



THE BRIDGE  
FOR YOUTH  
50 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY



IMPACT REPORT

2020



# Report to the Community

Dear Friends,

In 2020 The Bridge for Youth celebrated fifty years of providing hope and stability to youth and families, and what a year it was!

The Bridge was on forefront in responding to emerging needs and providing critical emergency services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff worked tirelessly and creatively to help youth manage the ambiguity and fear they felt around the pandemic, including navigating an early positive COVID-19 case in Marlene's Place in March. Just a few months later, the murder of George Floyd and the community unrest that followed immediately impacted the youth and staff at The Bridge, resulting in an increased need for services that continues to profoundly affect the community.

In the midst of challenges, we are inspired by the resiliency of the youth and families who seek safety and stability at The Bridge, and by the commitment of our staff who day in and day out show up to provide a safe place for youth who have nowhere to go. Collectively, we let go of what was and embraced what comes next. The Bridge welcomed Lisa Mears as Executive Director in May and affirmed our commitment to racial justice and equity with the introduction of a Racial Justice Cohort, representative of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth, staff and board. And, in the midst of pain, we experienced growth with the opening of Gloria's Place – **the only emergency shelter in Minnesota for minor-aged pregnant or parenting youth and their children.**

HOPE. The Bridge journeys alongside youth and creates a space of hopefulness for what comes next. The youth at The Bridge are strong, smart, and resilient. And their strength in turn gives us hope. We experience precious moments – like first steps, families reunifying, high school graduations, and furnishing first homes. This is what youth remember about The Bridge.



**You loved me when no one else did**

- Former youth at The Bridge



Whether you are a youth, donor, volunteer, community leader, corporate partner, or just getting involved with The Bridge – **thank you** for inspiring hope and journeying alongside The Bridge in 2020. We look forward to your partnership in 2021.

In gratitude,



**Lisa Mears, MPA**  
**Executive Director**

*Lisa Mears*



**Kristine Oberg**  
**Board Chair**

*Kristine Oberg*



**Geoff Jones**  
**Board Vice Chair**

*Geoff Jones*

## Mission

The Bridge for Youth provides runaway and homeless youth safe shelter, assists in the prevention and resolution of family conflicts, and reunifies families whenever possible.

## Vision

The Bridge for Youth is a premiere resource for diverse populations of youth and families needing help by offering:

- Support that empowers
- Safe shelter
- Sustainable tools for success and restoration of relationships
- When possible, family reunification

## Values

**Bold**  
**Resilient**  
**Inclusive**  
**Disciplined**  
**Great**  
**Ethical**

# Current Programs

## Youth Housing Programs

### Resilience House

Emergency shelter focused on family reunification whenever safe and possible. Provides temporary shelter, meals, access to healthcare, and case management for up to 14 youth, ages 10-17.

### Gloria's Place

The only emergency shelter in Minnesota for pregnant/parenting youth (ages 15-17) and their children (ages 0-3). Provides emergency shelter, case management, healthcare, and parenting education for up to six families.

### Marlene's Place

The only site-based transitional housing program specifically for pregnant/parenting youth (ages 16-20) and their children (ages 0-3) in Hennepin County. Provides housing, case management, healthcare, and parenting education for up to five families.

### Rita's House

An intentional living community providing affordable rental housing, case management, and independent living skills for 12 youth (ages 18-21).

## Outreach & Support

### Youth Response Center

Available 24/7/365 provides immediate support and resources for youth and families. The Bridge also hosts YSNMN, a mobile app that connects youth with available shelter and resources in real time.

### Outreach & Support

Connects with youth on the streets and in the community through street and site-based outreach.

### Counseling & Aftercare

Free weekly support groups that give youth a safe place to talk about challenges and find peer support. Current groups include So What If I Am, crime victims, and general support. Individual, group, and family counseling that utilize positive youth development and trauma-informed approaches to promote awareness and personal growth.

