

Finding a Way

ANNUAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2020



THE
BRIDGE
FAMILY CENTER

OUR DEDICATED TEAM

Nearly 170 people are employed by the Bridge Family Center. Youth workers, nurses, mentors, therapists, parent educators, program directors and many more are on the front lines of our work every day. A strong leadership team and engaged Board of Directors support them and steer our course. We thank our entire team for their tireless commitment to the children, adults and families in our community.

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Director of Finance & Administration

Doreen Tarascio
Director of Development and Communications

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- Michael Rulnick
Director of Residential Services

Deborah Zipkin
Director of Family Resource Center

Bryan Block
Director of Independent Living Program

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“When your passion and purpose are greater than your fears and excuses, you will find a way.”

Sagar Bhagat

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

Finding a Way

A year in the life of a global pandemic – not anything any one of us ever imagined! It was a year filled with uncertainty, fear, and disruption. Yet, innovation, perseverance, and determination also dominated our days, weeks, and months. These are the silver linings of the pandemic that enabled us to meet the ever-evolving needs of our children and families.

As we adjusted to social distancing, new work environments, and a multitude of changes in our daily lives, one constant remained – our commitment to our children and families. It is the touchstone that guided our work and directed our actions. Our core beliefs were reaffirmed each time we found ourselves wavering or overwhelmed by the logistical and emotional hurdles we faced.



Margaret A. Hann, Executive Director

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.

Finding a way meant staying connected to our children and families. Our work is driven through personal interactions. When social distancing hindered our ability to be together, we adopted new practices, implemented new procedures, and ensured we were here for those who needed us the most.

Finding a way meant Circle Time over a screen for our little ones and their caregivers, counseling sessions quickly moving from in-person appointments to Telehealth, and virtual visits with our

Independent Living Programs clients. We found a way through FaceTime with children who used our school-based counseling services, Zoom groups with Teen Center participants, and karaoke contests and game nights with the young men and women in our shelters.

We were able to find a way because of you. Our donors, community leaders, and advocates responded generously, compassionately, and with a strong conviction that our programs and services are vital to the health and well-being of our children and families. 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

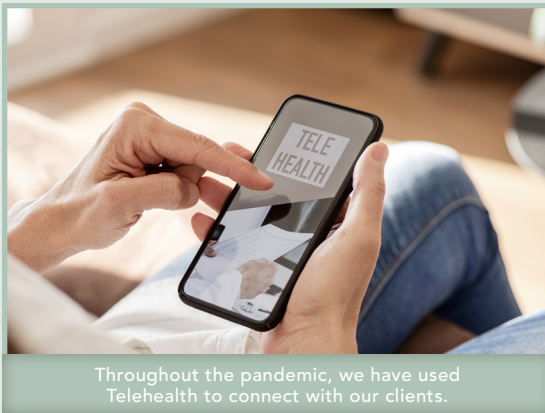


*“We do not give up easily.
We work hard to find a way.
We make it happen.”*

– Margaret Hann, Executive Director

Supporting Children & Families Through a Pandemic

The pandemic has impacted the way our children and families live, learn, work, and connect. While all of the disruptions to daily living have been challenging, the feeling of isolation has been especially difficult. We knew from the onset of the pandemic that remaining in close contact and creating virtual opportunities would be vital to the mental and physical well-being of our children and families. Following are just a few of the innovative and creative ways we met this need:



Throughout the pandemic, we have used Telehealth to connect with our clients.

Counseling Centers - Within a week of the local outbreak of the virus, we quickly and efficiently shifted our counseling sessions from in-person appointments to “meeting” through Telehealth using a variety of technologies including smart phones, iPads, or computers. As the weeks and months wore on, we began to see more and more children, adults, teens, and families in desperate need of our therapy services. Being able to offer Telehealth provided a lifeline to those who were struggling with acute issues of anxiety, depression, and a number of other mental health issues.

Family Resource Centers -

Our Family Resource Center, located within the Charter Oak International Academy, closed when the West Hartford schools closed. However, we remained in touch with our little ones and their families through phone calls, e-mails, and social media. Virtual play groups and story time created a sense of togetherness and socialization. Engaging toddlers through a computer screen was an interesting and, at times, a challenging experience. When the weather improved, we moved these activities to outside adventures in local parks. In addition to providing support through personal touchpoints, the FRC helped many families by distributing gift cards to cover basic needs and daily living expenses.



