THE BRIDGE FOR YOUTH
50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
IMPACT REPORT 2020
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.

“\[quote\]You loved me when no one else did\[quote\]
- 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

Kristine Oberg
Board Chair

Geoff Jones
Board Vice Chair
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
- 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

- Provided affordable housing to 19 youth in Rita’s House
- 100% of youth in Marlene’s Place and Rita’s House were employed and/or enrolled in school
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- Provided transitional housing to 18 families in Marlene’s Place
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.
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.
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
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

Total Support & Revenue: $3,878,837

Expenses

- Program Services: $2,999,909
- Management and General: $388,508
- Fundraising: $302,542

Total Expenses: $3,690,959

Total Change in Net Assets: $187,878

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
- Net Assets: $5,540,776

Total Liabilities & Net Assets: $8,917,676
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 Brandenborg Family Foundation
- Christopher and Sheila Jones Foundation
- World Childhood Foundation, USA

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

- Ameriprise Financial, Inc.
- Fred C. and Katherine B. 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
- The Beverly Foundation
- Constellation Fund
- Dreadwood Foundation
- Driscoll Foundation
- The Jaye F. and Betty F. Dyer Foundation
- Frey Foundation of Minnesota
- Heading Home Minnesota
- Hoeft Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
- The Lynn and Gloria Johnson Family Foundation
- The John C. and Carolyn Parmer Noonan Foundation
- Sauer Family Foundation
- Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates
- The Starbucks Foundation
- The UPS Foundation
- Xcel Energy Foundation

$417,904 donated by 968 individuals
173 In-kind donations totaling $97,476
456+ hours donated by 105 volunteers
### Donors $5,000 - $9,999

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<th>Apple Valley Community of Christ</th>
<th>City of Golden Valley Human Services Fund</th>
<th>Minneapolis Area REALTORS Foundation</th>
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<td>Bergerson Family Foundation</td>
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<td>Hunter Houle Memorial Foundation</td>
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<td>Edina Human Rights Commission</td>
<td>Margaret H. and James E. Kelley Foundation, Inc.</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church</td>
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<td>Fingerhut Family Foundation</td>
<td>Kopp Family Foundation</td>
<td>The TJX Foundation, Inc.</td>
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### Donors $1,000 - $4,999

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<td>The Bieber Family Foundation</td>
<td>Lake Harriet United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Burdick Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation</td>
<td>LeaderOne &amp; Wheeler Group</td>
<td>The Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation</td>
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<td>Mike and Linda Fiterman Family Foundation</td>
<td>National Recoveries, Inc.</td>
<td>Margaret Rivers Fund</td>
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<td>The Fredrikson &amp; Byron Foundation</td>
<td>Nelson Residential Design, Inc.</td>
<td>St. Louis Park Family Services Collaborative</td>
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<td>Park Public Schools &amp; Community Foundation</td>
<td>Three Sisters Foundation</td>
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### Donors $500 - $999

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<td>Edina Realty Foundation</td>
<td>Kowalski’s Uptown Market</td>
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### Donors $100 - $499

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<td>Stacked Deck Brewing</td>
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### Bridge Bash Sponsors

- Carmichael Lynch
- Xcel Energy
- Dolezal Creative
- Bremer Bank