### Juvenile Diversion Alternatives Initiative

Shelter and case management support for first-time offenders and corrections involved youth.

# Impact

in 2020, The Bridge...

Provided emergency shelter to

# 330

youth

# 100%

of youth in Marlene's Place and Rita's House were employed and/or enrolled in school



Engaged with

# 2,578

youth through outreach

Provided affordable housing to

# 19

youth in Rita's House

Responded to

# 2,102

crisis calls and text messages

# 85%

of youth exited emergency shelter to safe and stable housing

Facilitated

# 415

family meetings

Provided transitional housing to

# 18

families in Marlene's Place

# Success Stories

Your support provided HOPE to nearly 6,000 youth. Here's a glimpse into just a few...

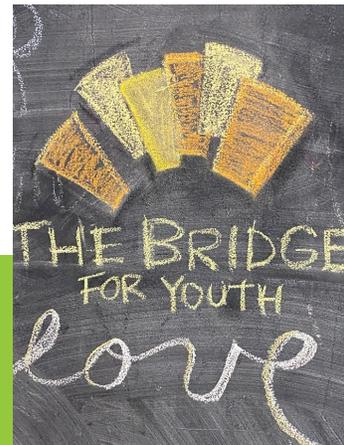
K emigrated from Central America and found herself in Minnesota in an abusive relationship with an adult. Speaking limited English, K learned of the YSN app and was connected to a staff member at The Bridge who was fluent in Spanish and, after a few calls, K found her way to The Bridge. While in Resilience House, K found immediate safety and stability, and with support from staff she was able to connect with her family back in Central America, the first time in nearly a year. A few weeks later, K reunified with family in a nearby state.

Shortly after the COVID-19 Minnesota Stay at Home Order went into effect, Z, a youth in Marlene's Place tested positive for COVID-19. Panicked and scared, Z wanted to leave Marlene's Place. Staff came together and formed a plan for safety and were able to affectively quarantine Z and her two-year-old for just over two weeks. This was an isolated incident, and Z graduated in May!

D was referred to The Bridge through the Juvenile Diversion Alternative Initiative (JDAI). Unable to return home after her first court hearing because of family conflict, D returned to The Bridge where she was connected to individual and family counseling. With support from The Bridge Therapist, D and her family were able to address and resolve conflict, and within a few weeks D safely returned home.

Shortly after moving into Rita's House, with the help of her case manager, L identified she wanted to learn how to cook, open a bank account and most importantly, finish high school. She worked hard to accomplish each goal she set and when she transitioned from Rita's House she continued to live independently. Today, L is a mother, living on her own and is pursuing a Nursing Assistant Certification at Anoka Technical College. She looks forward to having a career in the nursing field and being able to continue to financially support her family.

N and her three-month-old daughter were referred to Gloria's Place through a teacher at school. Undocumented, and unable to return home, N and her daughter needed immediate shelter. While in Gloria's Place N was connected to Legal Aid where she was able to get asylum, and a few weeks later N and her daughter transitioned into Marlene's Place. Today, they are both happy, healthy and attending school.



# Gloria's Place

Opened August, 2020



## A First of a Kind Program in Hennepin County Expands

Parenting is challenging enough in the best of circumstances, but for parenting youth experiencing homelessness, it can be overwhelming. While immediate shelter and safety is vital, providing shelter alone is not enough.

Since 2019, **Marlene's Place** has been home to pregnant or parenting youth and their children for up to 18 months in this “one of a kind” transitional living program. In two years, seven babies have been born, first birthdays have been celebrated, and crawling became walking; while their mothers graduated from high school, secured jobs and moved into their own housing. In August 2020, programming expanded with the opening of **Gloria's Place** the only emergency shelter in Minnesota for pregnant/parenting youth (ages 15-17) and their children (ages 0-3) currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Through comprehensive case management, youth in Gloria's Place have their immediate needs addressed (housing, food, clothing, and access to personal care items,) in addition to access to on-site healthcare, assistance in obtaining vital documents, enrolling in school, parenting education, and individual and group counseling. By providing immediate safety and stability, Gloria's Place provides housing stability for young families and provides a supportive environment that allows them to heal, learn, grow and thrive.



