



THE BRIDGE
FOR YOUTH

Blending a powerful past with a bright future.

Report to the Community

2017

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as of 2/28/2017

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Dear Friends:

Because of friends like you, The Bridge for Youth has helped thousands of youth overcome crisis, reunify with their families or live independently, and continue to build upon their own strengths. We are deeply grateful for all the dedicated people who have made our services possible since our founding in 1970—our staff, board and volunteers, our funders and contributors, and—most importantly, the young people and families who inspire us every day. After 46 years, we are going stronger than ever!

There were many exciting and positive changes at The Bridge during the past year, and our commitment to runaway and homeless youth continues to be at the center of everything we do. The most notable changes are highlighted in this report and include new leadership, expanded shelter capacity and stronger services, and the launch of innovative ways to reach and serve more youth.

We would especially like to thank the longtime donors and volunteers who have supported The Bridge for many years. Your steadfast generosity is truly uplifting. And if you are new to The Bridge, we heartily welcome you and invite you to become part of our story.

Sincerely,
 

Scott Thomas-Forss

Board Chair

Michelle Basham

Executive Director



Mission, Vision & Values

During the summer of 2016, The Bridge's staff took some time to reflect. Working together, the staff developed—and the Board adopted—a new mission statement for The Bridge for Youth, and redefined our organizational values.

These new statements blend the organization's past and present while envisioning a bright new future.

| | |
|--|---|
| Mission | To provide runaway and homeless youth safe shelter, assist in the prevention and resolution of family conflicts and reunify families whenever possible. |
| Vision | <p>The Bridge for Youth will be a premier resource for diverse populations of youth and families needing help by offering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support that empowers• Safe shelter• Sustainable tools for success and restoration of relationships• When possible, reunification |
| Values Focus Excellence Service Village Integrity Teamwork Rooted Inclusive Bold Lighthouse | <p>Our commitment to youth and families drives everything we do.</p> <p>We are relentless in our pursuit of greatness.</p> <p>Our mission will be at the core of every decision we make.</p> <p>We cannot do this alone and are part of a broader web committed to protecting runaway and homeless youth.</p> <p>We meet our commitments and are ethical, responsible stewards of our resources.</p> <p>All of us are part of a team and each of us individually will do everything we can to make sure the entire team succeeds.</p> <p>We will be nimble and adaptable while maintaining our core.</p> <p>Diversity in thought, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, economic status, political orientations and ideas is our greatest resource.</p> <p>We are not afraid to ask hard questions and face difficult realities.</p> <p>The clients we serve may be in crisis but our organization will not operate from a crisis point of view.</p> |

2016 Snapshot



By the Numbers

Here's a re-cap of the year:

- Provided emergency shelter and supportive housing for 998 youth.
- Responded to 3,884 crisis calls and 14,176 texts.
- Served 32 youth residents in our transitional living program.
- Offered shelter, case management and legal resources for 79 systems-involved (juvenile justice, foster care or child protection) youth.
- Provided support group sessions with 1,208 attendances.

When they left The Bridge...

- 70% of youth exited to safe and stable housing.
- 70% of youth made safer decisions.
- 79% identified at least one positive connection with a peer or caring adult.
- 75% increased their life skills.
- 55% reported a better relationship with family.

Highlights

- Regained financial stability and ended the year with a healthy surplus, with more dollars invested in programming and less on administrative overhead.
- Launched a new Youth Board of current and former clients to provide regular input on programming and ensure that the youth voice is included in organizational decision making.
- Transformed and increased access to services by completing three major technology projects:
 - Prototype database for electronic intake and record keeping
 - 612-400-SAFE, the area's first-ever text-for-help service dedicated to teens
 - Launched YSNMN.org in collaboration with other youth-serving agencies—a new mobile app allowing youth and providers to search for available services in real time.
- Re-ignited our outreach with two full-time outreach workers, joining the Streetworks Collaborative, and added a staff specialist to work with youth who are victims of crime; added a Family Counselor to strengthen our services to families and aftercare for youth who have been in shelter.
- Created a diversity council to engage staff in exploring ways to build a more diverse and inclusive culture for employees and clients.

Our Programs and Services

Emergency Shelter Program

Open 24/7/365. Focusing on family reunification whenever safe and possible, The Emergency Shelter provides temporary safe shelter, paired with supportive services tailored to youth and family needs.

Youth Response Center (YRC)

Responding to texts, crisis calls and walk-ins 24/7/365. The crisis hotline and text-for-help lines are staffed by professional staff and volunteers, trained to de-escalate crisis, provide emotional support and connect youth and families with critical resources. The Bridge also hosts YSNMN.org, a mobile app allowing youth to search for and connect with available shelter and resources at 13 local agencies in real time.

Transitions Shelter Program

The program addresses the needs of homeless teens who cannot live with their families. Sometimes reunifying with family takes some time. Or, returning home simply isn't an option. The Transitions program offers a safe, supportive environment for up to 18 months—to work through issues, plan next steps and build new skills for independence.

Coming in 2018 - Rita's House

Our property at 2200 Emerson Avenue will re-open to provide rental housing in an intentional community for 18-21 year-old youth.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

Rather than spend time in jail, first-time juvenile offenders stay in the Emergency Shelter while awaiting their scheduled court day. Receiving counseling and support, youth explore new strategies and set goals to move forward in positive directions.

Hennepin County 365

This program serves youth who are ready to live on their own. Case managers support youth with the passage to independent living, including help with identifying affordable apartments, interpreting lease requirements and advising on budgeting and money management.

Weekly Support Groups

Weekly Support Groups help youth and their families stay on track with their goals. Open to current and former clients, or anyone in need of support. The Bridge offers separate support groups for teen boys, teen girls, LGBTQ youth, and parents.

