

Exceeding Expectations

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



THE
BRIDGE
FAMILY CENTER

OUR DEDICATED TEAM

Nearly 160 people are employed by the Bridge Family Center. Youth workers, nurses, mentors, therapists, parent educators, program directors and many more are on the front lines of our work every day. A strong leadership team and engaged Board of Directors support them and steer our course. We thank our entire team for their tireless commitment to the children, adults, and families in our community.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Margaret A. Hann
Executive Director

Hildee Fontanella
Chief Financial Officer

Doreen Tarascio
Director of Development and Communications

Amy Raider
Director of Human Resources

Kyeesha Clayborne
Director of Residential Services

Kris Cool
Director of Family Resource Center

Bryan Block
Director of Independent Living Program

Christopher Dutton
Director of Clinical Operations

Judy Halpern
Director of Performance and Quality Improvement

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Vernon Riddick, Jr.
Police Department



“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.”

~William A. Foster

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

Exceeding Expectations

At the Bridge, we serve children and families throughout every stage of their lives. Whether we meet people as babies at our Family Resource Center or in their adult years through our Counseling Centers, we are continually assessing our community to see where the needs are, where we can bolster our prevention efforts, and where intervention is necessary. In short, our work is both broad and deep in helping people move meaningfully from one stage of their lives to another.

To provide the best services we can, it is important for us to identify and address what is happening with the individual people who turn to us for help. At the same time, we know it is important to look at our work to improve and grow as an organization. We do this in part by the performance measures that we have had in place for some time. In addition, we recently hired our first Director of Quality Improvement and Performance to more fully target our efforts.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve the services we provide, we use data to guide our decisions and programming. We also rely on staff to problem solve and optimize our work.



Margaret A. Hann,
Executive Director

For example, we noticed that youth transitioning out of our residential programs into independent living often face unique challenges that must be faced by the youth themselves and by Bridge staff. We brought this insight to our Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) committee for discussion and consideration so our team could develop programmatic supports.

Staff developed a plan not only to help the youth become more independent, but also empower them to grow into well-rounded, well-adjusted adults who will thrive in society.

As a team, we focus on leveraging the existing services the Bridge offers, such as counseling, case management, and life skills training, to provide the support our youth need.

By sharing data and collaborating across our organization and with our network of providers, we are able to adapt our programs to provide the best possible outcome at every step of their journey.

We also want to thank you for your generous support of the Bridge as your care is a strong testament to the work we accomplish each day. Thank you for helping us remain focused on providing impactful and transformative care for our children and families.



Peter Macdonald, President

By implementing quality improvement and performance measures, we ensure we are not just doing things right, but we are doing the right things.

Identifying the Need

Together We Play

Poignant conversations between parents and our Family Resource Center staff take place every day, over a cup of coffee or tea with children playing nearby.



After hearing requests for support from several parents of children with special needs, a pilot Together We Play program was launched in the spring of 2024, and 15 families registered immediately.



Together We Play offers children with an identified disability or development delay a safe place to play, make friends and experiment with learning materials.

Just as important, it provides parents and caregivers a sense of comradery, a space where there is no judgement but instead a “we’ve been there too, and we’ve got your back” kind of environment.

Addressing the Gaps

One mom who brought her 20-month-old daughter said “Before we came to this program my daughter lacked social skills. I have seen her improve physically, emotionally and mentally because we came to this playgroup. The constant support the teachers and other parents provide has been life-changing for me, the children and the families.”

With the success of Together We Play and the identified gap in connecting parents of children with special needs to local resources, our Community Cafe was born.



Community Cafe

In collaboration with Great by 8 and the Connecticut Children’s Collective, the Community Cafe offers parents and caregivers the opportunity to share their unique challenges, resources, and wisdom.

In addition to bonding with other parents, the Cafe introduces providers who have knowledge of and experience in the special needs community.

A recent Community Cafe focused on wellness, with a morning of yoga, mindfulness, relaxation, and healthy snacks.





BRIDGE BY THE NUMBERS

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

STTAR HOMES

The Bridge manages 3 Specialized Trauma Informed Treatment Assessment Reunification (STTAR) homes. In FY24 our STTAR homes:

- Served 60 youth with an overall occupancy of 95%
- 36 males and 24 females lived in one of our three homes

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC)

The Bridge supports the healthy development of families in the community through the FRC. This year, the FRC:

- Served over 850 children and parents
- 16 children enrolled in Peace Place
- 30 pre-schoolers attended *1,2,3 Kindergarten for Me*
- Launched *Together We Play*, an integrated play group

COUNSELING CENTERS

The Bridge operates 4 outpatient counseling clinics, located in Elmwood, Farmington, Rockville, and West Hartford.

