Every Family. Every Child. Every Time.
The Bridge in a Nutshell

The Mission of the Bridge Family Center is to foster the courage and strength in children and families to meet life’s challenges and build fulfilling lives.

- Founded in 1969, the Bridge Family Center, Inc., based in West Hartford, is a comprehensive, regional nonprofit agency that provides a broad range of services for children and families throughout the Greater Hartford area.
- The Bridge offers child and family counseling; intervention in times of crisis; prevention programs; supervised after-school alternatives for children and teens; personal development programs for parents, children, and youth; shelter for homeless youth; and assistance with the transition from youth to adulthood.
- The Bridge is recognized as a leader in bringing the community together to assess issues and needs, and plans, coordinates, delivers and evaluates services in a cost-effective manner.
- Last year the Bridge Family Center served more than 8,250 young people and families.
- The Bridge’s annual budget is $7.6 million. Our services are funded by private donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations; the Town of West Hartford; the State of Connecticut Departments of Children and Families (DCF) and Education.
- The Bridge is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 16 individuals from West Hartford and the Greater Hartford community.
- 198 staff members (88 full-time and 110 part-time) carry out the programs and services of the Bridge. Of our employees, 57% are people of color, and 80% are female.
- More than 175 volunteers assist staff.

Board of Directors

Officers
Robert D. Laurie
President
Mary K. Butler
Vice President
Melanie Ballestas
Treasurer
Robert J. Burke
Secretary

Members
Veronica A. Badiola
Patricia Bowen
Caroline Demirs Calio
Jeffrey J. Capone
John DeSimone
Jason Goddard, Esq.
Susan L. Hamilton
Thomas F.X. Hodson
Benjamin E. Kehl
Jane E. Lehman
Brian R. Smith
Felicia M. Wilion, M.D.

Margaret A. Hann
Executive Director
Hildee Fontanella
Director of Finance and Administration
Martha L. Rennie
Director of Development
Amy Raider
Director of Human Resources
Judy Bierly
Director of Community Services
Michael Rulnick
Director of Residential Services
Patricia Tyler
Director of Youth and Family Services
Deborah Zipkin
Director of Family Resource Centers
Bryan Block
Director of Independent Living Program

Staff Directors
Margaret A. Hann
Executive Director
Hildee Fontanella
Director of Finance and Administration
Martha L. Rennie
Director of Development
Amy Raider
Director of Human Resources
Judy Bierly
Director of Community Services
Michael Rulnick
Director of Residential Services
Patricia Tyler
Director of Youth and Family Services
Deborah Zipkin
Director of Family Resource Centers
Bryan Block
Director of Independent Living Program
This year, I have made a point of spending more time with the young people in our residential programs, with our Teen Center kids, and visiting our Family Resource Center programs. I needed to bring myself closer to the heart of the Bridge mission—to witness our work first hand on a deeper level. As Executive Director of the Bridge, I am immersed in our work every day on varying levels, but I needed more.

Our children and families are the center of our work. By eating dinner with the young people in our STAR (Short-Term Assessment & Respite) programs and group home, I was able to witness hope and joy in the kids despite their traumatic circumstances. Our Family Resource Center programs support children and families through numerous school-based programs. The Bridge Outpatient Clinic helps children and families through the darkness and into the light so that they can get back to the business of living.

I am privileged to be able to witness our work up close. I am inspired by the strength of the families we serve, the resolve of the young residents in our programs, and the never ending smiles of the children.

As you read this year’s annual report, I hope you are inspired as well. We are so thankful to have the support of our generous donors, board of directors, volunteers and staff. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support.

Very truly,

Margaret A. Hann
Executive Director
A Grandmother Raising Her Granddaughter  
**The Bridge’s Family Resource Center Offers Support**

Barbara has been caring for her 5-year-old granddaughter, Lilly, since she was 6 months old. “It’s hard,” said Barbara. “I’m going on 73 years old.” Lilly’s mother has ongoing issues and is unable to care for Lilly. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is involved with the family, and there are many challenges. Though other family members are involved, Barbara is Lilly’s primary caregiver and advocate.

For a few years, Barbara was home alone with Lilly. She heard about the Bridge’s Family Resource Center (FRC) at Charter Oak School through another grandmother caring for her grandchildren. Barbara started taking Lilly to the FRC’s early learning playgroups (for children ages birth to 4 and a parent/caregiver) when she was 2½.

“Lilly had difficulty socializing with her peers at first and could not control herself to sit at circle time,” said Barbara. “I’m going on 73 years old.”

Barbara has been caring for her 5-year-old granddaughter, Lilly, since she was 6 months old.

Barbara considered not returning, but having DCF involved with her family, she knew attending was important on many levels. She persisted in going to playgroups, and eventually Lilly was able to participate in all of the activities.

“The group did so much for her,” said Barbara. “FRC staff members do wonderful work with children. I could bring her here and she was occupied with things to do, and I learned what to do with her at home. The staff worked with me and helped me out. I feel better, and I’m more relaxed.”

Barbara has participated in many other programs at the FRC. She joined the Grandparents Wisdom Circle, a bi-weekly support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren. She has attended Family Academy and participated in Pizza and Parenting workshops and the Raising Readers program. Kim paid monthly visits to her home to help with her care of Lilly.

Because Lilly did not go to preschool, she was invited to participate last summer in 1,2,3 Read With Me, a program for children entering the first grade in the fall. Now that she is in kindergarten, she also attends SAIL.
The Family Resource Center began operations in 1991 at the Charter Oak International Academy. It later expanded to Smith School and offers programs at several other West Hartford elementary schools. The FRC offers early learning playgroups for preschool children and their parents or caregivers, home visits to monitor child development, adult ESL classes, parent education classes, a parenting library, a toy lending library, parent leadership training, after-school enrichment classes, and many other special activities. Under the direction of Deborah Zipkin, the FRC was designated as a national model by the Edward Zigler Center for Child Development and Social Policy and gained recognition as one of the best ten schools for families in West Hartford.

In January, I went to visit our SAIL kindergarten group during snack time,” said Deborah Zipkin, director of the FRC. “I was sitting at their table, and the kids were very excited about sharing how they spent their time during the winter break. Lilly announced that she hated the holidays. There was actually a shocked silence at the snack table. Then six little voices said ‘Why?’ and Lilly said, ‘Because I couldn’t go to school or to SAIL.’” Barbara said, “She loves school, and her teachers say she is a fantastic little girl. She’s happy.”

“And so,” said Kim Townsend, “here in March, more than three years after our first meeting, Lilly eagerly arrives at school each day, happy to learn and greet her friends with hugs. Barbara’s perseverance has paid off, and Lilly is thriving at school. She often peeks in the FRC window at dismissal and shouts ‘I love you’ and runs off. This beautiful little girl has a devoted grandmother who has done everything in her power to give her a bright and healthy future.”

an FRC after-school enrichment program, which extends her school day and allows Barbara to feel secure knowing that she’s in a safe place after school.
Since 1988, the Bridge Family Center has offered Community Based Life Skills (CBLS) to teens 15 to 19 years old who live in foster homes and are in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). CBLS helps them to prepare for independent living as they age out of the DCF system. Each year, the Bridge offers two CBLS sessions with 10 students each. Each session consists of 25 classes and 80 hours of classroom instruction. Each participant is assigned to a life skills instructor and receives 10-30 hours of individual instruction as well, depending on need. The CBLS program has many components—a core curriculum, a community awareness segment, group work, and individualized instruction. The core curriculum, taught by life skills instructor Nicole Rafala, focuses on both tangible and intangible life skills. Topics covered include social relationships, goal-setting, career planning, smart shopping, transportation, nutrition, and much more. Students are given a community resource guide, and guest speakers from community agencies such as Planned Parenthood provide useful information and serve as contacts for youth.

Field trips are an important part of CBLS. Young people in the fall session went grocery shopping on a budget to Stop & Shop and prepared a group meal. They visited Manchester Community College, Manchester Police Department, and other community sites. Recreation is also integral to the program. The teens go on three one-day activities in each session—hiking on Talcott Mountain, canoeing at the DCF, and serve as contacts for youth.

