CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
Dear Supporter,

2017 was another tremendous year for Bridge House. We innovated, we integrated, and we ended homelessness over 100 times. Looking back over 2017, I am proud of our incredible team; I am thankful for supporters like you; and I am humbled by the resilience of the people we serve. But our work doesn’t stop. Already in 2018, we are challenging ourselves daily to achieve the greatest impact possible. We are challenging ourselves to do better, to be more efficient and effective.

As each year presents with new possibilities and expanded horizons we ask ourselves — “What can we do better?” “What makes our programs tick? How can we improve them?”

We serve over 3,000 people experiencing homelessness each year. The 82,665 meals we served last year were hearty and nutritious. Through our Path to Home navigation model our proactive case management navigates people quickly and effectively out of shelter at a rate of 25 per month. Our Community Table Kitchen and Ready to Work outdoor crew social enterprises provide paid jobs allowing for our RTW trainees to build a resume, earn and save money while generating more than $784,361 in earned revenue. Ready to Work House provides housing for 44 people at all times and for 90 over the course of a year as other residents graduate into permanent housing at a success rate of 75%. Across Bridge House’s Bridge of Opportunity we offer employment, we offer housing, we offer family reunification, we support our clients in sobriety, we help our clients save money, we remove barriers to independence.

But are these the activities and interventions that define our work? Do these activities achieve the greatest impact for the people we serve, for the community we seek to improve?

I have been asking myself “What do we do better than anyone else in the world?” If we can answer this question, we will define our special sauce and we will know where to invest. So who do I ask? Myself? My team? Our Board? Our community partners? You? Yes, of course. But more importantly we need to ask our clients. And I did. I gave an open invitation for feedback and this is what we received verbatim:

“Bridge House’s faith in people creates faith in themselves.”

“Ready to Work repairs relationships in the community.”

“Bridge House offers hope and opportunity.”

“Ready to Work is continually breaking new ground.”

Bridge House is “holistic,” “innovative,” “individualized,” “professional,” just plain “very good.”

And there was more. Our clients are the experts. I am honored to hear their feedback and inspired to continue to strive for better. I am proud of our metrics. The results we share in this report represent tremendous dedication and effort on the part of our team, it represents the impact of supporters like you. To me, however, these numbers pale in comparison to the culture of opportunity we have created. We have created an environment of trust, of hope, of humor, of humanity and it this environment that makes the difference. Homelessness can happen to anyone. Homelessness is temporary. Homelessness is solvable one person at a time. If we believe in the power of opportunity the results will follow.

Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,

Isabel McDevitt
CEO — Bridge House

As each year goes by I find myself reflecting on moments and events I cherish. Family events, time with friends and community all stand out. Near the very top of my list aren’t times in my career, but rather talking with Chad and Dennis and Jay, all Ready to Work clients who worked through life’s challenges to make a difference for themselves and others. Those give meaning to my life.” — Dennis Arfmann, Chair

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Before John ended up on the street, he had a great job in a college. While John had struggled with mental health issues his college. He was living in his own apartment. He was soundly. In the morning a Bridge House case manager spoke with him asking about his situation and how Bridge House could help.

"I need a place to live," John said desperately. With compassion and care, the case manager explained to John that Bridge House's Path to Home program, which includes consistent overnight shelter along flooded over John. He would be warm and safe for tonight. John slept soundly. On the morning of the interview, John and the case manager spoke with him asking about his situation and how Bridge House could help.

"I need a place to live," John said desperately. With compassion and care, the case manager explained to John that Bridge House's Path to Home program, which includes consistent overnight shelter along housed with housing-focused case management, could help. John was scared and out of options so he agreed to join the program. Before John ended up on the street, he had a great job in a college admissions office. He was living in his own apartment. He was thriving, stable and working hard to further his career at the college. While John had struggled with mental health issues his whole life, he thought he could handle on his illness on his own. However, over the years his mental health had led to a full breakdown. His condition became so serious, he was unable to work and subsequently lost his apartment. With nowhere to go, John moved in with his father to recover and regain his independence. After a few months living with his father it became unbearable and he had to leave. When he left, he felt like he had no options and had no hope of ever becoming self-sufficient again.

Finding himself on the streets was the lowest point in John’s life. Extreme depression set in and he was completely lost.