This year these clinics:

- Held 15,305 counseling appointments covering 824 clients
- Realized a 15% increase in appointments, 11% increase in youth clients, and a 55% increase in adult clients
- Hired an APRN to manage all counseling centers medication needs

MOSAIC PARENTING CENTER (MPC)

The MPC provides structured support and coaching during family visitation sessions for parents who are working on family reunification after a child has been removed from the home. A second MPC will be opened in Cromwell this year.

In FY24 the MPC has:

- Served 286 children and families
- Conducted 399 visits

MOVING ON PROJECT (MOP)

The MOP is a transitional living apartment program that assists males ages 18-21 in developing the skills they need to live independently.

This year, the MOP:

- Served 20 DCF youth with overall occupancy of 96%
- 88% of youth in the program have been successfully discharged



INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS

Our programs provide transitional housing, support, and guidance in the final steps to independent, responsible adulthood.

- Served 109 young adults with an overall occupancy of 92%
- 7 participants graduated from a secondary education program
- 73% were employed



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

Facebook - Bridge Family Center
Instagram - @bridgefamilycenter

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Our youth and teen programs provide counseling, mentoring, and support groups for young people who are struggling with difficult life issues. The Teen Center, School Based Counseling, and Mentoring programs comprise these services. This year:

- 1,400 youth were served
- 203 teens visited our Teen Center, *The Base* 1,995 times
- 64 mentoring clients were seen for a total of 683 hours

OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER



The 26th Annual Children's Charity Ball

Put a Little Love in Your Heart

Through the generous support of our guests, sponsors, and auction donors, this year's Ball raised over \$253,000. A quarter of a million dollars to provide hope and healing to our children and families!

A very special thank you is extended to our Honorary Chairs Rick and Kate Deurloo; RTX our Presenting Sponsor; Emcee Scot Haney; and the incredible group of women who work tirelessly to ensure a successful evening.

We are so grateful to everyone who put a little extra love in their heart in support of our programs and services.



Thanks to generous donors, our Changing Lives Challenge raised \$58,600 for our children and families!



Guests cap off the evening with dancing



Friends of the Bridge Dick and Wendy Fair, Honorary Chairs Rick and Kate Deurloo, Executive Director Margaret Hann, and Board President Peter Macdonald



Heather Polk, the winner of the Diamond Necklace, enjoys the Live Auction



Guests of Sapphire Sponsor Double AA Veterinary sharing a laugh in the photo booth

OUR SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER



Top Left: Emcee Scot Haney with friend Beverly Buckner Baker

Top Right: Board Member Kimberly Ambrose (center) with her husband and friend

Middle: Secretary of the Board Kathy Christensen (far right) with her guests from Connecticut Wealth Management

Bottom Right: Members of the West Hartford Fire Department and their guests



THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY BALL



Top: Guests of Honorary Chairs Rick and Kate Deurloo and Presenting Sponsor RTX

Middle Left: Executive Director Margaret Hann with family and friends

Bottom Left: Melissa Geetter is ready to celebrate a successful evening

Bottom Right: Honorary Chairs Rick and Kate Deurloo share why they support the Bridge



Bridge Leadership Circle

As a group of our most distinguished donors, *Bridge Leadership Circle* members are committed to ensuring a bright future for children and families in our community by donating \$1,000 or more annually for three consecutive years. Their outstanding commitment is helping to build a solid foundation the Bridge can count on for its critical work.

MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE ARE:

Deanna and Peter Appleton
Amanda and Scott Aronson*
John and Judy Bierly*
Paul and Mary Butler*
Anne and Jim Carroll*
Kathy and Curt Christensen
Kris Cool and Erin McGurk
Jane Coppa
Kathryn and Stephen Deane
Thomas Driscoll and Patricia Teufel*
Jason C. Goddard, Esq.*
Bob and Frankie Goldfarb*
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Margaret and Bill Hann*
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Suzanne and Larry Levere
Dr. Karen L. List
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Gail and Steve Lowe
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Jason and Devon Rusche
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Mary and Christopher Swift
Mark and Ava Torello
Sherri and Patrick Thompson
Sarah Townswick
Felicia Wilion and Jay Frankel

* Founding Member

Deanna and Peter Appleton

Providing Hope and Healing for Children and Families

“We believe the Bridge is well positioned to understand and address the specific needs of our community. This ensures that resources are directed where they are needed most, making a more significant impact than if we were to contribute to a larger, less focused organization,” explained Peter Appleton when asked about their generous philanthropic contributions.