The emphasis on both self-reliance and community resources encourages the participants to begin assuming responsibility for managing their own lives and helps reduce the isolation they may feel. Peer support helps relieve anxiety as the young people prepare for independence.

Two CBLS participants enjoy socializing at a bowling outing.

Comments on CBLS Evaluation Forms

Selena P.: “I like the big group and knowing everyone around you has something in common.”

Evelyn P.: “I liked meeting new friends. We learned how to manage our own apartment and about saving money.”

Santhalee D.: “This program was very helpful especially college wise. It was helpful to me in deciding what school I wanted to attend.”

Sazshae M.: “I learned so much to get me prepared for my future.”

Mar de Roche
Barbara Deansers
Debra Dresner
Rev. Hope H. Eakin
Thomas Eccles
Clara Evans
The Farmington Company
John Farr
Marcia and James Fine
Kelsey Flamma
Mary Ellen and Steven Flage
Edward Ford
Emma Frankel
Allison and Paul Freeman
Dr. Doris Gattar
Sabrina Gralles
Libby Graft
Peter and Cynthia Gutermann
The Healy Family
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Henderson
Rebecca and Gary Holmes
Lyn Kaminowitz
David Klingerman
Stephanie Wessgall and Marcus Leef
Libbys Lewis
Laura Linsbury
Susan and Joe Lipner
Diana McPherson and Robert Farr
John and Debbie Mayo
MOMS Club
Jennifer Mooney
Kellie Morisson-Hovey
Gabriela Mottomo
Panera Bread Café
Janessa Patron
Professional Promotions
Lisa Redk
Connie Redker
Kathleen Reichenberger
Elizabeth and Michael Rally
Andrea Shindeldecker
Brian R. Smith and Kim KV McClain
Salomon Schechter Day School
Chen and Dick Stabnick
Barbara Steele
Andrew and Sandra Stern
Stitching for Shelters
Annie Tilden
Linda Todd
Town of Southington
Jamie Vade
Dr. Randall Wing, D.D.S.

Business/Foundation/Organization Donors

ADP
Aetna Foundation, Inc.
All Points Care, LLC
American Eagle Federal Credit Union
American Eagle Federal Credit Union Fund
American Savings Foundation
Archdiocese of Hartford
Association of Fundraising Professionals - Fairfield County Chapter
Beatrix Fox Averback Foundation Fund
Barnes Foundation
Lena Benas Memorial Fund
Bishops Fund for Children
Blue Back Square, LLC
Bridge Family Center Fund
Capitol Region Federal Credit Union
Elizabeth Carse Foundation
Carson Family Foundation
Cavanaugh Family Foundation
Charter Oak Academy PTO
Charter Oak Social Committee
Chubb Specialty Insurance
The Church of Saint Peter Claver
Cranford High School
CPCU Society Connecticut Chapter
Cummings & Lockwood LLC
eBenefits Group Northeast
Eldridge Service Award Fund
Erinvale Charitable Foundation
Farmington Bank Community Foundation
Fisher Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. William Foulds Family Foundation
The Geffenland Generations, Inc.
Glacial Energy
Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Imagination Book
Imagery Center of West Hartford
ING Foundation
Kimberly Boutique
Liberty Bank Foundation
George A. & Gaye L. Long Foundation
McCourtney Family Charitable Trust
McKee Foundation
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation
NewWALLace Foundation
Jeffrey P. Olson Family Foundation
Owenoke Foundation
Panera Bread Café
Post University
Pratt & Whitney
Raymond Fund
Reuben’s Delicatessen
Reynolds Charitable Foundation
SBM Charitable Foundation
Olga Spalding Children’s Fund
Sparkle Jewelry
Stop & Shop
Swindells Charitable Foundation
Tagliarini Chiropractic
Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation
TJX Foundation
Town of Southington
Turner Family Foundation
University of West Hartford
Vision-Arias Productions
Webster Bank
Westfarm
West Hartford Exchange Club
West Hartford Firefighters Association, Local 1314
West Hartford Leisure Services
West Hartford PTA Class of 2012
West Hartford Police School Crossing Guards Association, Inc.
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Linford & Mildred White Charitable Fund

Matching Gift Companies

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Bank of America
ING
Panera Bread Café
Reid & Riege Foundation
Sun Products Corporation
Travelers Foundation
United Health Group
United Technologies

Children’s Charity Ball (January 2013)

Presenting Sponsor
Pratt & Whitney

Honorary Chairs
Peter and Cynthia Gutermann, UTC Propulsion & Aerospace Systems

Sapphire Sponsors
eBenefits Group Northeast
ING
Debbie and Tom Mcinerney
Honorary Gifts
Monica Biskaga’s Birthday
by Steven and Patricia Kalmar
The Children of Friends and Family:
Aaron, Adela, Aden, Alexandra, Alisa, Audrey, Avery, Brady, Danny, Emily, Hazel, Jacobs, Jonathan, Justin, Katelyn, Kira, Luka, Madelyn, Matt, McCrae, Michael, Morgan, Ryan, Seth, Ronan, and Trent
by Kate and Matt Dwyer
Teresa Courcy
by Charter Oak Social Committee
Evin Curtis’ Birthday
by Kathleen and John Coyle
by Robert and Tamara Laurie
by Christie Pascavis
by Diane Stefanik
by Jack Taggard
by Jennifer and Steven Whitman
Sharon Dalton
by Aetna Foundation inc.
by Dr. Karen L. List
Florence L. Fayer
by Eric and Martha Rennie
Robert and Beverly Freeman
by Laura Freeman
Joe Furey
by Reuben’s Delicatessen
Diane Gedeon-Martin
by Association of Fundraising Professionals
Granby Memorial High School
by Kimberly Calcasola
Ray Guenter’s 80th Birthday
by Carolein and Elliott Tertes
George Hastings
by Marian and Bill Hewett
Robert Lowenstein
by Eric and Martha Rennie
The 25th Anniversary of Dr. Nima Patel and
Dr. Dan McNaughton
A recent CBLS group hiked on Talcott Mountain on a beautiful day.
Another New Record at Our 14th Annual Children’s Charity Ball

Butterflies filled the air at the Hartford Golf Club as 380 guests gathered for the Children’s Charity Ball on January 19, 2013. The theme for the gala was “Let the Sunshine In”—what we try to do in the lives of the children and families we serve. The golf club was decorated in shades of yellow, gold, and coral. In spite of challenging economic times, the community was incredibly generous. The entire event with ticket sales, silent and live auctions, the Changing Lives Living Room, a raffle, and a pick-a-flower/win-a-prize table netted more than $227,000 for Bridge services for children, youth, and families in West Hartford, the Greater Hartford area, and beyond. The Bridge is grateful to a committed and creative group of women who planned the gala; to hundreds of businesses and individuals who sponsored the event or donated items to the silent and live auctions; to many individuals who made monetary donations to support the ball, and to our guests for the evening. Thank you, thank you.

Put next year’s date on your calendar: Saturday, January 18, 2014.