**I loved staying at Gloria's Place. I loved being surrounded by staff who actually supported and cared for me and my child. They were very supportive with school, jobs, housing, and even helped me get my permit and legal documents. It was easy to bond and connect with all the staff.**

- Former youth in Gloria's Place

For fifty years, The Bridge has been committed to innovative programming that prevents youth homelessness, reunites families, and empowers youth to become healthy productive adults. Gloria's Place continues our tradition of responding to critical community needs.



**Sister Marlene  
Barghini**

Co-founders of  
The Bridge for Youth



**Sister Rita  
Steinhagen**



**Bri Miles**

Current staff member  
and former youth at  
The Bridge



**East Isles Residents  
Association**

Community Partner



**Hennepin County  
Commissioner Angela  
Conley**

Community leader

# Faces of 50

2020 marked the 50th anniversary of The Bridge for Youth. To celebrate, every month throughout the year we highlighted Faces of 50 recognizing some of the thousands of individuals who were impacted by The Bridge and who have contributed to our efforts to serve youth experiencing homelessness.

Learn more at

[bridgeforyouth.org/faces-of-50](https://bridgeforyouth.org/faces-of-50)

**Robert  
Kraemer**  
Former youth at  
The Bridge



**Amanda**  
Former youth at  
The Bridge



**DJ Bonics**

Friend of The Bridge



**Keyonna**

Former youth at  
The Bridge



**Starbucks Coffee  
Company**  
Community Partner



**Michael Lehan**

Current Board Member  
and former youth at  
The Bridge



# Financials

October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

## Statement of Activities

### Support & Revenue

Contributions & Grants	\$1,477,012
Government Contracts & Grants	\$2,026,837
United Way	\$238,241
Special Events	\$68,241
Investment Income	\$12,609
Miscellaneous Income	\$55,897
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue:</b>	<b>\$3,878,837</b>

### Expenses

Program Services	\$2,999,909
Management and General	\$388,508
Fundraising	\$302,542
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,690,959</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$187,878</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

### Assets

Current Assets	\$1,840,614
Property & Equipment (Net)	\$6,377,062
Other Assets	\$700,000