Peter, an attorney who grew up in West Hartford and has practiced law in Hartford for over 35 years and his wife, Deanna, a physician, have been committed to supporting the Bridge for more than a decade through their generous monthly gifts.



Peter and Deanna were first introduced to the Bridge by friends who invited them to the annual Children’s Charity Ball. They were immediately impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff and how the Bridge has been able to touch so many lives in our community. Shortly after attending the Ball, they became monthly donors to the Bridge.

“While donations are greatly appreciated at any time, we are especially grateful for Peter and Deanna’s recurring monthly donation,” noted Margaret Hann, Executive Director of the Bridge. She continued, “When we have a predictable flow of reliable revenue, we can respond more quickly, frequently and effectively to needs as they emerge. Their incredible generosity helps us carry out our mission every day, and touches the lives of thousands of children and families each year.”

To learn more about making a gift to **The Bridge Family Center**, 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, 2024 | The Bridge Family Center, Inc.

INCOME

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Revenue			
Government	7,562,900		7,562,900
Local and Other	520,958		520,958
Program Fees and other	1,478,652		1,478,652
Net assets released from restriction-satisfaction of program purposes	233,259	(233,259)	0
Charitable Contributions:			
Corporations and Foundations	132,560	260,776	393,336
Individuals	88,910		88,910
Special Event	214,251		214,251
Total Income	10,231,490	27,517	10,259,007

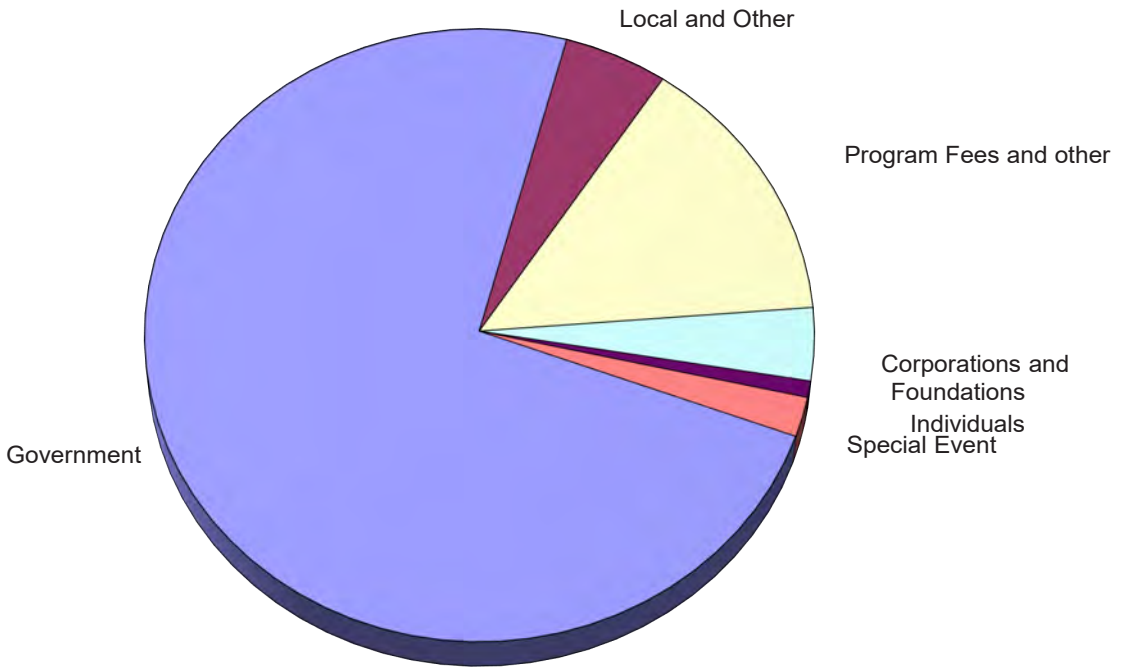
EXPENSES

Program Services			
STAR West Hartford	987,173		987,173
STAR Winifred	968,466		968,466
STAR Harwinton	320,734		320,734
STAR Hastings	984,095		984,095
Transitional Living/Supportive Work Educ.	873,681		873,681
Youth and Family Services	609,691		609,691
Outpatient Clinics	1,730,866		1,730,866
Family Resource Center	376,031		376,031
Community Housing Assistance Program	451,275		451,275
Quality Parenting Center	663,440		663,440
Youth in Transition	218,971		218,971
Total Program Services	8,184,423		8,184,423
Supporting Services			
Management and General	1,639,929		1,639,929
Fundraising	322,554		322,554
Total Supporting Services	1,962,483		1,962,483
Total Expenses	10,146,906		10,146,906