Ellen and Peter Zeman
Judi and Neil Zipkin

Friends
($50-$99)
Ray and Barbara Andrews
Anonymous
Carolyn Arvidson
Karen and Jim Bachman
Andrew G Baldassarre
Diane and Joaquin Ballestas
Dan, Missy and Jack Rebusti
Brenda and Henry Belucci
Dr. David A. J. Belmont
Christopher Bohrer
Joy and Mark Boucher
Tim and Patty Buckley
David and Barbara Bush
Taylor and Kitty Cahill
Kimberly Calcasola
Zena and Alan Carp
David L. Clay
Dennis and Dinah Coleman
Marty and Ginny Connors
Ronald E. Coons
Jim and Lois Darby
Jeannette and Daniel Dardenne
Jeanne Doerr
Elana and Ofer Doron
David and Deborah Downes
Robin Drago-Provencher
Darkene Durbar and Carol Bazena
Mona C. Duquette
Janice and Sydney Elkin
Donna Eriksen
Laura Freeman
Dr. Dori Gatter
Catherine Geary
Mary Anne and M. Alex Geertsma
Adelle Leader Gersten
Pepe Ginsburg and Fred Myers
Edward D. Gladstone
Jim and Amy Goldman
Mary and Nicholas Greffe
Margaret Griffin
Wesley and Karen Guzik
Joan K. Hagan
Francis X. Hennessy
Dolph and Judy Highmark
Ellen and Tim Hollister
Eleanor Horn
Joan Hunwitz
Elin and Steve Katz
Steven and Patricia Kalmar
Carol Knight
Leslie Kohrke
Bernard and Gale Kasto
Elizabeth Krall
Steve and Ann Marie Lancer
Shelley and Robert Langer
Mrs. Norman P. Lee
Dr. Karen L. Lest
Amy Lowenstein and Dan Schwarzkopf
Kate and Chris Lynch
Charles and Beverly Maranta
Ona and Tom Manstrander
John and Debbie Mayo
Linnea McCaffrey
Phil Meier
Edward Malyneaus*
Jan Maskowitz
Colleen Murphy
Ray and Beverly Nelson
Lawrence Fox and Ann Nichols
The Reverend Jan K. Nielsen
Margaret Farrell O’Keefe
Beth and Dan Papamaster
Nancy R. Phelan
Cruger and Ralph Phillips
Bruce Puttermann and Teri Bayer
Patricia and Lewis Rabonovitz
Cennie Reder
Preston Reed
Helen and Dave Rees
Michael and Lucy Rister
Maranne Santa Domingo
Rev. Thomas J. Sars
Helen and Henry Savage
Norma H. Schatz
Richard and Jeanmarie Shea
Alyse and Jay Sickick
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Silver
Claudia George Skarvinko
Dborah Slater and Brad Witty
Andrew and Sandra Stern
Anne P. Streeter
Colleen Murphy
Jan Moskowitz
Edward Molyneaux*
Phil Meer
Linnea McCaffrey
John and Lois Dailey
Ronald E. Coons
Marty and Ginny Connors
Dennis and Dinah Coleman
Mary Anne and M. Alex Geertsma
Adelle Leader Gersten
Pepe Ginsburg and Fred Myers
Edward D. Gladstone
Jim and Amy Goldman
Margaret Griffin
Wesley and Karen Guzik
Joan K. Hagan
Francis X. Hennessy
Dolph and Judy Highmark
Ellen and Tim Hollister
Eleanor Horn
Joan Hunwitz
Elin and Steve Katz
Steven and Patricia Kalmar
Carol Knight
Leslie Kohrke
Bernard and Gale Kasto
Elizabeth Krall
Steve and Ann Marie Lancer
Shelley and Robert Langer
Mrs. Norman P. Lee
Dr. Karen L. Lest
Amy Lowenstein and Dan Schwarzkopf
Kate and Chris Lynch
Charles and Beverly Maranta
Ona and Tom Manstrander
John and Debbie Mayo
Linnea McCaffrey
Phil Meier
Edward Malyneaus*
Jan Maskowitz
Colleen Murphy
Ray and Beverly Nelson
Lawrence Fox and Ann Nichols
The Reverend Jan K. Nielsen
Margaret Farrell O’Keefe
Beth and Dan Papamaster
Nancy R. Phelan
Cruger and Ralph Phillips
Bruce Puttermann and Teri Bayer
Patricia and Lewis Rabonovitz
Cennie Reder
Preston Reed
Helen and Dave Rees
Michael and Lucy Rister
Maranne Santa Domingo
Rev. Thomas J. Sars
Helen and Henry Savage
Norma H. Schatz
Richard and Jeanmarie Shea
Alyse and Jay Sickick
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Silver
Claudia George Skarvinko
Dborah Slater and Brad Witty
Andrew and Sandra Stern
Anne P. Streeter
Colleen Murphy
Jan Moskowitz
Edward Molyneaux*
Phil Meer
Linnea McCaffrey
John and Lois Dailey
Ronald E. Coons
Marty and Ginny Connors
Dennis and Dinah Coleman
Mary Anne and M. Alex Geertsma
Adelle Leader Gersten
Pepe Ginsburg and Fred Myers
Edward D. Gladstone
Jim and Amy Goldman
Mary and Nicholas Greffe
Margaret Griffin
Wesley and Karen Guzik
Joan K. Hagan
Francis X. Hennessy
Dolph and Judy Highmark
Ellen and Tim Hollister
Eleanor Horn
Joan Hunwitz
Elin and Steve Katz
Steven and Patricia Kalmar
*Donor to endowment fund
**Member, Builders for the Future

The Children’s Charity Ball Committee (row 1, l. to r.) Carol Lorenzo, Megan Baumgartner, Jane Mielcarek, Lynn Jimenez, Martha Rennie, Judy Bierly, Nancy Kennedy, Margie MacDonnell, and Ellen Sayers. (row 2, l. to r.) Joan Karas, Cheri Stabnick, The Children’s Charity Ball Committee (row 1, l. to r.) Carol Lorenzo, Megan Baumgartner, Jane Mielcarek, Lynn Jimenez, Martha Rennie, Judy Bierly, Nancy Kennedy, Margie MacDonnell, and Ellen Sayers. (row 2, l. to r.) Joan Karas, Cheri Stabnick, The Children’s Charity Ball Committee (row 1, l. to r.) Carol Lorenzo, Megan Baumgartner, Jane Mielcarek, Lynn Jimenez, Martha Rennie, Judy Bierly, Nancy Kennedy, Margie MacDonnell, and Ellen Sayers. (row 2, l. to r.) Joan Karas, Cheri Stabnick, The Children’s Charity Ball Committee (row 1, l. to r.) Carol Lorenzo, Megan Baumgartner, Jane Mielcarek, Lynn Jimenez, Martha Rennie, Judy Bierly, Nancy Kennedy, Margie MacDonnell, and Ellen Sayers. (row 2, l. to r.) Joan Karas, Cheri Stabnick, The Children’s Charity Ball Committee (row 1, l. to r.) Carol Lorenzo, Megan Baumgartner, Jane Mielcarek, Lynn Jimenez, Martha Rennie, Judy Bierly, Nancy Kennedy, Margie MacDonnell, and Ellen Sayers. (row 2, l. to r.) Joan Karas, Cheri Stabnick,
Jessica Capone is excited about the bidding in the Live Auction.

The bidding gets lively in the Changing Lives Challenge. Guests were given the opportunity to raise their paddles to support Bridge programs for children and families in amounts ranging from $5,000 to $100.

Drs. Wendy and Tom Miller

Pascale and Michael Lean enjoy dancing to Shaded Soul.

Dick Fair, Vice President of Customer Service at Pratt & Whitney, the Presenting Sponsor of the Children’s Charity Ball, and his wife, Wendy Fair.
The Bridge Family Center is very grateful to all of YOU—our supporters in fiscal year 2012!

**Hero**
($10,000+)
Debbie and Tom McInerney

**Champions**
($5,000-$9,999)
Michael and Diane Dumas
Robert and Francine Goldfarb
Kai and Tuck Miller
Seon and Cara Moylan

**Heroes**
($10,000+)
Debbie and Tom McInerney

**Sponsors**
($500-$999)
Janet M. Ballif
Melanie and Carlos Ballestas
Hanna and Dennis Biggar
Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Bonee
Lisa Bangs
Cynthia and Scott Brown
Judy and Chris Carson
Judy and Cliff Casparson
Mr. John A. Crane
Paolo and Michele Dal Cin
Tommy and Earl Exum
Timothy French
Bob and Gloria Gery
Wayne and Suzanne Guiffrida
Glen and Deb Greenberg
Keith Griffin and Manuela Canales
Joshua and Tracey Grzelak
Doris and Roy Guenther
Ellen and Peter Gundersen
Susan and Paul Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. William Hastings
Nancy L. Johnson
Debra Karavias
Nancy and Robert Kennedy
Beverly Simpson Kathe
Eileen and Hal Kraus
Kara and Kevin Langan
Robert and Joanne Lockic
Janet and Charlie Lenore
Thomas and Hollice Lorch*
Costa and Athena Loukellis
Dr. and Mrs. William J. MacDonnell*
Dak & Tim Matson
Tony and Leah Mohnnych
Matt and Meg Murphy
Tom and Natalie Pullard
Sandi and Michael Petrie
Barbara and Kevin Price
Jack and Mary Grace Reed
Christopher Reilly
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Riege**