A 1,2,3 Read with Me participant enjoys outdoor arts & crafts

School Counseling & Teen Center

Although we were unable to meet with our kids at their schools, we remain connected with children and teens in our counseling and mentoring services through Telehealth platforms. Not going to school, changes in sleeping patterns, little to no interaction with friends or in extracurricular activities negatively impacted many children and teenagers. Since these children are especially vulnerable, frequent check-ins to monitor emotions and behaviors were essential. Similarly, we were in regular contact with Teen Center attendees and offered video games, a fitness challenge, and a book club through virtual groups. With the arrival of warmer weather, our Teen Center attendees headed outside for basketball and soccer games, hikes, and field trips.



A Wellness Wednesday message from some of our teens.



A young woman in our Independent Living Program meets with her case manager

Residential and Independent Living Programs -

All of our shelters remained open throughout the pandemic with best practices to mitigate the spread of the virus in place. Just like in your families, our kids experienced feelings of isolation and staff creatively engaged them in safe, socially-distanced movie nights and karaoke contests. Through phone calls, texts, face time, and even playing virtual video games, caseworkers met with their clients in our Independent Living Programs to evaluate each individual's response to the crisis and provide support as necessary.

Emergency Family Fund - Knowing our families would need financial help throughout the pandemic, we created a special Emergency Family Fund to help purchase grocery store or credit card gift cards to assist with buying food, paying bills and covering other living expenses. The fund was generously supported through several individual donations, a Food Drive conducted by Connecticut Wealth Management, and Doug Hoskins' triathlon fundraiser.



A successful Connecticut Wealth Management Food Drive!

Bob & Debbie Katz and Rob & Dawn Koff

Impacting the Lives of Children and Families



L-R: Debbie and Bob Katz and Rob and Dawn Koff enjoy the Children's Charity Ball

Just over a decade ago, Rob Koff and Bob Katz, DMD, became acquainted with the Bridge. As the business partners and friends learned more about our vital programs and services, they soon found an ideal home for their charitable giving and support.

Rob and Bob first assisted the Bridge with finding and managing properties for our residential programs. While their partnership with the Bridge began with a business transaction, over the years it has grown much more personal and now involves their wives and friends.

"Seeing all the great work the Bridge does for kids who have experienced so much trauma in their short lives, I knew this was a place I needed to support. That decision has been validated many times through the Bridge's relentless helping of children and families in our community," relates Rob. Today, Rob and his wife, Dawn, are members of our Leadership Circle and hold a special place in their hearts for the teens living in our shelters. For the past several years, they have made sure these kids enjoy the holidays through their generous giving.

Bob says, "The Bridge is an incredible place with a mission that just draws you in. We knew about the residential program but were surprised to learn how multifaceted the organization is. The more we saw of the work of the Bridge, the more we became involved." In addition to being members of the Leadership Circle, Bob's wife, Debbie, has often prepared delicious home-made meals for the teens in our shelters. At the start of the pandemic, Bob was instrumental in providing the Bridge with much-needed personal protective equipment for the staff.

In 2019, the couples served as Honorary Chairs of our Children's Charity Ball helping to raise over \$230,000 to sustain and enhance our programs. We are so grateful for the many ways Rob, Dawn, Bob and Debbie have supported our children and families. Rob noted, "I look forward to a long future of supporting the Bridge and watching all the amazing things they do for others." All of us at the Bridge look forward to that too!

*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



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.

MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE ARE:

Deanna and Peter Appleton
Amanda and Scott Aronson*
Verónica and Carlos Badiola*
John and Judy Bierly*
Robert and Dorothy Bouvier
Trish Bowen and Stan Guzek*
Robert and Barbara Burke*
Paul and Mary Butler*
Jeff and Jessica Capone*
Anne and Jim Carroll*
Kathy and Curt Christensen
Kathryn and Stephen Deane
Dr. Nancy M. DePalma
Thomas Driscoll and Patricia Teufel*
Barbara Foley and Tim Floyd
Mary and Dick Froeb*
Tony and Laura Giannone*
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Susan and Paul Hamilton
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Robert and Jennifer King
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Kara and Kevin Langan*
Robert and Tamara Laurie*
Amanda and Michael Layden
Dr. Karen L. List
Gail and Steve Lowe
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William A. MacDonnell, D.D.S.
Kristin and Christopher Magendantz*
Bill and Lauri McCarthy
Ki Miller*
Kimberly and Peter Moster
Peter and Elaine Nigro
Brewster and Judith Perkins
Peter and Chris Peterson
Eric and Martha Rennie*
Stephen J. Repka, II
Viviann and Jon Rubin
Ellen and Clem Sayers*
Brian R. Smith and Kim K.V. McClain*
Dick and Cheri Stabnick*
Sherri and Patrick Thompson
Felicia Wilion and Jay Frankel

* Charter Member

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

Builders for the Future

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

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

*New member ^ Deceased

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

The Bridge Family Center Fund

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

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

* New contributor

Suzanne Gates*
Dick and Beverly Hughes
Diana MacPherson and Robert Farr
Jonathan and Bev Seymour*
Brian R. Smith and Kim K.V. McClain
Frank R. Sterpka, Jr.