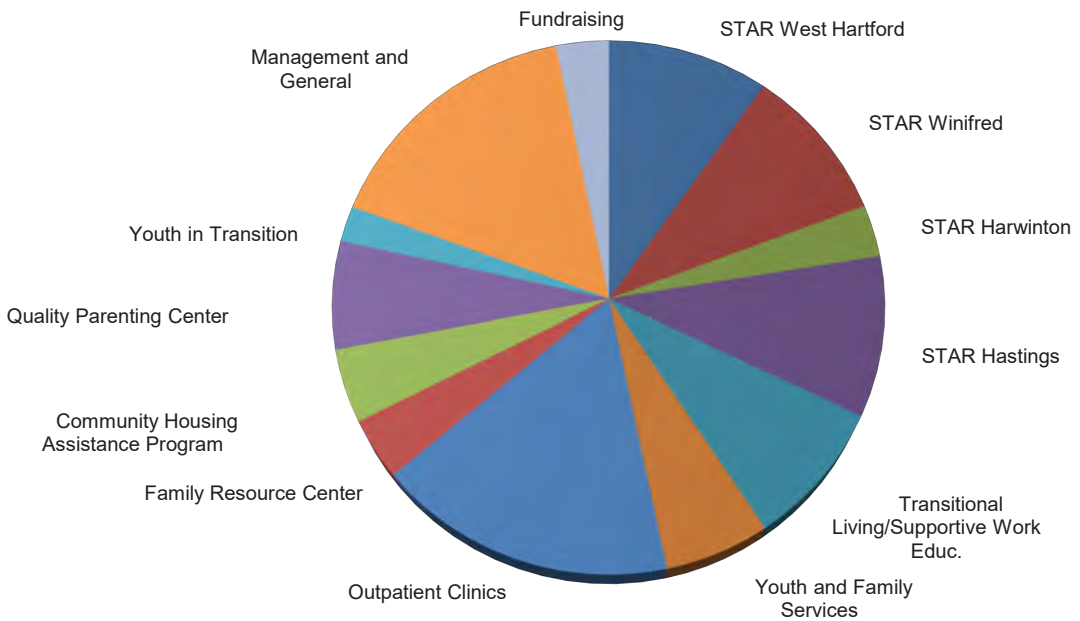
Change in Net Assets	84,584	27,517	112,101
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NET ASSETS, beginning of the year	4,947,120	82,278	5,029,398
NET ASSETS, end of the year	5,031,704	109,795	5,141,499

Revenue



Expenses



DONORS

Thank you, generous donors. You helped us serve nearly 9,000 children, adults, and families in FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).

HEROES (\$10,000+)

John and Judy Bierly
Bob and Frankie Goldfarb
Margaret and Bill Hann
Mary Jean Kilfoil ^

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

Anonymous
Amanda and Scott Aronson
Shelly and Don Aronson
Veronica and Carlos Badiola
Jill Coscarelli
Kathryn and Stephen Deane
John J. Keleher
Robert and Dawn Koff
Kim Knox and Peter Macdonald

LEADERS (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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Jannine and Ed Leshem
Dr. Karen L. List
Kristin and Christopher Magendantz
Emily McMurray and Kevin LaFreniere
Eric and Martha Rennie
Viviann and Jon Rubin

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Kathy and Curt Christensen
Heather and Mike Clifford
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Blanche and Steven Goldenberg
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Kevin Sullivan and Carolyn Thornberry
Mark and Ava Torello
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Ted Diesenhaus and Deanne Shapiro
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Ronit Shoham
Marcia and James Sutton
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Barbara and Charles Wolfe

^ Deceased

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by Beverly Buckner Baker
CYNTHIA BROWN
by Ted Diesenhaus and Deanne Shapiro
KATHY CHRISTENSEN
by Deborah Koltenuk
LINDA FRANKEL'S MILESTONE BIRTHDAY
by Joan and Stuart Margolis
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER STAFF
by Patrick Carey
by Patricia Hamlin
by Deborah Zipkin

SCOT HANEY

by Beverly Buckner Baker
BILL AND DEANNA LEIKIN'S ANNIVERSARY
by Bill and Deanna Leikin
JESSICA LAYDEN AND FAMILY
by Jonathan Hart
DEBORAH ZIPKIN
by Yukiyo Iida

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In memory of:
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RICHARD BROAD
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Taylor Benevento

Brooke M. Bernegger

Bouvier Insurance

Bugbee Elementary School PTO

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Lydia S. Damon

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General Reinsurance Corporation

Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust

Greater Hartford Host Lions Club

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