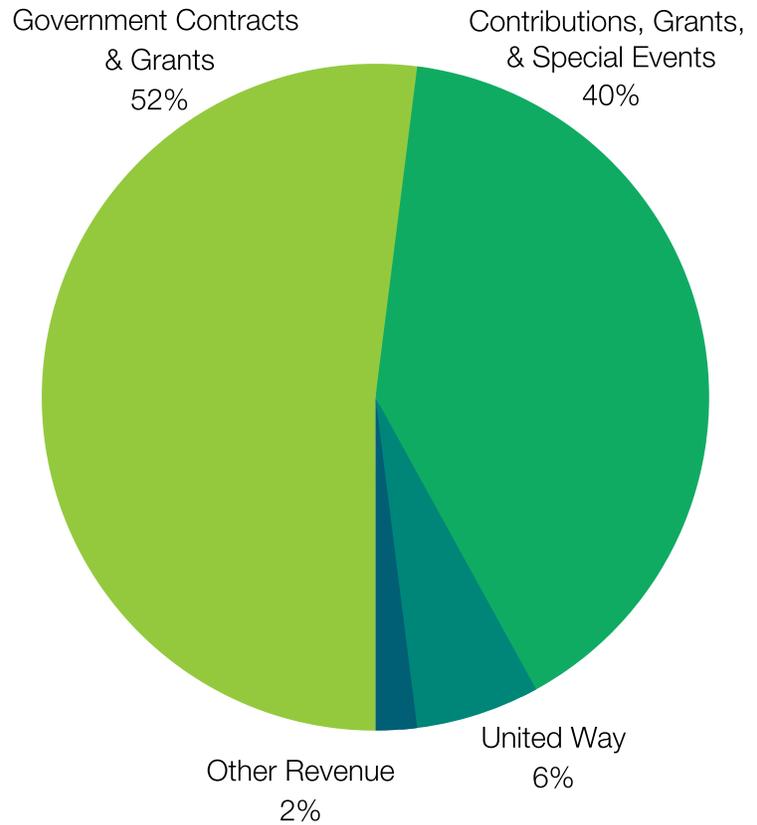
**Total Assets** \$8,917,676

### Liabilities & Net Assets

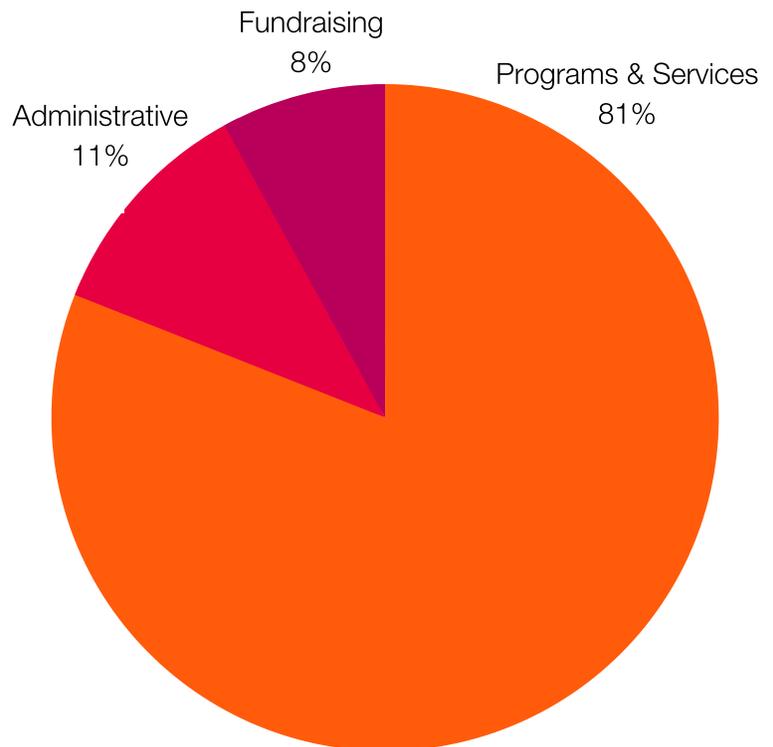
Current Liabilities	\$312,884
Long-Term Liabilities	\$3,064,016
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,540,776</b>

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** \$8,917,676

### Revenue



### Expense



# Leadership

## 2020 Board of Directors

- Kristine Oberg, Board Chair; U.S. Bank, VP, Business Banking Segment Strategy Team Leader
- Geoffrey Jones, Board Vice Chair; Geoff Jones Creative, Marketing Communications Consultant and Principal
- Bob Striker, Board Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair; Stinson LLP, Of Counsel
- Camille Bryant, Board Secretary; Hennepin County, Assistant Public Defender
- James R. Denniston, Governance Committee Chair; Xcel Energy, Assistant General Counsel
- Daniel DuHamel, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, Program Officer
- Gretchen Gromatka, Fairview Health Services, Labor Relations Consultant
- Jason Hertel, Thrivent Financial, Director, IT Digital Workforce
- Amelia Huffman, Minneapolis Police Department, Deputy Chief of Professional Standards
- Sharon Hughes, Ameriprise Financial, SVP, Internal Communications
- Faith Jackson, City of Bloomington, Racial Equity Coordinator
- Cheniqua Johnson, Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation, Relationship Manager
- Amy Britt Jones, Development Committee Chair; ABJ Educational Consulting, Educational Consultant
- Michael Lehan, Osseo Area Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Equity & Achievement
- Anne Rasmussen, Temple Israel, COO/CFO
- Sarah Sanchez, American Heart Association, Director of Community Advocacy
- Gloria Stamps-Smith, Hennepin County, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney



In the midst of such profound, unprecedented change happening in such a short period of time, much of it driven by a local event that brought international attention to our city, I believe we've been imbued with a profound sense of purpose, with a long-overdue focus on racial justice. At The Bridge the order of the day is to stay nimble, stay connected, and stay human, continuing uninterrupted in its mission to serve disenfranchised youth, which is a testament to the character of its staff and leadership. Stay safe everyone!