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, 2020 | The Bridge Family Center, Inc.

INCOME

REVENUE

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Government	6,283,808		6,283,808
Local and Other	258,105		258,105
Program Fees and Other	860,582		860,582

Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes	59,176	(59,176)	0
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CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Corporations and Foundations	159,536	184,070	343,606
Individuals	197,947		197,947
Special Event	294,263		294,263

TOTAL INCOME	8,113,417	124,894	8,238,311
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EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

STAR West Hartford	672,168		672,168
STAR Southington	631,163		631,163
STAR Harwinton	699,202		699,202
STAR Wolcott	777,895		777,895
Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ.	745,269		745,269
Therapeutic Group Home	866,670		866,670
Youth and Family Services	347,647		347,647
Outpatient Clinics	1,048,225		1,048,225
Family Resource Center	338,252		338,252
Community Housing Assistance Program	305,602		305,602
Youth in Transition	50,237		50,237
Basic Center	49,792		49,792
Community Based Life Skills	36,111		36,111

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	6,568,233		6,568,233
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SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General	1,159,408		1,159,408
Fundraising	315,811		315,811

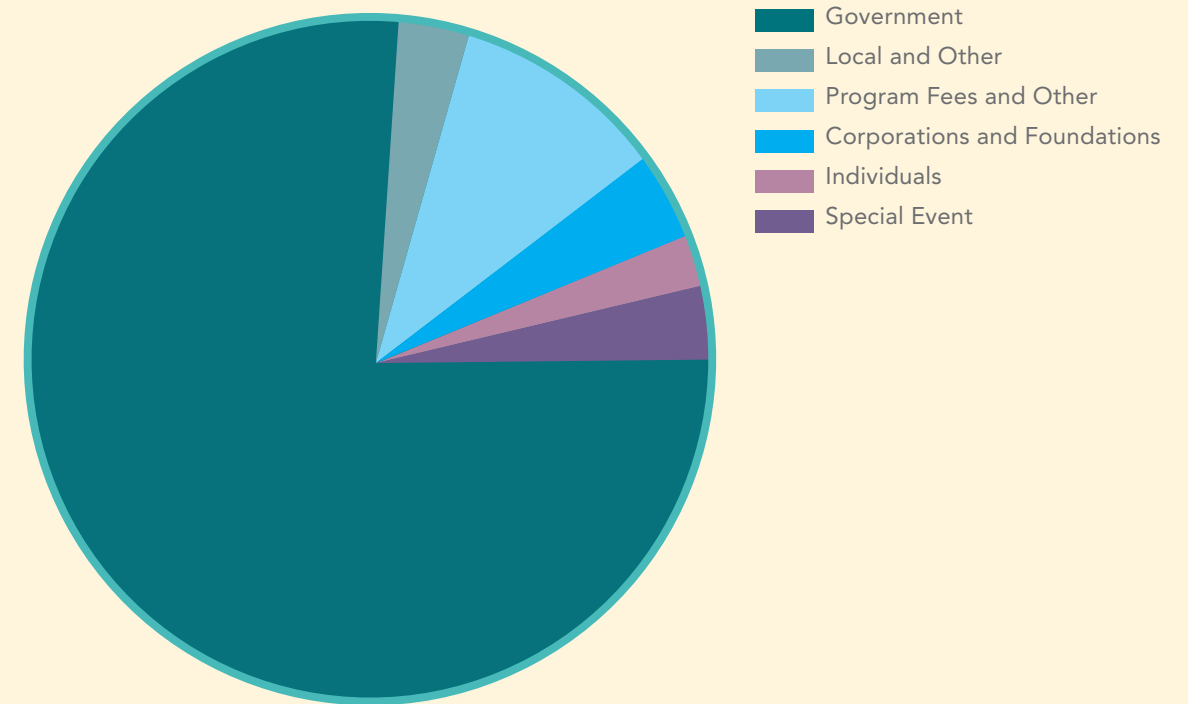
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	1,475,219		1,475,219
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TOTAL EXPENSES	8,043,452		8,043,452
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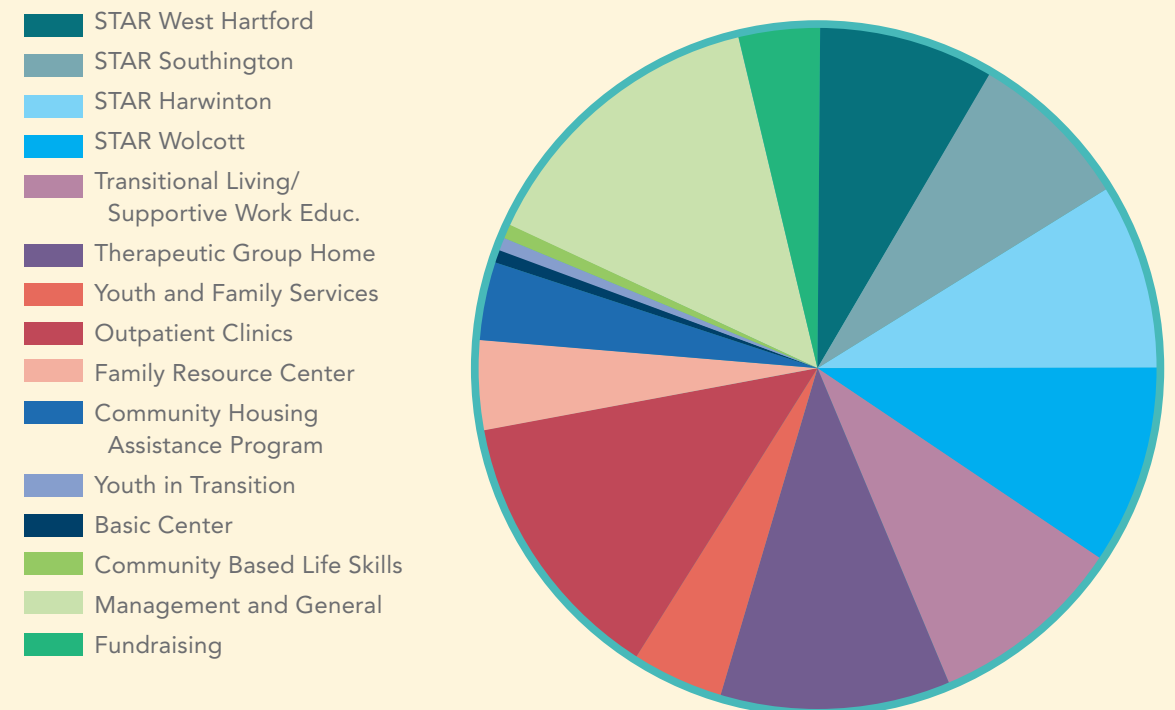
Change in Net Assets	69,965	124,894	194,859
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NET ASSETS, beginning of the year	3,000,040	202,106	3,202,146
NET ASSETS, end of the year	3,070,005	327,000	3,397,005

