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bridgehouse
2015



ANNUAL
REPORT



Momentum. Drive. Leadership. Commitment. Optimism

In 2015, Bridge House grew, refined and doubled down on our commitment to provide innovative and effective programs to end homelessness in Boulder. Our dedicated team of staff, volunteers and Board members set bold and ambitious goals:



- **To open Ready to Work House and Employment Center providing housing and jobs for 44 homeless adults**
- **To expand our Resource Center to 5 days per week**
- **To create more intensive and outcome-based case management support**
- **To be a leader in regional forums on homelessness**
- **To collaborate with our sister agencies, Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow (BOHO) and the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless (BSH), in order to improve homeless services**

Looking back, we are proud to report that we achieved our goals and more. Not only can we say with certainty that our work is vital to the health and well-being of our homeless neighbors, we can point to and celebrate hundreds of stories of hope, redemption and success. We work with a diverse clientele - young, old, hearty, vulnerable, yet all determined to improve their lives. Each person who walks through our doors is an individual who is treated respectfully. We instituted a new system of “welcome meetings” to make sure everyone is oriented and directed to the services they need as quickly as possible. As a result, we more than doubled our case management interactions from 5,000 to 11,000, and were also able to more readily link people to opportunities including our own Ready to Work program, regionally coordinated entry housing placements, and local programs such as Boulder County’s Housing Stabilization Program.

We also continued to look beyond our own agency and partnered with community collaborators in efforts to improve homeless services across Boulder. Efforts such the Boulder Homeless Service Collaborative, our collaboration with BOHO and BSH, exemplify our commitment to work together to improve client experience and better serve those in need.

In partnership, with gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabel McDevitt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Isabel McDevitt
Executive Director



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Our Leadership Staff

- Isabel McDevitt - *Executive Director*
Vera Line - *Director of Finance and Operations*
Widd Medford - *Ready to Work Program Director*
Heather Pauze - *Director of Bridge House Case Management*
John Trejo - *Executive Chef*
Emily Messina - *Development Director*
Scott Medina - *Volunteer Coordinator*

Victor's Story



Victor, a Ready to Work trainee, generously shared his story about his amazing transition from homelessness to our Ready to Work program. Please read his story and learn about the transformative power of Bridge House's Ready to Work program.

and was on his way. Then he hit a bump in the road.

Victor had been living with and taking care of his mother for 2 years. When she needed more help than he could give her, she moved into an assisted living facility. Without his mother to care for, Victor lost his home and ended up living on the street penniless and scared.

For months he carried around everything he owned in a cart and was forced to look for food in dumpsters. While on the street, another homeless individual reached out to Victor and took him under his wing. He showed Victor the safe places to sleep, where to eat and take showers. One day he took Victor to Bridge House for breakfast and Victor finally had a warm meal, the first he had eaten in a long time.

At one point, Victor had all of his possessions stolen. With only the clothes on his back, he went to Bridge House for help. Not only did he receive regular meals, the case managers also helped him replace his lost clothing and gave him bus fare to go to doctor's appointments for his asthma and high blood pressure. Victor also wanted a job, but found it difficult to be taken seriously by potential employers while still homeless. With the help of Bridge House's Resource Center, he learned about the Ready to Work program and applied in June of 2015.

"I felt low when I was living on the street, but I have always been a 'glass half-full' sort of person. I had hope for change and I had my faith in God to see me through."

Once Victor was accepted into the program he worked on the Ready to Work contract with Boulder's Opens Space and Mountain Parks Division to build trails, provided supplemental sanitation on the Pearl Street Mall and harvested vegetables at a local farm. In August, when Bridge House opened the Ready to Work House and Employment Center, Victor was one of the first residents to move in.

While working on the Ready to Work crew, Bridge House's employment specialist helped Victor find another part-time job at a local King Soopers to supplement his income. Eventually, King Soopers offered him a full-time position where he soon afterwards earned the Employee of the Month award.

"Joining Ready to Work was the best thing I could have done for myself," Victor said. "My life had purpose again and I was able to change the direction I was going in. During my time on the street I could have given up and started drinking, but I chose to work on changing my situation."

With the support of Ready to Work case managers, transitional employment and housing, Victor had the tools he needed to transform his life. Over the next several months, Victor was able to save money and regain his self-confidence.

Victor says his mom is doing well in assisted living and calls her every week. She is so proud of his accomplishments and how he took the initiative to change his life. Victor appreciates the opportunity that Ready to Work has given him and is very thankful to Isabel McDevitt and the entire Ready to Work staff for all of the support they provided.

This is just one of the many success stories about how Bridge House's Ready to Work program is changing the face of homelessness in Boulder.



Bridge House Adds Housing in 2015!