– Geoff Jones, Board Vice Chair



## Executive Leadership Team

- Lisa Mears, Executive Director
- Angela Alvarez, Human Resources & Administration Director
- Christina Heineken Woodlee, Senior Director of Strategy & Partnerships
- La'Kisha Hollmon-Griffin, Program Director
- Tom Craig, Finance Director



2020 was full of complex challenges and I'm proud that The Bridge set an intentional path to be a more responsive, more inclusive, more strategic organization.

– Amy Jones, Development Committee Chair



# The Bridge is grateful to all of our generous donors!

FY20: 10/1/19 - 9/30/20

Donations of all sizes make a difference – thank you to the many individual donors, volunteers, and community partners for your support this past year.

- \$417,904 donated by 968 individuals
- 173 In-kind donations totaling \$97,476
- 456+ hours donated by 105 volunteers

## Donors \$100,000+

Otto Bremer Trust  
Buuck Family Fund of The  
Minneapolis Foundation

Greater Twin Cities United Way  
Pohlad Family Foundation

Target Foundation

## Donors \$50,000 - \$99,999

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
The Douglass Brandenburg Family Foundation

Christopher and Sheila Jones Foundation  
World Childhood Foundation, USA

## Donors \$25,000 - \$49,999

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Andersen Foundation

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation  
Manitou Fund

Sundance Family Foundation  
Greater Twin Cities United  
Way Arise Project

## Donors \$10,000 - \$24,999

Best Buy Foundation  
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Constellation Fund  
Dreadwood Foundation  
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Carondelet and Consociates  
The Starbucks Foundation  
The UPS Foundation  
Xcel Energy Foundation

## Donors \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Christ

Bergerson Family Foundation

CHS Community Giving

Edina Human Rights  
Commission

Fingerhut Family Foundation

City of Golden Valley Human  
Services Fund

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Minneapolis Area REALTORS  
Foundation

Open Your Heart to the Hungry  
and Homeless

RBC Foundation - USA

St. John the Baptist Episcopal  
Church

The TJX Foundation, Inc.

## Donors \$1,000 - \$4,999

The Julie and Doug Baker, Jr.  
Foundation

The Bieber Family Foundation

Burdick Family Fund of The  
Minneapolis Foundation

Mike and Linda Fiterman Family  
Foundation

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Foundation

Head Family Foundation

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Minnesota

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Church

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Foundation

PaR Systems Group

PFund Foundation

Prospect Creek Foundation

The Elizabeth C. Quinlan  
Foundation

Margaret Rivers Fund

St. Louis Park Family Services  
Collaborative

Three Sisters Foundation

Wells Foundation

## Donors \$500 - \$999

Jane E. Balch Memorial Fund  
Edina Realty Foundation

First Christian Church of Minneapolis  
Kowalski's Uptown Market

NorthWood Distributing  
St. Mary of the Lake Church

## Donors \$100 - \$499

Hennepin Avenue United  
Methodist Church

IWJ Charitable Foundation  
Northeast United Methodist Church  
Stacked Deck Brewing

White Bear Lake United Methodist  
Church

## Bridge Bash Sponsors

**Carmichael  
Lynch.**



**BREMER  
BANK**



**THE BRIDGE  
FOR YOUTH**

The Bridge for Youth  
1111 West 22nd Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
[www.bridgeforyouth.org](http://www.bridgeforyouth.org)