"I thought there was no way out. I thought I would die on the street until I met Einav, my case manager at Path to Home."

Together Einav and John worked to create his comprehensive housing-focused navigation plan. John worked diligently to follow his plan and began to feel like there was a way out of homelessness. Part of John’s navigation plan was to connect with Boulder’s mental health resources. After John was on the right medication his life began to turn around. John’s case manager helped him apply for the Rapid Rehousing assistance funds available through Boulder County that would help him fund his deposit and the first month’s rent on a new apartment. His income through his job would cover the rest. Einav assisted John with his apartment search, standing by him every step of the process, until he was able to find a two bedroom apartment available at a local apartment complex.

“It was miraculous to see the change in John’s outlook on life,” Einav remembers. “From the day John began the Path to Home program, he put his navigation plan into action and his determination to change his circumstance was powerful to watch.”

After John found his new apartment, he began to look for a roommate. A graduate of Bridge House’s Ready to Work program was also searching for an apartment and a roommate as well. The case managers made the connection both agreed to move in together. Bridge House was able to help them with furnishings and beds for their new apartment. John told Einav his case manager, “I really am thankful for all you have done and continue to do for me. I greatly appreciate it. All things are working for the good. I haven’t had this much support before, and I’m trying not to get ahead of myself but dang I feel good.”

Change is possible and every day Bridge House case managers see amazing results from their clients. They come to work motivated to amends for their offenses. In late 2017, Bridge House began offering Severe Weather Overnight Shelter. This sheltering model is open to anyone who is in need of a safe, legal and warm place to sleep during inclement weather.
IN HER OWN WORDS
Ready to Work Graduate, Barbara.

My name is Barbara and I am a Ready to Work graduate. I can honestly say that joining the Ready to Work program was one of the best choices I have made for myself in a longtime.

My childhood was not a traditional one. My parents belonged to an infamous motorcycle gang. I fought hard to change my father’s mind about the marriage, but on my 16th birthday I moved in with my new husband. The abuse didn’t start right away, it slowly crept into our marriage after I had my second son. One day he came home from a drug run and punched me so hard I instantly fell to the ground. When I was able to get up off my bathroom floor I realized that he had broken my face. During another particularly brutal fight he broke my leg. I wanted out, but I was trapped with nowhere to go. It was around this time that I began using cocaine.

Two weeks after my 28th birthday I woke up in the hospital dazed and in tremendous pain. It took a few minutes for me to remember what actually happened to me and how I ended up laying in a hospital bed covered in bandages. When my memory came back I was flooded with images of beginning tied to the back of my hospital bed covered in bandages. When my memory came back I was flooded with images of beginning tied to the back of my hospital bed covered in bandages.

Two weeks later I was accepted. I did not want to live my life tangled up in my addiction anymore and I knew Ready to Work was my way out. I learned at an early age that you have to fight for what you want, and I fought hard to maintain my sobriety. My Ready to Work case manager was always there for me with inspiring advice that helped me find my true, healthy self.

Living at the Ready to Work House, I have been able to rebuild my life and find my self-worth again. It wasn’t easy; I struggled and in tremendous pain. It took a few minutes for me to remember what actually happened to me and how I ended up laying in a hospital bed covered in bandages. When my memory came back I was flooded with images of beginning tied to the back of my hospital bed covered in bandages.

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I am proud of myself and all of my amazing accomplishments and now after all of my hard work, I am now employed as a housekeeper and looking for my own place to live permanently. Throughout my whole journey in the program all of the Ready to Work staff were there for me and helped me anytime I got discouraged. Without this program I would still be using drugs and living on the street. I am so grateful for the Ready to Work program.
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

49% HAVE BEEN HOMELESS FOR 6 MONTHS OR LESS
38% HAVE BEEN HOMELESS FOR A YEAR OR MORE
74% STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION
79% OF OUR CLIENTS ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT
57% STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
11% ARE VETERANS

FINANCIALS

2017 REVENUE
- Foundations: $311,068
- Individuals: $904,590
- City & County Grants: $664,139
- CO State Funding: $101,782
- Businesses & Faith Community: $222,487
- Kitchen Social Enterprise: $381,451
- Ready To Work Crew: $301,615
- RTW Room & Board: $101,256
- Interest and Other: $25,971
TOTAL: $3,014,359

2017 EXPENSES
- Client Programs & Services: $2,451,461 (89.82%)
- Administrative: $120,835 (4.43%)
- Fundraising: $157,144 (5.76%)
TOTAL: $2,729,440 (100.0%)
THANK YOU!

