

Strengthening Communities

ANNUAL REPORT ° FISCAL YEAR 2019



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.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Margaret A. Hann <i>Executive Director</i>	Amy Raider <i>Director of Human Resources</i>
Hildee Fontanella <i>Director of Finance & Administration</i>	Michael Rulnick <i>Director of Residential Services</i>
Martha L. Rennie <i>Director of Development</i>	Deborah Zipkin <i>Director of Family Resource Center</i>
Doreen Tarascio <i>Director of Communications</i>	Bryan Block <i>Director of Independent Living Program</i>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS	MEMBERS	APPOINTMENTS
Susan I. Hamilton <i>President</i>	Judith M. Bierly	Mayor Shari Cantor <i>Town Council</i>
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	Patrick J. Johnson, Jr.	
	Benjamin E. Kehl	
	Peter Macdonald	
	Christopher L. Magendantz	
	Viviann Rubin, M.D.	
	Brian R. Smith	



*Because of you, the
Bridge we imagined
is becoming the
Bridge we know.*

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

Strengthening Communities

“Staying the Course” was the theme of our recently concluded 50th Anniversary celebration. After reflecting on five decades of mission-driven work, we look forward with optimism and a renewed commitment to our children and families. We are confident that by staying the course and continuing to offer vital programs and services, we will meet the growing and complex needs facing communities today.

The Bridge is a community. Your community. **Our community.**

It is short-term shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and life-skills training for high-risk teenagers, boys and girls. It is a soft pillow to lay their troubled heads on each night. It is a warm meal shared with caring counselors. *Security, healing, and comfort.* It is community housing assistance for young people as they navigate their way to adulthood and learn basic life skills. *Independence, confidence, and responsibility.*



Margaret A. Hann, Executive Director

It is our Family Resource Center and its support services that enhance parenting skills, promote family involvement, and help young children to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. *Welcoming, accepting, and enlightening.*

It is counseling for kids and families who struggle as they face life's challenges. It is an effective presence in our schools through mentoring, support groups, and crisis intervention. *Courage, strength, and hope.*

We have faith that what we do each day makes a difference. Faith that we have stayed close to our original vision of raising up and celebrating families. Faith that we will move into the future honoring that vision. Because sometimes people can't find the light, so we at the Bridge have to

be that light. The pathway through the darkness. The hand that reaches out to hold another. The ladder that boosts someone up. Thank you for helping us shine that light.

From the day in 1969 when a group of forward-thinking and compassionate people opened a drop-in center for teenagers in West Hartford, to the Bridge in 2020, two enduring values—community and faith—have guided our work. They are woven into our culture, they are present as we respond and adapt to economic and social changes, and they sustain us as our mission touches the lives of nearly 9,000 children and families each year.

Thank you for being part of the treasured Bridge community and for having faith that your generosity indeed makes a difference in the lives of those who seek a brighter tomorrow.



Susan Hamilton, Board President

“Because sometimes people can't find the light, so we at the Bridge have to be that light. The pathway through the darkness. The hand that reaches out to hold another. The ladder that boosts someone up.”

— Margaret Hann, Executive Director



Supporting Families While Building Communities



The FRC produces an annual theatrical production, giving children an opportunity to expand imaginations, develop self-confidence, and become valued members of a team.



Grandma, mom, and kids visit the Early Learning Playgroup. Three generations and counting!



Our 1,2,3 Read with Me program prepares children for a successful entry into kindergarten.



Deborah Zipkin, Director of the FRC, with a 1,2,3 Read With Me Participant



Twice a year, we bring together families for a day of learning, sharing, and fun at our Family Academy.



Our Parent Leadership Training Program combines advocacy, leadership, and service to the community skills into a curriculum to promote the best interests of children.

Our Family Resource Center (FRC) has nurtured the development of healthy families, created connections between families and schools, and built a network of support for children from birth to age eleven for almost thirty years. The Center is nationally recognized for its excellence and has earned several coveted awards and designations, including being selected as a "School of the 21st Century – National Demonstration Site" by the Yale Zigler Center for Child Development and Social Policy and as one of the ten best programs for families in the country by *Working Mother* magazine.