**Leaders**
($2,500-$4,999)
John and Judy Barly*
Patricia Bowen and Stan Guzek
Lori Budnick**
Robert J. Burke
Paul and Mary Butler
Richard and Elaine Carlland
John and Susanne Deismane
Robert and Dawn Koff
Elizabeth Schiro and Stephen Bayer
Brian R. Smith and Kim KV McClain*

**Supporters**
($500-$999)
Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Bonee*
Lisa Bongiovi
Cynthia and Scott Brown
Judy and Olaf Casparson
Mr. John A. Crane
Paolo and Michele Dal Cin
Tommy and Earl Exum
Timothy French
Bob and Gloria Gery
Wayne and Suzanne Guiffrida
Glen and Deb Greenberg
Keith Griffin and Manuela Canales
Joshua and Tracey Grzelak
Doris and Roy Guenther
Ellen and Peter Gundersen
Susan and Paul Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. William Hastings
Nancy L. Johnson
Debra Karavias
Nancy and Robert Kennedy
Beverly Simpson Kathe
Eileen and Hal Kraus
Kara and Kevin Langan
Robert and Joanne Lockic
Janet and Charlie Lenore
Thomas and Hollice Lorch*
Costa and Athena Loukellis
Dr. and Mrs. William J. MacDonnell*
Edna and Peter Gundersen
Susan and Paul Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. William Hastings
Nancy L. Johnson
Debra Karavias
Nancy and Robert Kennedy
Beverly Simpson Kathe
Eileen and Hal Kraus
Kara and Kevin Langan
Robert and Joanne Lockic
Janet and Charlie Lenore
Thomas and Hollice Lorch*
Costa and Athena Loukellis
Dr. and Mrs. William J. MacDonnell*
Dak & Tim Matson
Tony and Leah Mohnnych
Matt and Meg Murphy
Tom and Natalie Pullard
Sandi and Michael Petrie
Barbara and Kevin Price
Jack and Mary Grace Reed
Christopher Reilly
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Riege**

**Bridge Builders**
($1,000-$2,499)
Amanda and Scott Aranson
Alen Bellemare and Katrin da Silva
Jacqueline and Brett Browchuk
Caroline and Christopher Calio*
Jeffrey and Jessica Capone
Ann and Jim Carroll
Glenn and Deb Greenberg
Keith Griffin and Manuela Canales
Joshua and Tracey Grzelak
Doris and Roy Guenther
Ellen and Peter Gundersen
Susan and Paul Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. William Hastings
Nancy L. Johnson
Debra Karavias
Nancy and Robert Kennedy
Beverly Simpson Kathe
Eileen and Hal Kraus
Kara and Kevin Langan
Robert and Joanne Lockic
Janet and Charlie Lenore
Thomas and Hollice Lorch*
Costa and Athena Loukellis
Dr. and Mrs. William J. MacDonnell*
Edna and Peter Gundersen
Susan and Paul Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. William Hastings
Nancy L. Johnson
Debra Karavias
Nancy and Robert Kennedy
Beverly Simpson Kathe
Eileen and Hal Kraus
Kara and Kevin Langan
Robert and Joanne Lockic
Janet and Charlie Lenore
Thomas and Hollice Lorch*
Costa and Athena Loukellis
Dr. and Mrs. William J. MacDonnell*
Dak & Tim Matson
Tony and Leah Mohnnych
Matt and Meg Murphy
Tom and Natalie Pullard
Sandi and Michael Petrie
Barbara and Kevin Price
Jack and Mary Grace Reed
Christopher Reilly
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Riege**

**Supporters**
($250-$499)
Dr. Elizabeth Alligood
Elaine Anderson
Doug and Michelle Balsbough
David and Anne Barry
Jacques and Diana Bories
Matthew and Christine Bramberg
Mims Buttenworth
Shari and Michael Cantor
John and Lorri Chapman*
Heather and Mike Clifford
Brad and Bonnie Collins
Dr. Nancy M. DePalma
Kate and Rick Deurss
William and Susan Doran
Brian and Melissa Durren
Kate and Matt Dryer
Tom and Madelyn Filmeno
Paul and Lisa Finkenstein
Hildeg Fontanella
Dane Gedeon-Martin
Charles and Alena Gfeller
Gail and Herbert Glick
Roger and Deborah Goldsby
Blanche and Steven Goldenberg*
Lisa and Steve Hall
Greg and Karen Hammond
Charlie and Stephanie Hansell
George and Laura Hastings**
Beth and Tim Herrick*
Maraan and Bill Hewitt
Rebecca and Gary Holmes
Jodi Hutcheson
Alice Johansson
Joan and Zach Karas
Justin and Nicole Kappay
Kim Knox and Peter MacDonald
Jannine and Ed Leshem
Penny Lightner
Carolyn and Jonathan Linkov

*Donor to endowment fund
**Member, Builders for the Future

---

*Ball Photos by PowerStation Events*

---

*Ken Warren (c), President of the West Hartford Firefighters Association, Local 1241, offered guests the chance to bid on a child’s ride to school in a fire truck, as well as a basket of household fire safety items. Scot Haney, Channel 3 Meteorologist and Co-Host of Better Connecticut, and emcee of the gala for the 12th year, urged guests to bid lively.*

*The Bridge Family Center is very grateful to all of YOU—our supporters in fiscal year 2012!*
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 to date are:

Vicky Aldrich
Mrs. Sally H. Allen
John and Judy Bierly
Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Bonee
Dr. Tim and Karen Brown
Lori M. Budnick
Caroline and Christopher Calio
Edward and Kathleen Carr
John and Lorri Chapman
Michael and Peggy Genovesi
Blanche and Steven Goldenberg
Penni and Rich Grigoraitis
Harold and Lynne Hawkins
Beth and Tim Herrick
Helen M. Kemp and Lloyd Schaffhauser
Ilze Krisst
Thomas and Hallace Lorch

Dr. and Mrs. William A. MacDonnell
Ursula Marx
Edward and Barbara Molyneaux
Jeffrey and Gwen Olmstead
David O’Neill
Brewster and Judith Perkins
Joyce Procaccini
Eric and Martha Rennie
Beth and Mark Ryan
Brian R. Smith and Kim K.V. McClain
Mark and Elaine Walker
Matthew D. Walker
Mariah D. Walker
Judith S. Wawro
West Hartford Youth Basketball League
Allan Polack and Deborah Zipkin

Leadership Giving for Kids and Families

In addition to their grants through the Trust, Bob and Frankie provide leadership giving to the Bridge’s annual Friendship Campaign and are major sponsors of the Children’s Charity Ball. To encourage donations from others, they have twice made challenge grants to match new or increased gifts to the Bridge.

A successful businessman, Bob notes that “the Bridge is a fiscally sound, well-managed organization with strong leadership and dedicated staff and volunteers. It is committed to the well-being and healthy growth of young people in the community and works collaboratively to achieve those goals.”

Bob and Frankie know their gifts to the Bridge make a real difference in helping kids and families overcome challenges and turn their lives around. Please join them in supporting the Bridge to build a brighter future for our families and community.

Making a Difference for Our Children and Community

Over the years, generous community members have provided steadfast support for the Bridge’s mission of helping children and families to overcome life’s challenges and build fulfilling lives. Bob and Frankie Goldfarb exemplify the caring and generosity that help us to realize our vision of serving “Every family, every child, every time.”

“As West Hartford residents and parents involved in our children's education and activities, we were aware of the Bridge for many years,” relates Frankie. “But we got to know the Bridge in much more depth after our friend Ki Miller, a longtime board member, became a trustee of the charitable fund we created in memory of our daughter Ellen Jeanne,” who died suddenly during a European performance tour with the Hall High School jazz band in 1992. Through the Trust, Bob and Frankie have provided core support for the Bridge’s work with young people, especially at-risk middle- and high-school students.