Last year over 1,500 volunteers donated 10,000 hours of their time to help support Bridge House programs! We can’t do our work in the community without your support. At Bridge House, we are very grateful that you understand that it is possible to end homelessness in Boulder one person at a time. Whether you volunteer in our kitchen, help us serve meals, or make a generous gift – it is because of YOU that our work continues to make a positive impact in our community. Thank you!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL SCOTT MEDINA AT SCOTT@BOULDERBRIDGEHOUSE.ORG

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING ONE OR MORE OF OUR EVENTS?
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL EMILY MESSINA AT EMILY@BOULDERBRIDGEHOUSE.ORG
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

$50,000 — $500,000
Allan & Company
Anonymous
Boulder County Dept of Housing/Human Services
City of Boulder
Daniels Fund
Four Points Foundation
L&N Andreas Foundation
in Google, Inc.
Latino Coalition for Community Leadership
Mary Steffens Schweitzer

$20,000 — $49,000
Dennis Arfmann & Julie Brown
Anschutz Family Foundation
Anonymous Donor
Andy Allison
L&N Andreas Foundation
John M. Horner
Frank & Gina Day
Anonymous Donor
Charlton & Eleanor Ames
Mary Steffens Schweitzer
Leadership
Latino Coalition for Community Development
Four Points Foundation
Daniels Fund
City of Boulder
Human Services
Boulder County Dept of Housing
Anonymous

$10,000 — $19,000
Barbara Bennett & Michael Chapman
Gary & Karina Berg
Nancy Berman
Gregory & Jo-an Benzer
Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society
Aaron Bobbett
Bobby Brown
Brynn Gray Partners
Jill Bucher & Jamie Krappohl
Tim & Heather Bulk
City of Boulder Human Services Department
City of Boulder
Collins Foundation
Colorado Episcopal Foundation
Colorado State Bank & Trust Foundation
Credit Union of Colorado
Commission of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Colorado
Crystol & klasse

$5,000 — $9,999
Mark & Jill McIntyre
Midwest Food Bank
City of Boulder Human Services Department
Boulder County Subsidized Housing Program

$1,000 — $4,999
Robert & Anne Dietz
Madeline Day
Andrew & Brooke Davison
Linda Davidson & Kent Hogan
Rosa de la Cruz

$500 — $999
Mark A. Sanborn
Annette D. Munday
Paul S. Fortunato
Roberta Ferris

Other gifts less than $500

$5,000 — $19,000
Allan & Susan Urry

Dr. Foster & Ashley Goos
"The Flagg Family"
First Congregational Church
First Presbyterian Deacons Fund
Flatirons Solutions, Inc.
First Presbyterian Church of Boulder
Ruralus
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Sydney & Brian Strozik
Renity and the Strozik Foundation
"The Community Foundation — penny Pavecek"

Michael Kelley
Kevin & Donna Koeppeing
Jennifer Ebright
"The Flagg Family"
First Congregational Church
First Presbyterian Deacons Fund
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City of Boulder
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Richard Polk
John & Susan Pollak
Sydney Presenter
RBC Wealth Management
REACH Charitable Trust
Renaissance Solutions
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Alan & Stephanie Rudy
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SWC Mortgage Corporation
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Jay Taylor
Tebos Properties
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The Community Foundation — Aronson Family Fund
The Denver Foundation — Campbell Foundation Fund
The Community Foundation — Eberspacher Family

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The Community Foundation — S. Gardner, Fund
The Community Foundation — Sybil Gillet Smith Fund
The Cuver Family Foundation
The Jigsaw Fund
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Toyota Dealer Match Program
Leslie Tatton
William & Janet Treadwell
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Twisted Foundation
Gerald & Susan Ursin
US Bank Foundation
Peter Van Veen
Joseph Vogl & Brady LeMahie
VMware Foundation
Join our monthly giving circle today and help us continue to offer life-changing opportunities to adults experiencing homelessness in our community. Visit www.boulderbridgehouse.org to set up your monthly gift today.