The impact the FRC has on our community is as broad and diverse as the integrated system of family support services it offers. Given the number and variety of FRC programs, it is helpful to think of its reach in terms of four components: Early Childhood Development, Adults, Families, and Schools. Each of these elements work in concert to ensure all members of the family receive the guidance, resources, and support they need to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. For instance, while young children participate in early learning playgroups, their parents are in a room nearby learning literacy skills to help with creating budgets, reading nutrition labels, and assisting children with their homework.



"It is so rewarding when our grandparents, parents, and little ones share with us how our programs have helped them. Through early learning playgroups for children and their parents and caregivers, home visits to monitor child development, adult ESL classes, parent education classes, parent leadership training, and after-school programs, we provide a warm, accepting environment where families can grow and thrive," said Deborah Zipkin, Family Resource Center Director.

Amanda and Scott Aronson

Transforming the Lives of Children and Families



Since we were founded over 50 years ago, philanthropy has played a vital role in realizing our vision of *Every family. Every child. Every time.* We are deeply grateful to our many generous donors who choose to make a difference in the lives of the children and families who come to the Bridge seeking help and healing. Amanda and Scott Aronson are among our most inspiring and impassioned supporters, and together they have already transformed the lives of countless individuals and will continue to do so well into the future.

Amanda and Scott are mission-driven people who believe strongly in the power of philanthropy and volunteerism. When they returned to Connecticut from Boston in 2004, they researched organizations in the West Hartford area that supported issues they cared about. The Bridge addressed nearly all their priorities, so they made their first gift. "We love the scope of the organization's mission. It meets the needs of people at every age and stage of life, and we appreciate that the Bridge offers services balanced among prevention, intervention, and response. We were drawn to their strength in the community," relates Scott.

From that initial donation, their involvement with the Bridge evolved to include attending Bridge Evenings and the Children's Charity Ball and becoming charter members of the Bridge Leadership Circle. Amanda served on the Ball committee for a number of years, leading to a position on the Board of Directors and serving as chair of the Development Committee. In 2016, Amanda joined the leadership team at the Bridge as



Director of Marketing and Communications. "We were always certain the Bridge was a trusted and effective organization to support, but seeing it from the inside just reinforced how well run it is and how vital its work is in the community. Most people won't ever know the depth and breadth of the mission, because so much of its work is done quietly and privately behind the scenes," Amanda reflected.

With two children at home and Scott's increasing work responsibilities, the family needed more flexibility to accommodate their busy schedules, and Amanda resigned from her position in 2018. She may have left the job, but she certainly didn't leave the Bridge. "The Bridge is more than a place, it is a feeling, and it will always be close to our hearts. We love the dedication of the staff in all the program areas and the sense of family we have felt as part of the volunteer community of the Bridge. It's a beloved organization that people are drawn to, and the closer you get to it, the more you truly appreciate the team and work," says Amanda. "It just has a 'secret sauce' that is unlike any other organization where we have been involved," she concluded.

The Aronsons' commitment to the Bridge has a profound impact on our children and families today...and tomorrow. As members of the Bridge's Planned Giving Society, **Builders for the Future**, they have made a bequest that will enrich the work of the Bridge for many generations to come. Please join them in supporting the Bridge to build a brighter future for our families and community.

OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER



The 21st Children's Charity Ball

The 21st Anniversary of our Children's Charity Ball was a tremendous success, raising over \$220,000 to sustain and enhance our vital programs and services. The theme for the event was "Staying the Course", our guiding principle as we enter a new decade of serving and enriching our communities. Thank you to our exceptional committee, generous sponsors and amazing guests for making this possible!