“We have been impressed by the Bridge’s close work with the schools to develop programs and support groups that meet the needs of vulnerable students, keeping programs relevant, timely, and effective,” says Bob. From its inception, they have supported the West Hartford Teen Center operated by the Bridge to provide a safe, substance-free place for teens to call their own and receive guidance and mentoring.

Donor Profile: Robert and Francine Goldfarb

Making a Lasting Difference

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. Any size gift qualifies you for permanent membership.

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:

Lori M. Budnick
Margaret A. Hann
George C. Hastings
Emily W. Rankin
Sali G. Riege

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 giving to The Bridge Family Center Fund or joining Builders for the Future, please contact Martha Rennie, Director of Development, at (860) 521-8035 ext. 325 or martha@bridgefamilycenter.org. More information is available on our website, www.bridgefamilycenter.org.
# Income and Expenses - Year Ending June 30, 2012

## Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Govt.</td>
<td>6,203,609</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,203,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and Other</td>
<td>237,651</td>
<td></td>
<td>237,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees and other</td>
<td>361,084</td>
<td></td>
<td>361,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes</td>
<td></td>
<td>151,310</td>
<td>-151,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Contributions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations and Foundations</td>
<td>124,245</td>
<td></td>
<td>124,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>126,589</td>
<td></td>
<td>126,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Event</td>
<td>293,359</td>
<td></td>
<td>293,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>7,499,847</td>
<td>46,117</td>
<td>7,545,964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAR West Hartford</td>
<td>677,339</td>
<td></td>
<td>677,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Southington</td>
<td>678,125</td>
<td></td>
<td>678,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Manchester</td>
<td>677,509</td>
<td></td>
<td>677,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Harwinton</td>
<td>718,068</td>
<td></td>
<td>718,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Wolcott</td>
<td>713,350</td>
<td></td>
<td>713,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ.</td>
<td>573,351</td>
<td></td>
<td>573,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
<td>766,185</td>
<td></td>
<td>766,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Family Services</td>
<td>743,102</td>
<td></td>
<td>743,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Resource Center</td>
<td>481,379</td>
<td></td>
<td>481,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Housing Assistance Program</td>
<td>144,796</td>
<td></td>
<td>144,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Life Skills</td>
<td>87,518</td>
<td></td>
<td>87,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td>6,260,722</td>
<td>6,260,722</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>903,408</td>
<td></td>
<td>903,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>254,952</td>
<td></td>
<td>254,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td>1,158,360</td>
<td>1,158,360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>7,419,082</td>
<td>7,419,082</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Change in Net Assets

- Change in Net Assets: 80,765
- **NET ASSETS, beginning of the year**: 1,469,232
- **NET ASSETS, end of the year**: 1,549,997

## Net Assets

- **NET ASSETS, beginning of the year**: 1,469,232
- **NET ASSETS, end of the year**: 1,549,997

---

*Diagram: Income and Expenses for Year Ending June 30, 2012.*
Income and Expenses – Year Ending June 30, 2012

INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Govt.</td>
<td>6,203,609</td>
<td>6,203,609</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and Other</td>
<td>237,651</td>
<td>237,651</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees and other</td>
<td>361,084</td>
<td>361,084</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes</td>
<td>151,310</td>
<td>(151,310)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Contributions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations and Foundations</td>
<td>124,245</td>
<td>197,427</td>
<td>321,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>126,589</td>
<td>126,589</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Event</td>
<td>293,359</td>
<td>293,359</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>7,499,847</td>
<td>46,117</td>
<td>7,545,964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAR West Hartford</td>
<td>677,339</td>
<td>677,339</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Southington</td>
<td>678,125</td>
<td>678,125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Manchester</td>
<td>677,509</td>
<td>677,509</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Harwinton</td>
<td>718,068</td>
<td>718,068</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Wolcott</td>
<td>713,350</td>
<td>713,350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ.</td>
<td>573,351</td>
<td>573,351</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home</td>
<td>766,185</td>
<td>766,185</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Family Services</td>
<td>743,102</td>
<td>743,102</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Resource Center</td>
<td>481,379</td>
<td>481,379</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Housing Assistance Program</td>
<td>144,796</td>
<td>144,796</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Life Skills</td>
<td>87,518</td>
<td>87,518</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Services</td>
<td>6,260,722</td>
<td>6,260,722</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>903,408</td>
<td>903,408</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>254,952</td>
<td>254,952</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Supporting Services</td>
<td>1,158,360</td>
<td>1,158,360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>7,419,082</td>
<td>7,419,082</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>80,765</td>
<td>46,117</td>
<td>126,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, beginning of the year</td>
<td>1,469,232</td>
<td>38,570</td>
<td>1,507,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, end of the year</td>
<td>1,549,997</td>
<td>84,687</td>
<td>1,634,684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making a Lasting Difference

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. Any size gift qualifies you for permanent membership.

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:

- Lori M. Budnick
- Margaret A. Hann
- George C. Hastings
- Emily W. Rankin
- Sali G. Riege

The Bridge Family Center Fund

The Bridge is also pleased to recognize the generous donors to the Bridge Family Center Fund, our endowed 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 to date are:

- Vicky Aldrich
- Mr. and Mrs. Sally H. Allen
- John and Judy Bierly
- Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Bonee
- Dr. Tim and Karen Brown
- Lori M. Budnick
- Caroline and Christopher Calio
- Edward and Kathleen Carr
- John and Lorri Chapman
- Michael and Peggy Genovesi
- Blanche and Steven Goldenberg
- Penni and Rich Grigorasitis
- Harold and Lynne Hawkins
- Beth and Tim Herrick
- Helen M. Kemp and Lloyd Schaffhauser
- Ilze Krist
- Thomas and Hollace Lorch

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 giving to the Bridge Family Center Fund or joining Builders for the Future, please contact Martha Rennie, Director of Development, at (860) 521-8035 ext. 325 or martha@bridgefamilycenter.org. More information is available on our website, www.bridgefamilycenter.org.

Making a Difference for Our Children and Community

Over the years, generous community members have provided steadfast support for the Bridge's mission of helping children and families to overcome life's challenges and build fulfilling lives. Bob and Frankie Goldfarb exemplify the caring and generosity that help us to realize our vision of serving "Every family, every child, every time."

"As West Hartford residents and parents involved in our children's education and activities, we were aware of the Bridge for many years," relates Frankie. "But we got to know the Bridge in much more depth after our friend Ki Miller, a longtime board member, became a trustee of the charitable fund we created in memory of our daughter Ellen Jeanne," who died suddenly during a European performance tour with the Hall High School jazz band in 1992. Through the Trust, Bob and Frankie have provided core support for the Bridge's work with young people, especially at-risk middle- and high-school students.

"We have been impressed by the Bridge's close work with the schools to develop programs and support groups that meet the needs of vulnerable students, keeping programs relevant, timely, and effective," says Bob. From its inception, they have supported the West Hartford Teen Center operated by the Bridge to provide a safe, substance-free place for teens to call their own and receive guidance and mentoring.

Leadership Giving for Kids and Families

In addition to their grants through the Trust, Bob and Frankie provide leadership giving to the Bridge's annual Friendship Campaign and are major sponsors of the Children's Charity Ball. To encourage donations from others, they have twice made challenge grants to match new or increased gifts to the Bridge.

A successful businessman, Bob notes that "the Bridge is a fiscally sound, well-managed organization with strong leadership and dedicated staff and volunteers. It is committed to the well-being and healthy growth of young people in the community and works collaboratively to achieve those goals."

Bob and Frankie know their gifts to the Bridge make a real difference in helping kids and families overcome challenges and turn their lives around. Please join them in supporting the Bridge to build a brighter future for our families and community.
The Bridge Family Center is very grateful to all of YOU—our supporters in fiscal year 2012!

