

bridgehouse

Creating a Culture of Opportunity for Boulder's
Homeless and Working Poor

2014
.....
ANNUAL REPORT



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporter,

Community challenges require community solutions. Tackling community challenges requires vision, leadership and collaboration. To make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors, to provide opportunity for those who are looking for a hand up off the streets, we cannot afford to work in silos.

At Bridge House we are a champion for community solutions to end homelessness. We lead through creating and implementing our services without duplication and, equally as important, we collaborate with and promote our partners who are experts in complementary parts of the housing continuum.

In 2014, in our own programs, we led by example through our daily commitment to moving each and every one of our clients closer to stability as well as through our strategic efforts to develop opportunities for our clients to reach self-sufficiency. In 2014, notable results include our acquisition of 4747 Table Mesa Drive to develop housing for 48 participants in our *Ready to Work* program; more than 5,000 case management interventions at our Resource Center including 88 Medicaid applications, 168 placements in jobs; and the renewal of our contract to be the referral partner for Boulder County in the State's Fort Lyon initiative to name a few.

Also in 2014, Bridge House sparked action through creating collaborations such as multi-agency participation in Governor Hickenlooper's effort to train communities in the development of supportive housing (a national best practice); by taking a lead role in creating efficiencies with our partners who provide emergency services to homeless adults such as the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless and BOHO; and through our participation on Boulder County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and co-chairing the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Coordinating Committee.

Our progress is measured not just in the accomplishments of our own programs but in our ability to look beyond our own agency and participate at a regional and local level in creating long-term solutions for homelessness. We are proud to be part of a dynamic and forward thinking community and



especially honored to be able to leverage our own knowledge of those in need to advocate for and implement solutions to the many challenges we face. Together we are strong and can achieve great things.

To end homelessness in Boulder it will take "a village" – our village.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Isabel McDevitt".

Isabel McDevitt, Executive Director



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JOSHUA'S STORY

Sober for almost a year, Joshua was able to qualify for acceptance into the Lee Hill project - a housing first model for the chronically homeless of Boulder. Homeless since 2011, he would have never been accepted into the program without the diligent work of Bridge House case managers. "I never thought I would make it off the street, I thought I would die out there," Joshua said after finding out he was accepted into Lee Hill.

Joshua had a very traumatic childhood and turned to alcohol for solace, which eventually led him to a life on the street. When Joshua heard about Bridge House he was skeptical. At first he came in for the meals and it took him awhile to take advantage of what Bridge House really had to offer.

Joshua slept outside and stayed on the fringe - avoiding most homeless services, but eventually he met Heather, Bridge House's program manager. Once he asked for help, Heather was able to assist him in obtaining his birth certificate and his ID.

Grateful for the help he was receiving, Joshua wanted to give back to his community, so he began volunteering in the Bridge House kitchen once a week. **"I couldn't just sit around doing nothing, I had to keep moving,"** he said.

Joshua kept drinking heavily even though he was making personal strides to change his life. Our case managers helped him with bus passes to his medical appointments and meals every day. His health began to deteriorate very fast and he was hospitalized many times due to alcohol related complications. Worried

about his health, he finally quit drinking one year ago, and began to attend the substance abuse meetings that were held at Bridge House.

There were many complicated steps that Joshua had to take in order to move off the street. He needed a helping hand and guidance. Dee Dee, the lead case manager, came into his life and showed him there was a way out. Dee Dee was there for him every step of the way - she helped him fill out all the paper work he needed to apply to the Lee Hill project, and gave him bus fare to his appointments.

"Thanks is all I can say. The Bridge House staff believed in me when I did not believe in myself," Joshua said. He is thankful for all of the work the Bridge House case managers have done for him.

"I can see why people give up. It is hard to make it off the street, it takes someone believing in you and giving you a hand up."

"I was tired and all I wanted to do was put my head down for a minute in a safe place." Bridge House did not hand Joshua anything, however we gave him the tools he needed to succeed and change his life. Now that Joshua is housed and his health is stable, his next goal is to join the Ready to Work program.

One person at a time - we make a difference in the Boulder community. Working together with other providers we can change the face of homelessness in Boulder.

LIVES IMPACTED

81,431

Meals Served



IDs Provided

356

Unduplicated Clients Served
at Bridge House

1,680



94

Clients Housed or Helped
Retain Housing

Clients Employed



168

Benefits Received



98



255

Prescriptions Provided

▼ Total number of times our Case Management team provided services to clients ▼



Mental Health

816

Substance Abuse

256

Medical

412



Employment

1,580



Housing

209

Visits to

bridgehouse

» 36,025 «

Visits to
Resource Center

685

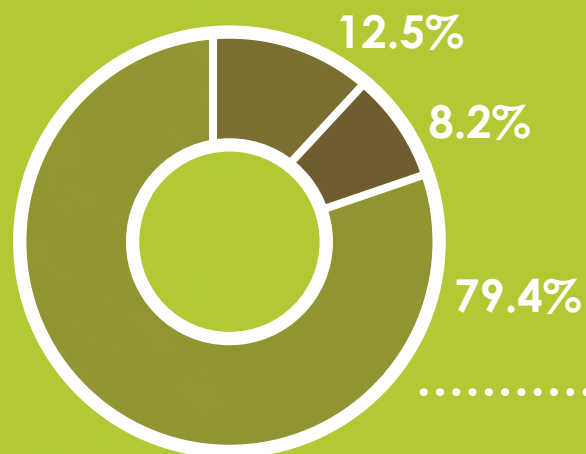
Open 88 days in 2014



2014 REVENUE - FINANCIAL SUMMARY



TOTAL // \$1,131,539



2014 EXPENSES

Client Programs & Services	\$1,105,420	79.4%
Administrative	\$113,822	8.2%
Fundraising	\$173,725	12.5%

TOTAL // \$1,392,967

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In September 2014 Bridge House completed a Capital Campaign to create transitional housing for our Ready to Work trainees. We will open our doors in the summer of 2015. Now that we have housing we will be able to expand our Ready to Work program from 16 to 48 individuals.

\$20,000 - \$1.5 million

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Keys Commercial
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READY WORK



180

applications
submitted

37

enrolled

19

Clients found
outside employment

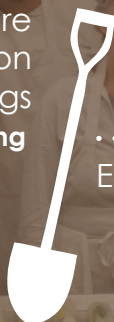
» 11 Still in the program going into 2015 «

100%

of trainees are
saving a portion
of their earnings
maintaining sobriety & addressing
barriers to employment



80%
graduated program



Over 20,000

man hours worked

Earned Revenue in Landscaping
& Catering Social Enterprise

\$232,915