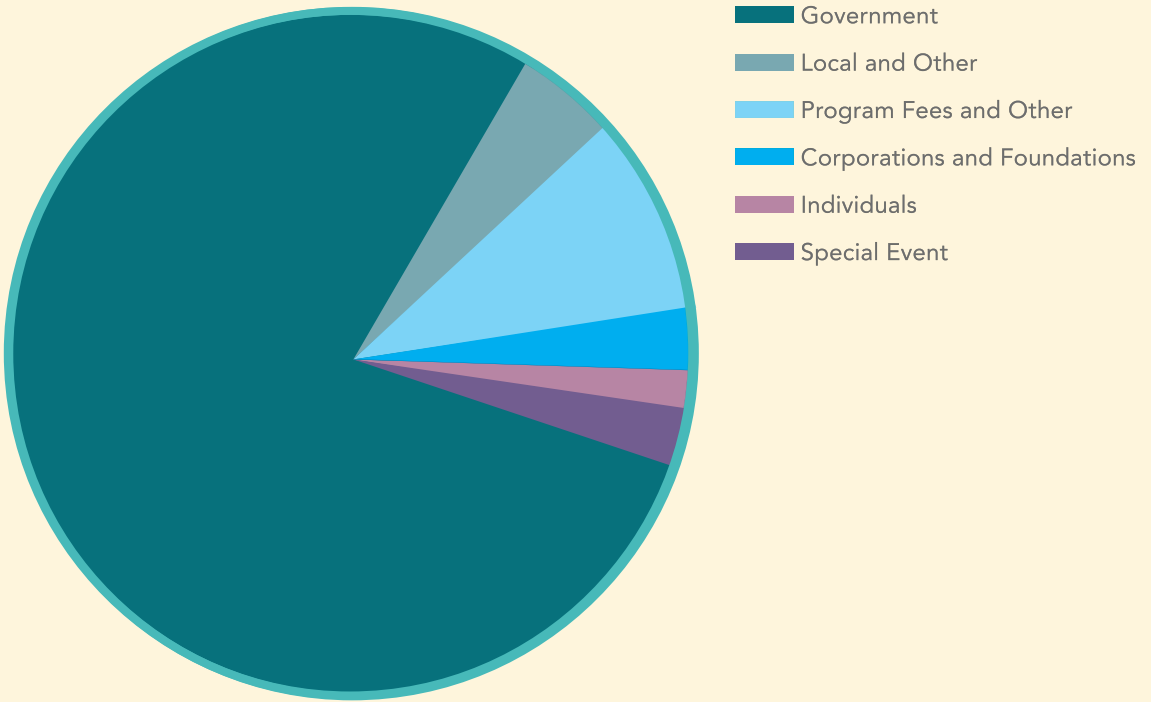


Income and Expenses

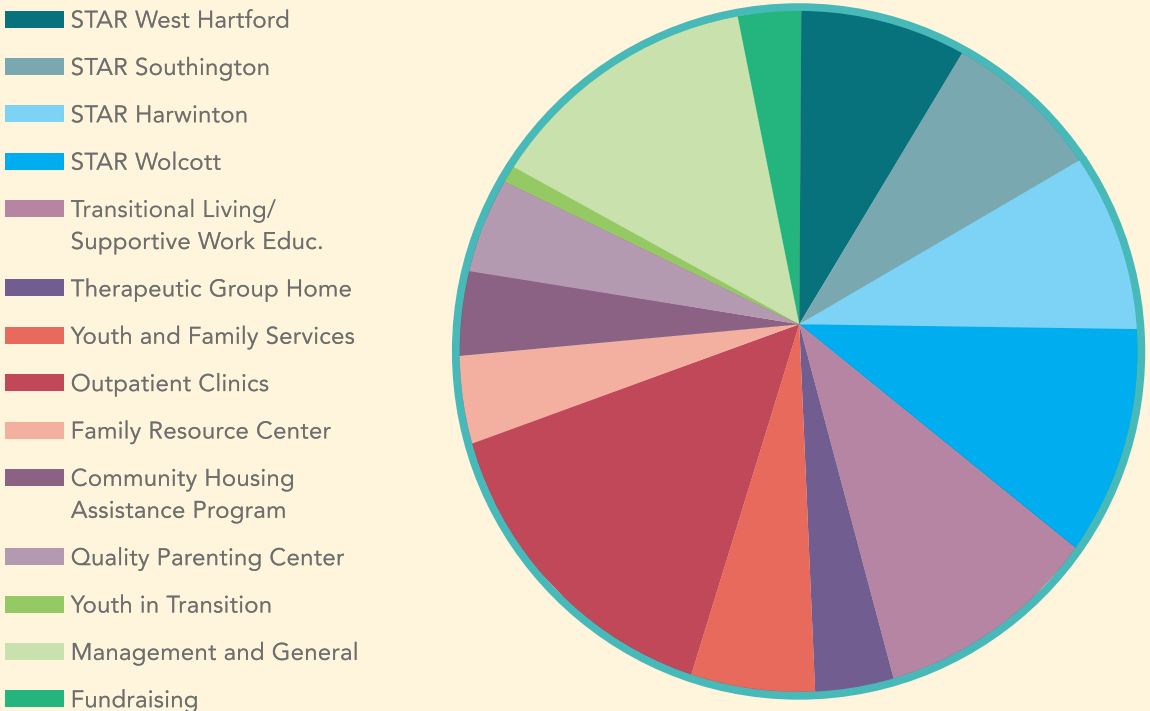
Year Ending June 30, 2022 | The Bridge Family Center, Inc.

INCOME	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUE			
Government	6,582,448		6,582,448
Local and Other	393,153		393,153
Program Fees and Other	819,045		819,045
Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes	233,127	(233,127)	0
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS			
Corporations and Foundations	146,236	112,000	258,236
Individuals	166,000		166,000
Special Event	266,707		266,707
TOTAL INCOME	8,606,716	(121,127)	8,485,589
EXPENSES			
PROGRAM SERVICES			
STAR West Hartford	694,510		694,510
STAR Southington	656,923		656,923
STAR Harwinton	714,445		714,445
STAR Wolcott	899,395		899,395
Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ.	816,699		816,699
Therapeutic Group Home	279,691		279,691
Youth and Family Services	454,116		454,116
Outpatient Clinics	1,205,953		1,205,953
Family Resource Center	341,425		341,425
Community Housing Assistance Program	352,051		352,051
Quality Parenting Center	394,062		394,062
Youth In Transition	55,348		55,348
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	6,864,618		6,864,618
SUPPORTING SERVICES			
Management and General	1,129,289		1,129,289
Fundraising	249,815		249,815
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	1,379,104		1,379,104
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,243,722		8,243,722
Change in Net Assets	362,994	(121,127)	241,867
NET ASSETS, beginning of the year	4,296,197	292,769	4,588,966
NET ASSETS, end of the year	4,659,191	171,642	4,830,833

Revenue



Expenses



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*

John and Judy Bierly*

Paul and Mary Butler*

Anne and Jim Carroll*

Kathy and Curt Christensen

Jane Coppa

Kathryn and Stephen Deane

Thomas Driscoll and Patricia Teufel*

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Doreen Tarascio

Mark and Ava Torello

Sherri and Patrick Thompson

Felicia Wilion and Jay Frankel

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
Margaret A. Hann

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Emily W. Rankin^
Sali G. Riege^
June Rosenblatt^
Mark Torello

^Deceased

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, 2022 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, BridgeFamilyCenter.org.