**Hero**
($100,000+)
Debbie and Tom McInerney

**Champions**
($5,000-$9,999)
Michael and Diane Dumas
Robert and Francine Goldfarb
Kiri and Tuck Miller
Sean and Cara Moynan

**Leaders**
($2,500-$4,999)
John and Judy Berly*
Patricia Bowen and Stan Guzek
Lori Budnick**
Robert J. Burke
Paul and Mary Butler
Richard and Elaine Carland
John and Suzanne DelSimone
Robert and Dawn Koff
Elizabeth Schiro and Stephen Bayer
Brian R. Smith and Kim K.V. McClain*

**Bridge Builders**
($1,000-$2,499)
Amanda and Scott Aronson
Alan Bellemare and Katrin da Silva
Jacqueline and Brett Bouchuk
Caroline and Christopher Calos* Jeffrey and Jessica Capone
Anne and Jim Carroll
Alan and Carol Connie
Bill and Susan Crowe
Mary Kay and Andy Curtiss
Sharon and Fred Dalton
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Driscoll
Amanda Likens and Tim Floyd
Mary and Dick Froeb
Peter and Cynthia Gutermann
Margaret and Bill Hawe**
Robert and Deborah Katz
Doug and Lynne Knight
Robert and Tamara Laurise
Jane Lehman and Matt Winter
Stephanie and Gail Lowe
Kristin and Chris Magendanz
Ann and Tim Mahoney
Brewster and Judith Perkins*

**Sustainers**
($500-$999)
Janet M. Ballif
Melanie and Carlos Ballestas
Monica and Dennis Biggaard
Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Bonee*
Lisa Bangiari
Cynthia and Scott Brown
Judith and Chris Corsin
Judith and Ollie Casparson
Mr. John A. Crane
Paolo and Michele Dal Cin
Tammy and Earl Exum
Timothy French
Bobbie and Glana Gary
Wayne and Suzanne Gufrida
Glen and Deb Greenberg
Keith Griffin and Manuela Canales
Joshua and Tracey Grzelak
Dori and Gay Guenther
Ellen and Peter Gundersen
Susan and Paul Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. William Hastings
Nancy L. Johnson
Debra Karavias
Nancy and Robert Kennedy
Beverly Simpson Kathe
Eileen and Hal Kraus
Kara and Kevin Langan
Robert and Joanne Lockic
Janet and Charlie Lenore
Thomas and Hollace Lorch*
Costa and Athena Loukellis
Dr. and Mrs. William J. MacDonnell
Dbbie and Tim Matson
Tony and Leah Melnyk
Matt and Meg Murphy
Tom and Natalie Pullen
Sandi and Michael Petrie
Barbara and Kevin Price
Jack and Mary Grace Reed
Christopher Reilly
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Riegel**

**Supporters**
($250-$499)
Dr. Elizabeth Alligood
Elaine Anderson
Daug and Michelle Balsbaugh
David and Anne Barry
Jacques and Diana Bories
Matthew and Christine Bramberg
Mims Buttenworth
Shari and Michael Cantor
John and Lorri Chapman*
Heather and Mike Clifford
Brad and Bonnie Collins
Dr. Nancy M. DePalma
Kata and Rick Deurloo
William and Susan Doran
Brian and Melissa Dupere
Kata and Matt Dryer
Tom and Madelyn Flomano
Paul and Lisa Finklestein
Hilsee Fontanilla Diane Gledson-Martin
Charles and Alena Geller
Gail and Herbert Glick
Roger and Deborah Goldbed
Blanche and Steven Goldenberg*
Lisa and Steve Hall
Greg and Karen Hammond
Charlie and Stephanie Hansell
George and Laura Hastings**
Beth and Tim Herrick*
Maran and Bill Hewitt
Rebecca and Gary Holmes
Jodi Hutchison
Alissa Johanson
Joan and Zach Karas
Justin and Nicole Keggy
Kim Kniss and Peter Macdonald
Jannine and Ed Leshem
Penny Lightner
Carolyn and Jonathan Linkov

Both and Mark Ryan*
Ellen and Clem Sayers
Wanda Schulman and Harold Binderman
Patrick and Sherr Thompson
Anne Tilden
Mark and Ava Torello
George Weiss
Harnett S. Webster

*
Donor to endowment fund

**Member, Builders for the Future

Kerry Warren (c.), President of the West Hartford Firefighters Association, Local 1241, offered guests the chance to bid on a child’s ride to school in a fire truck, as well as a basket of household fire safety items. Scot Haney, Channel 3 Meteorologist and Co-Host of Better Connecticut, and emcee of the gala for the 12th year, urged guests to bid lively.

Bridge executive director Margaret Hann and her husband, Bill.
Jessica Capone is excited about the bidding in the Live Auction.

The bidding gets lively in the Changing Lives Challenge. Guests were given the opportunity to raise their paddles to support Bridge programs for children and families in amounts ranging from $5,000 to $100.

Drs. Wendy and Tom Miller
Pascale and Michael Lean enjoy dancing to Shaded Soul.

Dick Fair, Vice President of Customer Service at Pratt & Whitney, the Presenting Sponsor of the Children’s Charity Ball, and his wife, Wendy Fair.
Another New Record at Our 14th Annual Children’s Charity Ball

Butterflies filled the air at the Hartford Golf Club as 380 guests gathered for the Children’s Charity Ball on January 19, 2013. The theme for the gala was “Let the Sunshine In”—what we try to do in the lives of the children and families we serve. The golf club was decorated in shades of yellow, gold, and coral.

In spite of challenging economic times, the community was incredibly generous. The entire event with ticket sales, silent and live auctions, the Changing Lives Challenge, a raffle, and a pick-a-flower/win-a-prize table netted more than $227,000 for Bridge services for children, youth, and families in West Hartford, the Greater Hartford area, and beyond. The Bridge is grateful to a committed and creative group of women and men.

Thank you, Generous Donors

Ellen and Peter Zeman
Judi and Neil Zipkin

Friends

(350-$99)

Ray and Barbara Andrews
Anonymous
Carolyn Arvidson
Karen and Jim Bachman
Andrew G. Baldassare
Diane and Joann Balistas
Dan, Missy and Jack Rebussi
Brenda and Harry Bellucci
Dr. David A. J. Belman
Christopher Bohrer
Joy and Mary Boucher
Tim and Patty Buckley
David and Barbara Bush
Taylor and Kitty Cahill
Kimberly Calascusa
Zena and Alan Carp
David L. Clay
Dennis and Dinah Coleman
Marty and Ginny Connors
Ronald E. Coons
Jim and Lois Dailey
Jeannette and Daniel Dardenne
Jeannie Doerr
Elana and Ofer Doron
David and Deborah Downs
Robin Drago-Provencher
Darkene Dunbar and Carol Bazena
Mona C. Duquette
Janice and Sydney Elkin
Dana Eriksen
Laura Freeman
Dr. Dori Gatter
Catherine Geary
Mary Anne and M. Alex Geertsma
Catherine M. Conlin
Sheila Cohen
Catherine M. Corlin
Kathleen and John Coyle
Larry and Allen Currier
Virginia Cushing
Debra Dean-Ciriani
Shellen Coyle
Rev. Peter and Jeanne Grandy
Ana Gomez
Erin Geary
Janet Fornier
Kelley Flammia
Nidia Figeroa
Mary Fay
Wendy and Dick Fair
Mary Fay
Hantart Felsonfeld, M.D.
Julia Rosenblum and Leonard Felson
Nidia Figueroa
Kelley Flammia
Janet Forner
Erin Geary
Carol Ann Gershenson
Ana Gomez
Rev. Peter and Jeanne Grandy
Penni and Rich Grigoraitis