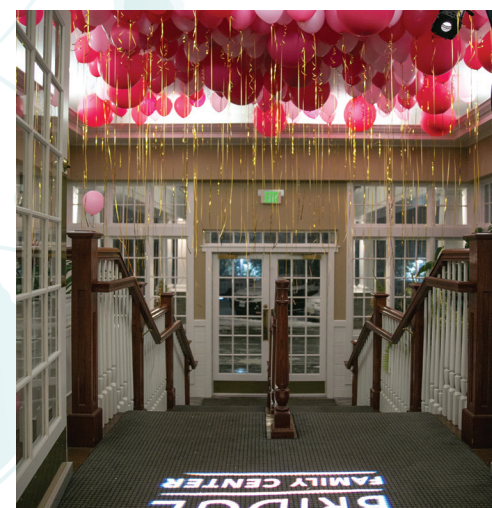
Executive Director Margaret Hann with Emcee, Scot Haney



Committee Members Ellen Sayers and Jenni Freidman



Honorary Chairs Paul and Mary Butler and Judy and John Bierly



Guests are welcomed to a festive evening.



Board Member Brian Smith generously supports the Live Auction.

OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER



Top Left: Scot Haney, Emcee congratulates the winner of a beautiful diamond and sapphire necklace generously donated by Monarch Jewelers.

Top Right: Honorary Chairs Judy Bierly and Mary Butler

Middle: Committee members and their guests enjoy a delicious meal.

Bottom Right: Eat, Drink, & See the World Raffle Basket



THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY BALL



Top: Committee members Heather Clifford, Kara Fenn, and Mary Carangelo

Middle Left: Michael Cantor and Mayor Shari Cantor

Bottom Left: Board Member Jason Goddard and Jessica Garza

Bottom Right: Guests from Gfeller Laurie LLP are excited for the auction to begin.



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:

Peter and Deanna Appleton	Robert and Dawn Koff*
Amanda and Scott Aronson*	Kara and Kevin Langan*
Verónica and Carlos Badiola*	Robert and Tamara Laurie*
John and Judy Bierly*	Amanda and Michael Layden
Patricia Bowen and Stan Guzek*	Karen L. List
Cynthia and Scott Brown*	Carol and Tom Lorenzo*
Robert and Barbara Burke*	Stephen and Gail Lowe
Paul and Mary Butler*	William A. MacDonnell
Jeffrey and Jessica Capone*	Kristin and Christopher Magendantz*
Anne and Jim Carroll*	Ki Miller*
Kathy and Curt Christensen	Kimberly and Peter Moster
Nancy M. DePalma	Peter and Elaine Nigro
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Driscoll*	Dave and Becky Pauluk
Barbara Foley and Tim Floyd	Brewster and Judith Perkins
Mary and Dick Froeb*	Peter and Chris Peterson
Tony and Laura Giannone*	Eric and Martha Rennie*
Jason C. Goddard, Esq.*	Stephen J. Repka, II
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Peter and Cynthia Gutermann*	Ellen and Clem Sayers*
Susan and Paul Hamilton	Brian Smith and Kim McClain*
Margaret and Bill Hann*	Dick and Cheri Stabnick*
Bill and Susan Healey	Sherri and Patrick Thompson
Beth and Tim Herrick*	Felicia Wilion and Jay Frankel
Robert and Deborah Katz*	Cathy and Martin Woods
Benjamin Kehl and Barret Katuna*	
Robert and Jennifer King	
Kim Knox and Peter Macdonald	

* 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	Margaret A. Hann
Lori M. Budnick	George C. Hastings^
Robert J. Burke	Benjamin E. Kehl and Barret Katuna
Miriam Butterworth*^	Amy Lowenstein^
David L. Clay	Nancy Clinton Parker
Edward Cohen^	Emily W. Rankin^
Thomas Driscoll and Patricia Teufel	Sali G. Riege^
Greg Hammond	Mark Torello
*New member ^ 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 this year are:

Karen and Tim Brown	Carl and Diana Malchoff
Robert and Barbara Burke	Eric and Martha Rennie
Suzanne Gates*	Martha Sanborn
Joan K. Hagan^	Mary Sargent
Harold and Lynne Hawkins	Lois Schneeberger
Richard and Beverly Hughes	Frank R. Sterpka, Jr.*
Diana MacPherson and Robert Farr	Robert Switzgable
* New contributor ^ Deceased	

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 Martha Rennie, Director of Development, at (860) 521-8035 ext. 1105 or martha@bridgefamilycenter.org.

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

Income and Expenses

Year Ending June 30, 2019 | The Bridge Family Center, Inc.