In August, we opened our new **Ready to Work House and Employment Center** creating community housing for 44 Ready to Work trainees who are transitioning out of homelessness. All of our Bridge House staff, Board members and community partners worked diligently to get our Ready to Work House up and running. The hard work paid off! Together we built a safe community with supportive services where the trainees can break their

barriers to employment and housing. Opening our Ready to Work House allowed us to expand the program from 16 to 44 trainees. All the trainees are paid and work in one of our social enterprises – Landscaping or Community Table Kitchen. They all have the opportunity to live at our Ready to Work House for a year while they learn important skills and establish a work and rental history in order to transition into mainstream employment and housing. This expansion is changing lives one person at a time.

Thank you to all the Bridge House supporters that made this venture possible.



Visits to **Community Table Meals**
22,726
Open 270 days

Visits to **Resource Center**
4,716
Open 107 days

Visits to **Day Shelter**
32,672
Open 246 days



.....
Unduplicated
individual
visits to
Bridge House
Programs
.....

3,228

Meals Served 
71,734

Clients provided with Prescription Assistance



306



300 ID's Provided



CASE MANAGEMENT INTERACTIONS AT BRIDGE HOUSE


Total case management interactions in 2015

11,509



139 Clients employed

Medical & Mental Health



1,603

.....

529 Substance Abuse

Times clients were assisted with benefits

4,163



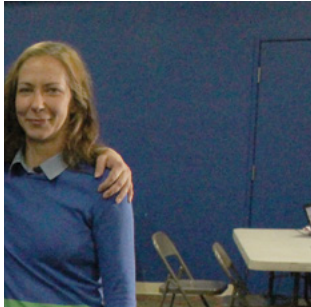
Such as Medicaid & Food Stamps



Employment Assistance Appointments



2,867





2015 Revenue

36%	Individuals	\$651,581
23%	Foundations	\$417,575
10%	Ready To Work Landscaping Social Enterprise	\$190,615
8%	CO State Funding	\$138,657
7%	City & County Grants	\$133,191
7%	Community Table Kitchen Social Enterprise	\$122,040
5%	Corporations	\$88,382
2%	Faith Community	\$41,376
1%	Ready to Work Rent	\$20,692
1%	In-Kind Donations	\$12,910
0%	Interest and Other	\$7,764



Total

\$1,824,783





2015 Expenses

Client Programs
& Services

\$1,492,394



Administrative

\$143,570

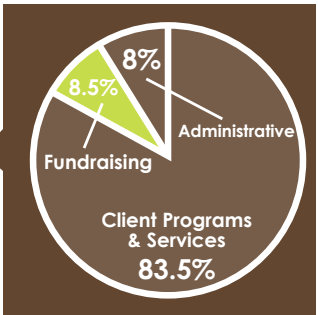


Fundraising

\$152,071

Total

\$1,788,035



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\$50,000 - \$200,000

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We couldn't have done it without you!



Thank you from our Board, staff and clients!
 The time, talents and treasure given to Bridge House by over 600 tireless volunteers and 900 generous donors each year is humbling. Whether you prepare meals at Community Table Kitchen, mentor trainees, or support us with an annual or monthly gift, you are changing the lives of homeless and working poor individuals in Boulder.



Unduplicated people receiving case management

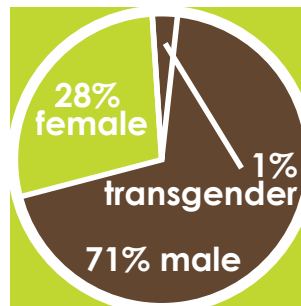
1,730



Reasons clients came to Bridge House



Housing **660**
 Mental Health **241**
 Employment **605**
 Benefits **726**
 Medical **308**



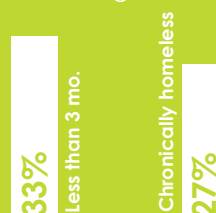
Age of clients

15-34
43%

35-54
42%

55 & older
15%

Length of homelessness of clients who used case management



Currently employed

84% no

14% yes



Those currently seeking employment

59%

94% Currently homeless



10% of clients in 2015 were veterans

How Can You Help?

At Bridge House, we rely on the generosity of people like you to serve the thousands of individuals we see each year.

Make a Financial Gift

Make a Financial Gift to Bridge House Today and You Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Boulder's Homeless and Working Poor. A little goes a long way.

A GIFT OF

\$25

will provide one-hour of
mental health counseling
to people in need

\$100

will provide 80 meals for
homeless and working
poor individuals
in Boulder

\$500

will provide rental
assistance to help
prevent homelessness
for 5 households

\$1,000

will provide 50 hours of
employment and job
search assistance

\$2,000

will provide one year of
funds for clients to
obtain the appropriate
identification to find
employment and housing

\$5,000

will support onsite intake
and assessment for 200
individuals seeking
services at our
Resource Center

\$10,000

will sponsor room and board for
one trainee at our Ready to Work
House for one year

To make an online donation visit www.boulderbridgehouse.org



Bridge House 5345 Arapahoe Ave #5 // Boulder CO 80303
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