Other Contributors

Marilyn Adams
Mrs. Sally H. Allen*
Anonymous
Barbara Arons
Olga Ayala-Meyers
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Bargon
Paul and Virginia Blanch
Erica Bloch and Mark Hams
Rennie and Peter Blum
Jean and Jeanette Bonée
Chip and Betsy Booth
Mark Boudreau
Jeanie and Chris Brewer
Margaret F. Buck
Ann Burke
Jean M. Burke
Barbara Cambria
Alyce E. Cassia
Ralph D. Brathwaite and Susan Corta
Gary Cesco
Jean and Leon Chamieides
Douglas Chilton
Kathleen D. Cisney
The Reverend Jan K. Nielsen
Margaret Farrell O’Keefe
Beth and Dan Papamaster
Nancy R. Phelan
Cruger and Ralph Phillips
Bruce Puttemann and Teri Bayer
Patricia and Lewis Rabonovitz
Connie Reder
Preston Reed
Helen and Dave Rees
Michael and Lucy Rister
Marlene Santa Domingo
Rev. Thomas J. Sas
Helen and Henry Savage
Norma H. Schatz
Richard and Jeannamarie Shea
Alyse and Jay Sicklick
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Silver
Claudia George Skarvinko
Deborah Slater and Brad Witte
Andrew and Sandra Stern
Anne P. Streeter
Steve and Ann Marie Tarter
Peter Doelger and Nancy Traut
Gary H. Tyler
Michael Warnik
Dick and Barbara Waskum
Jasmin and Michael Wasta
Judith S. Wayrow*
Marg and Jim Weaver
Dr. David L. Wel
Francene and Jeremy Weingast

*Donor to endowment fund
**Member, Builders for the Future

Put next year’s date on your calendar: Saturday, January 18, 2014.
**Member, Builders for the Future**

- Demetria Wright
- Charles and Justine Wolgemuth
- Laureen A. Williams
- Jennifer and Steven Whitman
- Kyle Vitale
- Jack Taggard
- Audrey Sobel
- Patricia Smith
- Ronit and Scott Shoham
- Jane and Ed Shaskan
- Deanne Shapiro and Ted Diesenhaus
- Gale and Larry Shapiro
- Michelle A. Salerno Sigman and MaryBeth Serdechny
- Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Rothschild
- Helen Roth
- Lisa Renfro
- Karen Reich
- Casey and Joseph Power
- Douglas Pinsky
- Jo Pearson
- Karen Reich
- Kevin Sigman

**Honorary Gifts**

- Monica Bisgaard’s Birthday
  by Steven and Patricia Kelmar

- The Children of Friends and Family:
  by Robert and Beverly Freeman

**Memorial Gifts**

- Tom Adelman
  by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Bargan

**In-kind Donations**

- Joe Furey

The CBLS participants are offered incentives to continue the program—$12.37 for each class attended (60% of the 2011 minimum wage) and a $125 stipend paid when they successfully complete the program and graduate.

After graduation from CBLS, the young people follow different paths. Many pursue post-secondary education—vocational school, community college, or a university. Some stay successfully in foster homes, some move on to independent living, and those in failed foster homes may go to a group home.

Some CBLS graduates transition into the Bridge’s Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP). Begun in 1996, this supervised scattered-site apartment program for DCF youths 17 years and older provides support and guidance on the final step to independent, responsible adulthood. Bryan Block, the director of the Bridge’s Independent Living Program (includes CBLS and CHAP), talks to the young people who are graduating from the life skills program about CHAP apartments. Skill development begun in CBLS is put into practice, and the young people begin to put down roots in a community. Full-time education, part-time work, and regular savings are integral to the program. There are currently 37 young people in our CHAP apartments.
Since 1988, the Bridge Family Center has offered Community Based Life Skills (CBLS) to teens 15 to 19 years old who live in foster homes and are in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). CBLS helps them to prepare for independent living as they age out of the DCF system.

Each year, the Bridge offers two CBLS sessions with 10 students each. Each session consists of 25 classes and 80 hours of classroom instruction. Each participant is assigned to a life skills instructor and receives 10-30 hours of individual instruction as well, depending on need.

The CBLS program has many components—a core curriculum, a community awareness segment, group work, and individualized instruction. The core curriculum, taught by life skills instructor Nicole Rafala, focuses on both tangible and intangible life skills. Topics covered include social relationships, goal-setting, career planning, smart shopping, transportation, nutrition, and much more. Students are given a community resource guide, and guest speakers from community agencies such as Planned Parenthood provide useful information and serve as contacts for youth.

Field trips are an important part of CBLS. Young people in the fall session went grocery shopping on a budget to Stop & Shop and prepared a group meal. They visited Manchester Community College, Manchester Police Department, and other community sites. Recreation is also integral to the program. The teens go on three one-day activities in each session—hiking on Talcott Mountain, canoeing at the DCF Wilderness School, and bowling.

The emphasis on both self-reliance and community resources encourages the participants to begin assuming responsibility for managing their own lives and helps reduce the isolation they may feel. Group discussions provide the opportunity to discuss their experiences and fears about going out on their own. Peer support helps relieve anxiety as the young people prepare for independence.

Comments on CBLS Evaluation Forms

Selena P.: “I like the big group and knowing everyone around you has something in common.”

Evelyn P.: “I liked meeting new friends. We learned how to manage our own apartment and about saving money.”

Santhalee D.: “This program was very helpful especially college wise. It was helpful to me in deciding what school I wanted to attend.”

Sazshae M.: “I learned so much to get me prepared for my future.”

Two CBLS participants enjoy socializing at a bowling outing.
Family Resource Center began operations in 1991 at the Charter Oak International Academy. It later expanded to Smith School and offers programs at several other West Hartford elementary schools. The FRC offers early learning playgroups for preschool children and their parents or caregivers, home visits to monitor child development, after-school enrichment programs, and other special activities. Under the direction of Deborah Zipkin, the FRC was designated as a national model by the Edward Zigler Center for Child Development and Social Policy and gained recognition as one of the best ten schools for early childhood development in the country. Deborah is frequently asked to serve as a consultant to other towns with fledgling FRCs and has given presentations about school-based family support programs at several national conferences.

In January, I went to visit our SAIL kindergarten group during snack time,” said Deborah Zipkin, director of the FRC. “I was sitting at their table, and the kids were very excited about sharing how they spent their time during the winter break. Lilly announced that she hated the holidays. There was actually a shocked silence at the snack table. Then six little voices said ‘Why?’ and Lilly said, ‘Because I couldn’t go to school or to SAIL’.” Barbara said, “She loves school, and her teachers say she is a fantastic little girl. She’s happy.”

“But then,” said Kim Townsend, “here in March, more than three years after our first meeting, Lilly eagerly arrives at school each day, happy to learn and greet her friends with hugs. Barbara’s perseverance has paid off, and Lilly is thriving at school. She often peaks in the FRC window at dismissal and shouts ‘I love you’ and runs off. This beautiful little girl has a devoted grandmother who has done everything in her power to give her a bright and healthy future.”
A Grandmother Raising Her Granddaughter

The Bridge’s Family Resource Center Offers Support

Barbara has been caring for her 5-year-old granddaughter, Lilly, since she was 6 months old. “It’s hard,” said Barbara. “I’m going on 75 years old.” Lilly’s mother has ongoing issues and is unable to care for Lilly. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is involved with the family, and there are many challenges. Though other family members are involved, Barbara is Lilly’s primary caregiver and advocate.

For a few years, Barbara was home alone with Lilly. She heard about the Bridge’s Family Resource Center (FRC) at Charter Oak School through another grandmother caring for her grandchildren. Barbara started taking Lilly to the FRC’s early learning playgroups (for children ages birth to 4 and a parent/caregiver) when she was 2½.

“I had difficulty socializing with her peers at first and could not control herself to sit at circle time,” said Kim Townsend, a parent educator at the FRC. “In fact, many times, Barbara had to leave because Lilly was disruptive and complaining that she did not like the noise (singing).” Barbara considered not returning, but having DCF involved with her family, she knew attending was important on many levels. She persisted in going to playgroups, and eventually Lilly was able to participate in all of the activities.

“The group did so much for her,” said Barbara. “FRC staff members do wonderful work with children. I could bring her here and she was occupied with things to do, and I learned what to do with her at home. The staff worked with me and helped me out. I feel better, and I’m more relaxed.”

Barbara has participated in many other programs at the FRC. She joined the Grandparents’ Wisdom Circle, a bi-weekly support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren. She has attended Family Academy and participated in Pizza and Parenting workshops and the Raising Readers program. Kim paid monthly visits to her home to help with her care of Lilly.

Because Lilly did not go to preschool, she was invited to participate last summer in 1,2,3 Read With Me, a program for children entering kindergarten in the fall. Now that she is in kindergarten, she also attends SAIL.