Revenue



Expenses



Thank you, generous donors. You helped us serve nearly 8,500 children, adults, and families in FY 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020).

HEROES (\$10,000+)

John and Judy Bierly*

Paul and Mary Butler

Mims Butterworth^ **

Bob and Frankie Goldfarb

Emily Rankin^ **

Sali Riege^ **

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

Robert and Barbara Burke* **

Margaret and Bill Hann**

Robert and Jennifer King

Robert and Dawn Koff

Kim Knox and Peter Macdonald

Deborah McInerney

Brian R. Smith and Kim K.V. McClain*

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Benjamin Kehl and Barret Katuna* **

Gail and Steve Lowe*

Peter and Chris Peterson

Stacy and Robert Raney

Eric and Martha Rennie*

BRIDGE BUILDERS (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Nora Anthony

Dorothy and Robert Bouvier

Trish Bowen and Stan Guzek*

Shari and Michael Cantor

Anne and Jim Carroll

Kathy and Curt Christensen

Jane Coppa

Member, Bridge Leadership Circle

* Donor to endowment fund

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^ Deceased

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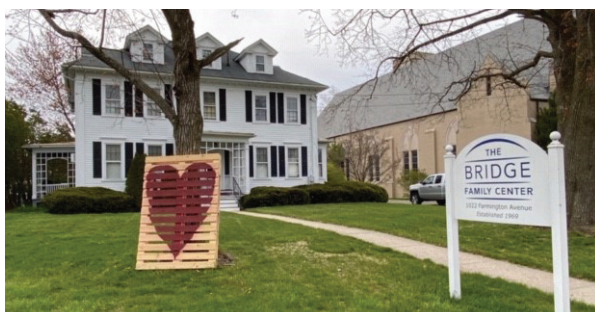
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