INCOME

REVENUE

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Government	6,156,707		6,156,707
Local and Other	258,405		258,405
Program Fees and Other	686,604		686,604

Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes	279,551	(279,551)	0
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CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Corporations and Foundations	130,016	222,514	352,530
Individuals	138,525		138,525
Special Event	314,945		314,945

TOTAL INCOME	7,964,753	(57,037)	7,907,716
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EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

STAR West Hartford	664,959		664,959
STAR Southington	656,771		656,771
STAR Harwinton	709,693		709,693
STAR Wolcott	785,243		785,243
Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ.	735,264		735,264
Therapeutic Group Home	783,763		783,763
Youth and Family Services	449,366		449,366
Outpatient Clinics	758,885		758,885
Family Resource Center	354,706		354,706
Community Housing Assistance Program	293,239		293,239
Youth in Transition	123,050		123,050
Community Based Life Skills	22,564		22,564
Basic Center	21,942		21,942

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	6,359,445		6,359,445
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SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General	1,236,355		1,236,355
Fundraising	321,891		321,891

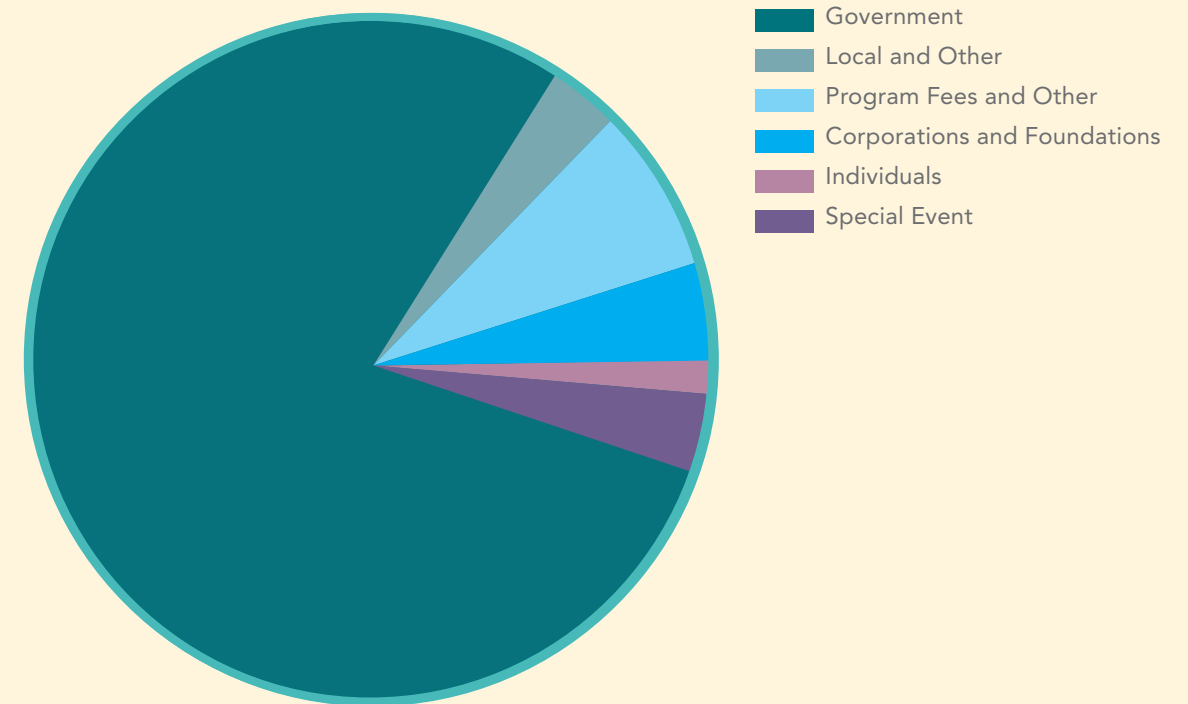
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	1,558,246		1,558,246
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TOTAL EXPENSES	7,917,691		7,917,691
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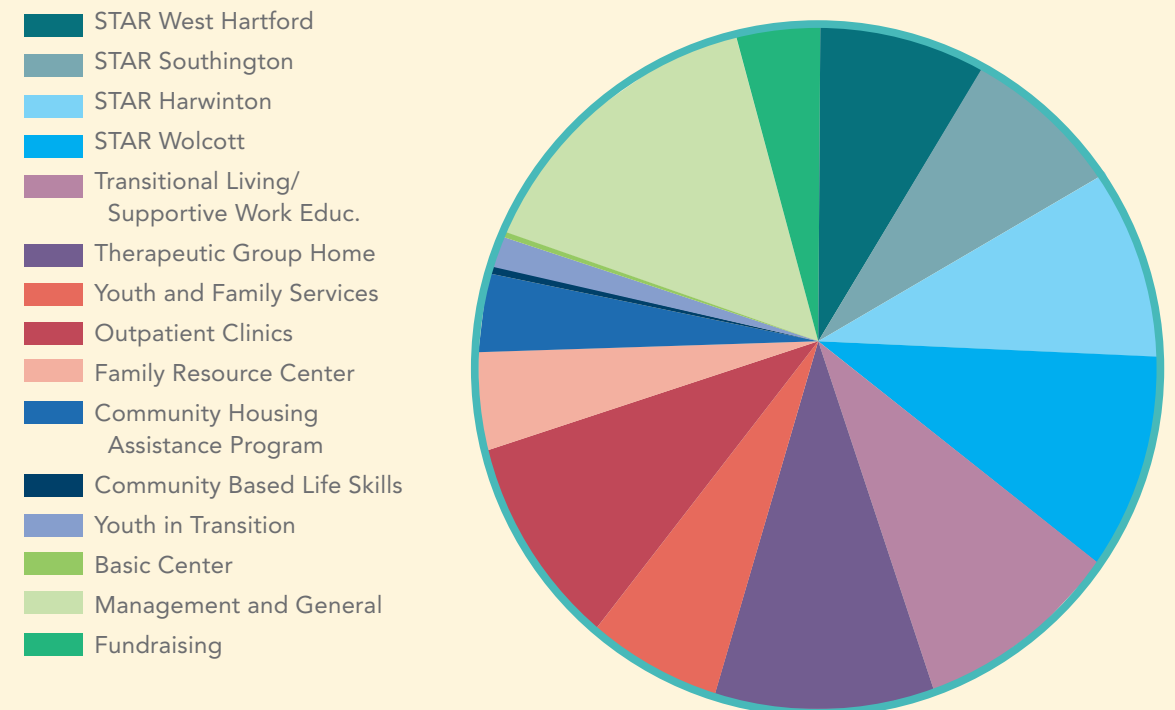
Change in Net Assets	47,062	(57,037)	(9,975)
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NET ASSETS, beginning of the year	2,952,978	259,143	3,212,121
NET ASSETS, end of the year	3,000,040	202,106	3,202,146