Joe Barbino
Barcelona Wine Bar & Restaurant
Dawn and Eric Batchelder
Megan Baumgartner
John Bayley
Stephen Benedetto
Jill Berquist, DCC, Executive Career Coach
Better Connecticut – WFSB
John and Judy Berly
Big Y Foods, Inc.
Birch Papery
bk&c
Black Bamboo
Bis, West Hartford
Bryan Block
Blue Back Square
Bobs Discount Furniture
Body Talk
Steve and Kenny Boyle, 24-1 Sports, LLC
Bristol Middle School PTO
Cynthia and Scott Brown
Mary and Paul Butler
Butterfly Releases by S
Cafe Louise
California Clusters
California Pizza Kitchen
Shan and Michael Chan
Mary Carangelo
Carbonelli’s Kitchen
Elaine and Richard Carland
Center Framing & Art
Central Optica Optical Salon
Central Wheat
Cheesecake Factory
Children’s Charity Ball Committee
Children’s Museum
Giovanni Cinarni and Debrae Cinarni
The Clayton
Heather and Mike Clifford
Comina, Inc.
Comix of Farmwods
Connecticut Science Center
Dr. and Mrs. William Conrad
Joan Cooney
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart T. Cooper
Cork ‘N Bottle
The Corner Pub
The Counter - Custom Built Burger
CT Beverage Mart
Cummings & Lockwood LLC
Laury and Allen Currier
Joanna Curry-Sartori
Custom Framing Depot
Cynthia Lang Photography
da Capa Ristorante Italiani
Dasani Clothes
Man Delroche
Matthew Dicks
DISH Restaurant Group
Pat Doherty
Elana and Ofer Doren
Dr. and Mrs. James E. Dougherty
Robin Drago
DRC FM, 102.9 and the Talk of Connecticut, WDRC AM 1360
Eastern Mountain Sports
Elbow Room
Electrolysis of West Hartford
Elizabeth Grady
Olivia Engel
Earl and Tammy Exum
Esquire Cleaners
Mary Ellen Fiege
Hilade Fontanella
Frame Dimensions
Fred Astaire Dance Studio
French Cleaners
Jenni Ford
Fringes Hairworks
Mary and Dick Freab
Gangetic Design
Michael and Peggy Genovesi
Lisa Gobrann
Grants/Brisco
Green Mountain Coffee
Fred Astaire Dance Studio
French Cleaners
Jenni Ford
Fringes Hairworks
Mary and Dick Freab
Ganetic Design
Michael and Peggy Genovesi
Lisa Gobrann
Grants/Brisco
Green Mountain Coffee
"In memory of Kristine B. Guest"
Cynthia and Peter Guillemann
Lisa Hall
Harpoon Brewery
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
Harry’s Bistro Corner
Harry’s Pizza - Wethersfield
Hartford Golf Club
Harvey & Lewis Opticians
Hill-Stead Museum
Lora Hobson
Republic and Gary Holmes
Hope and Stetson
Elanor Horr
Hoya and Hubert Design
Lisa Hughes
IRIS Photography LLC
Dolores and Vincent Jaeger
JAG Products, LLC
Lynn Jimenez
Margaret Johnson
Richard Johnson, Custom Printing & Copy, Inc.
Joan Konas
Nancy and Bob Kennedy
Ken’s Corner Glastonbury
Kiddie’s Children’s Museum
Kiddie’s Winks
Kimberly Boutique
King Philip Middle School PTO
Sarah Krall
La Petite France
Larrazel Home
Lake Compounce
Kara and Kevin Langan
LaPerla
LCS Real Estate Service
Naom Lemer
Karen List
Penny Lightner
Roger Lebo
Carol and Thomas Lorenzo
Low Tides Photography
Gail Lowe
Lox & Stock & Bagel Inc.
Lux Bond and Green
Lyn Evans for Potpourri Designs
Margie and William MacDonnell
Kristin and Chris Magendantz
Maneeley’s Catering
Marc’s Appliance Warehouse, LLC
Gretchen Martin
Matthew Phillips Salon
Max’s Oyster Bar
Debbie McNemey
McLaddens Irish Public House
Meat House
Malley Nelson Design
Dr. and Mrs. Jose P. Mendoza
Shelley Mendoza
Metlife Resources
Metro Bistro Restaurant
Jane Melanson
Ki and Tuck Miller
Milar Music LLC
Mohegan Sun
MooYah Burgers, Fries & Shakes
Mount Southington Ski Area
Kelly Murphy
Music Together of W.H. & Farmington Valley
My Secret Garden
Mythic Seaport
This year, I have made a point of spending more time with the young people in our residential programs, with our Teen Center kids, and visiting our Family Resource Center programs. I needed to bring myself closer to the heart of the Bridge mission—to witness our work first hand on a deeper level. As Executive Director of the Bridge, I am immersed in our work every day on varying levels, but I needed more.

Our children and families are the center of our work. By eating dinner with the young people in our STAR (Short-Term Assessment & Respite) programs and group home, I was able to witness hope and joy in the kids despite their traumatic circumstances. Our Family Resource Center programs support children and families through numerous school-based programs. The Bridge Outpatient Clinic helps children and families through the darkness and into the light so that they can get back to the business of living.

I am privileged to be able to witness our work up close. I am inspired by the strength of the families we serve, the resolve of the young residents in our programs, and the never ending smiles of the children.

As you read this year’s annual report, I hope you are inspired as well. We are so thankful to have the support of our generous donors, board of directors, volunteers and staff. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support.

Very truly,

Margaret A. Hann
Executive Director
The Bridge in a Nutshell

The Mission of the Bridge Family Center is to foster the courage and strength in children and families to meet life’s challenges and build fulfilling lives.

• Founded in 1969, the Bridge Family Center, Inc., based in West Hartford, is a comprehensive, regional nonprofit agency that provides a broad range of services for children and families throughout the Greater Hartford area.

• The Bridge offers child and family counseling; intervention in times of crisis; prevention programs; supervised after-school alternatives for children and teens; personal development programs for parents, children, and youth; shelter for homeless youth; and assistance with the transition from youth to adulthood.

• The Bridge is recognized as a leader in bringing the community together to assess issues and needs, and plans, coordinates, delivers and evaluates services in a cost-effective manner.

• Last year the Bridge Family Center served more than 8,250 young people and families.

• The Bridge’s annual budget is $7.6 million. Our services are funded by private donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations; the Town of West Hartford; the State of Connecticut Departments of Children and Families (DCF) and Education.

• The Bridge is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 16 individuals from West Hartford and the Greater Hartford community.

• 198 staff members (88 full-time and 110 part-time) carry out the programs and services of the Bridge. Of our employees, 57% are people of color, and 80% are female.

• More than 175 volunteers assist staff.

Board of Directors

Officers
Robert D. Laurie
President
Mary K. Butler
Vice President
Melanie Ballestas
Treasurer
Robert J. Burke
Secretary

Members
Veronica A. Badiola
Patricia Bowen
Caroline Demirs Calio
Jeffrey J. Capone
John DeSimone
Jason Goddard, Esq.
Susan I. Hamilton
Thomas F.X. Hodson
Benjamin E. Kehl
Jane E. Lehman
Brian R. Smith
Felicia M. Wilion, M.D.

Margaret A. Hann
Executive Director
Hildene Fontanella
Director of Finance and Administration
Martha L. Rennie
Director of Development
Amy Raider
Director of Human Resources
Judy Bierly
Director of Community Services
Michael Rulnick
Director of Residential Services
Patricia Tyler
Director of Youth and Family Services
Deborah Zipkin
Director of Family Resource Centers
Bryan Block
Director of Independent Living Program

Staff Directors

Margaret A. Hann
Executive Director
Hildene Fontanella
Director of Finance and Administration
Martha L. Rennie
Director of Development
Amy Raider
Director of Human Resources
Judy Bierly
Director of Community Services
Michael Rulnick
Director of Residential Services
Patricia Tyler
Director of Youth and Family Services
Deborah Zipkin
Director of Family Resource Centers
Bryan Block
Director of Independent Living Program