DONORS

Thank you, generous donors. You helped us serve nearly 8,700 children, adults, and families in FY 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

HEROES (\$10,000+)

Susan Aversa and Jason Ryan
John and Judy Bierly
Bob and Frankie Goldfarb

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CYNTHIA BROWN
by Ted Diesenhaus and Deanne Shapiro
HEATHER BRUSCHINO
by Stephanie Dominello
by Joanna Myers
by Brad Normand
by Room 11 Parents
BUGBEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FACULTY
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EILEEN FOLEY ALLGROVE
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JOSE GOICO
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by Dorothy Hendrickson
HOLLY WILLIAMS
by Leroy and Holly Butler
DEBORAH ZIPKIN
by Sondra Camhi
by Carol and John Small

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In memory of:

BRUCE BATTS
by Harold and Judy Meyer
JEANNETTE CONDERINO
by Michael and Donna Downes
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CHILDREN'S CHARITY BALL- APRIL 2022

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CHILDREN'S CHARITY BALL- APRIL 2022 (CONTINUED)

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Robert and Tamara Laurie	Scotch Plains Tavern	Woodstock Inn & Resort
Dr. Karen L. List	Madelyn Sinatro	YES Network



*Thank You for making a difference
in the lives of
our children & families*



BRIDGE BY THE NUMBERS

STAR HOMES

The Bridge manages 4 Short-Term Assessment & Respite (STAR) homes in West Hartford, Hartford Wolcott, and Harwinton.

In FY22 our STAR homes:

- Served 62 youth with an average stay of 71 days
- Filled 5,153 bed days - 287 more bed days than in FY21

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC)

The Bridge supports the healthy development of families in the community through the FRC.

This year, the FRC:

- Served over 950 children and parents
- Saw an increase in program enrollment, with 30 preschoolers at the FRC and 12 children enrolled in Peace Place
- Held the 10th annual Parent Leadership Training Institute with 16 graduates
- Reopened our emergency diaper bank and served 27 families

COUNSELING CENTERS

The Bridge operates 4 outpatient counseling clinics, located in West Hartford, Elmwood, Rockville, and Avon. This year these clinics:

- Held 10,598 counseling appointments covering 650 cases
- Saw a 21% increase in youth cases, providing services to 442 youth over 6,744 appointments
- Saw a 12% increase in adult cases, providing services to 212 adult clients over 3,854 appointments

MOSAIC PARENTING CENTER (MPC)

MPC is a new program that opened in January 2022. MPC provides structured support and coaching during family visitation sessions for parents who are working on family reunification after a child has been removed from the home.

In its first year, the MPC has:

- Received 59 referrals since its opening on January 3
- Conducted 761 visits

MOVING ON PROJECT (MOP)

The MOP is a transitional living apartment program that assists males ages 16–21 in developing the skills they need to live independently. This year, the MOP:

- Had an overall occupancy of 99% for the year, a 13% increase from 2021
- Served 19 DCF youth for a total of 3,529 bed days

YOUTH IN TRANSITION (YIT)

YIT provides transitional housing for young adults between the ages of 16 and 21.

In 2022:

- YIT served 15 youth, all of whom showed improvement in their Life Skills inventories
- 47% of participants were employed full or part-time
- All of the youth that were moved into their own apartment have successfully maintained the lease



**To learn more about the Bridge,
visit www.bridgefamilycenter.org
and follow us on social media!**

Facebook – Bridge Family Center
Instagram – @bridgefamilycenter



COMMUNITY HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROJECT (CHAP)

CHAP consists of supervised, scattered site apartments for DCF committed youth 18 years and older to provide support and guidance in their final steps towards independence.

This year:

- CHAP served 87 youth
- 70% of participants were enrolled in a full-time educational program
- 79% of participants were employed full or part-time



EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES

YOU ARE INVITED

Save the Date:

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

Hosted at:

THE HARTFORD GOLF CLUB

*134 Norwood Road
West Hartford, Connecticut*



Invitation to follow

THE BRIDGE FAMILY CENTER
1022 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06107-2105
860.521.8035



*Children and families
are the center of our work.*



*Our Mission is to foster the courage and
strength in children and families to meet life's
challenges and build fulfilling lives.*



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