Revenue



Expenses



Thank you, generous donors. You helped us serve nearly 9,000 children, adults, and families in FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019).

HEROES (\$10,000+)

Bob and Frankie Goldfarb

Avery and Monica Rockefeller

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

Amanda and Scott Aronson**

John and Judy Bierly *

Robert and Barbara Burke * **

Gene and Lori Cavanaugh

Margaret and Bill Hann **

Robert and Deborah Katz

Robert and Jennifer King

Rob and Dawn Koff

Amanda and Michael Layden

Kim Knox and Peter Macdonald

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Deanna and Peter Appleton

Paul and Mary Butler

Jeff and Jessica Capone

Kathryn and Stephen Deane

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

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Verónica and Carlos Badiola

Trish Bowen and Stan Guzek *

Cyndi and Scott Brown

Shari and Michael Cantor

Anne and Jim Carroll

Margaret Chaves

Kathy and Curt Christensen

Member, Bridge Leadership Circle

* Donor to endowment fund

** Member, *Builders for the Future*

^ Deceased

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Sherri and Patrick Thompson

Mark and Ava Torello **

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Robyn Speak Walsh

Felicia Wilion and Jay Frankel

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

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The Wilcox Family
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Jessica and Eric Zachs
Ellen and Peter Zeman
Judi and Neil Zipkin

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