Work Ambassador

This is an innovative pilot project that gives youth the opportunity to learn on the job. Youth develop hands-on work experience and job history, improving their prospects for future employment.



Financial Summary

Statement of Activities

Year End September 30, 2016

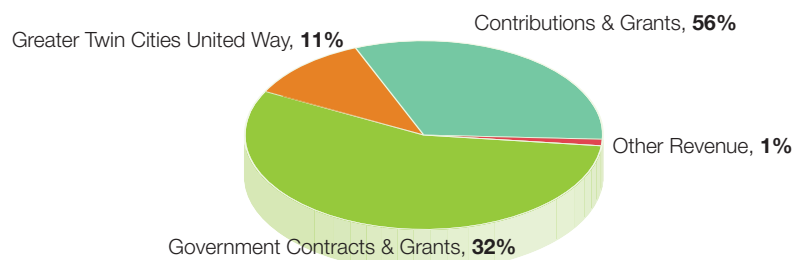
Revenues & Support

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Contributions & Grants | 2,095,027 |
| Greater Twin Cities United Way | 424,445 |
| Government Contracts & Grants | 1,187,635 |
| Other Revenue | 30,632 |
| Total Revenues & Support | 3,737,739 |

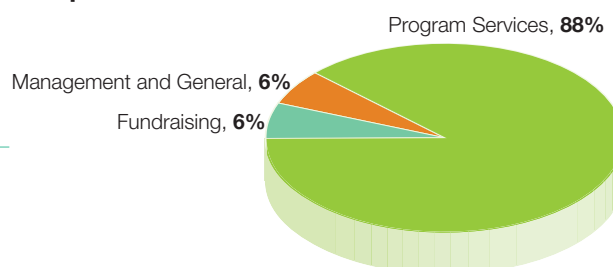
Expenses

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Program Services | 2,997,636 |
| Management and General | 190,825 |
| Fundraising | 219,932 |
| Total Expenses | 3,408,393 |
| Balance | 329,346 |

Revenues & Support



Expenses



Statement of Financial Position

For October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016

Assets

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Current Assets | 999,206 |
| Property & Equipment (Net) | 6,394,917 |
| Other Assets | 95,901 |
| Total Assets | 7,490,024 |

Liabilities and Net Assets

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Current Liabilities | 137,047 |
| Long-term Liabilities | 2,794,525 |
| Net Assets | 4,558,452 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | 7,490,024 |

The Bridge

"The Bridge
It's a place where
I can feel safe
Where people care
I sleep, no dream.
Dream of crossing the Blue Bridge
Over the river of uncertainty
Drugs, alcohol, gangs of pain,
Hurt, and sadness
The Bridge
It's a place where
I can feel safe
Where people care."

written by a former Bridge for Youth client, age 15

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Donors listed are for the fiscal year October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. This list reflects payments and pledges made during the fiscal year. We do our best to list all donors accurately. If there are any errors, please contact j.harding@bridgeforyouth.org.

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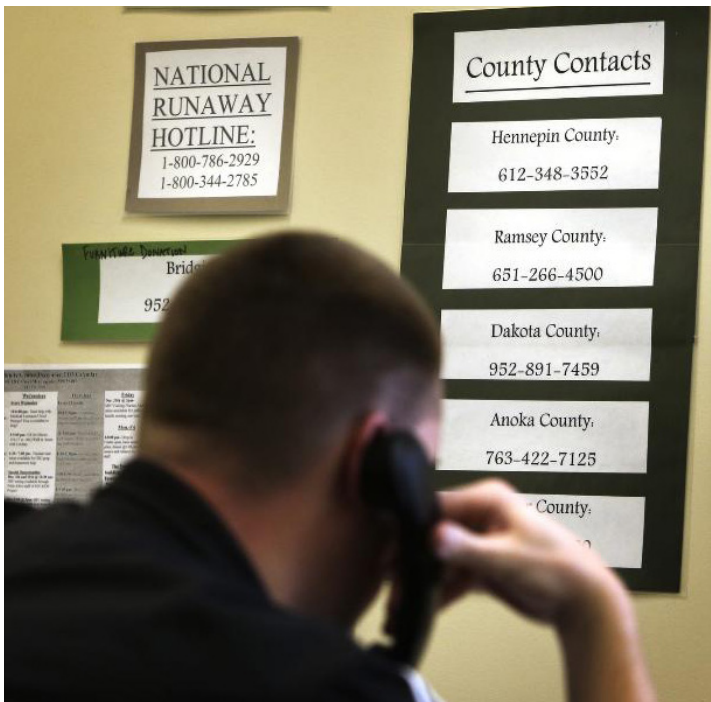
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J's Story

When J. first came into the Emergency Shelter Program at The Bridge for Youth, he had been homeless for two years and had been beaten up by other youth while trying to find a place to stay. He was quiet and kept to himself during his first few days at the shelter.

After many unsuccessful attempts to contact J's adoptive parents, our Youth & Family Advocate filed a neglect report with Hennepin County Child

Protection and began working with other advocates in the community to find a more permanent housing placement for J. After about a week in shelter, a space opened up for J. in our Transitional Living Program (TLP) and Child Protection was able to help get legal permission for J. to participate. He was so grateful, saying it would help him "have stability and be safe" and a "springboard to his future goals and aspirations."

He was right. The stability J. found in TLP allowed him to go back to school and find great success on his high school wrestling team. He also started working with our Work Ambassador program to develop some job skills. And he just landed a four-year academic scholarship at Augsburg College. J. is motivated and his future looks bright.



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