2022 BRIDGE HOUSE AND READY TO WORK AURORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DEAR SUPPORTERS

In 1997, an organization named START was formed to provide day shelter and meals to those experiencing homelessness in Boulder. START transitioned to Carriage House which morphed into the organization we know today as ‘Bridge House.’ Throughout our 25-year evolution, we continually adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. But our mission, ‘to be unstoppable in the face of homelessness’, has never wavered.

Since the start of the Ready to Work program in 2012, we have graduated more than 400 individuals to full-time employment and permanent, sustainable housing within our communities. The impact of this number on both the individuals we serve, and the communities they live in, is profound.

Nearly 40% of our earned revenue is generated by our social enterprises, the businesses which provide jobs and work experience to our trainees. So the work that gives our trainees the ability to earn money towards again being self-sustaining, also sustains our mission. A win-win if there ever was one.

Our landscaping business has long-standing contracts with many different municipalities, and was recently awarded a valuable State of Colorado contract. Our state-of-the-art commercial kitchen offers trainees the opportunity to learn culinary arts and contribute to one of our three robust businesses that run out of it: producing mission meals for food-insecure community members; making our corporate gifting truffle brownie line that ships worldwide; and fulfilling orders for our top-notch catering business.

Last year we became a founding member of Work Works America which focuses on advocacy, policy, and outreach, with plans to strategically scale the work-first model as a means to end homelessness across the United States.

For 25 years, we have offered innovative programs which focus on meeting adults experiencing homelessness where they are; responding to the changing needs of unhoused community members with creative and scrappy solutions; and providing vigorous programs to help them get back to living their best lives.

We are honored by your support on this mission. Together, we CAN end homelessness, one person at a time.

Melissa Green, CEO

There’s nothing in the world that can stop us from creating opportunities to help people get a foothold, to overcome their challenges, and to go beyond all expectations.
OUR HISTORY

1997

START was established as a day shelter when local businesses and faith communities identified a need for services.

Community Table was established as a 501c3 to provide meals to unhoused individuals and those experiencing food insecurity. Food was prepared by volunteers and meals were hosted by faith communities.

2008

Carriage House merged with Community Table and became known as Carriage House Community Table.

2004

START changed its name to Carriage House and operated a day shelter and kitchen out of a 1,200 square-foot brick house owned by the First Congregational Church at Pine Street and Broadway.

2011

Carriage House Community Table changed its name to Bridge House to better showcase our programs as a ‘Bridge of Opportunity’ for our clients experiencing homelessness.

2012

The Resource Center opened as a response to the ever-growing needs of clients and service providers alike. The Resource Center operated through 2017.

Ready to Work launched as a pilot program with the City of Boulder to provide clean-up services on Pearl Street and the Boulder Creek path.

2013

Community Table Kitchen opened its 2,700 square-foot commercial kitchen as Bridge House's food service social enterprise.
**2015**

Bridge House opened the Ready to Work House in Boulder to provide housing for 44 individuals at a time enrolled in the program.

**2018**

Path to Home opened as the City of Boulder’s first 24/7 shelter, incorporating space for Community Table dinners, Coordinated Entry, Severe Weather Shelter, and Navigation services. Bridge House operated Path to Home for the duration of its 2-year pilot program.

Bridge House absorbed Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow, a Boulder based non-profit that provided emergency services for adults experiencing homelessness.

Ready to Work Aurora opened, with capacity for 50 individuals. RTWA represented the first expansion for Bridge House into the Denver metro area.

**2021**

Bridge House begins collaborating with officials in the Tri-Cities area (Englewood, Sheridan, Littleton) to open a third location.

**2023 & BEYOND**

Bridge House breaks ground on their third Ready to Work House in Englewood, Colorado and begins communication with Adams County for services and a potential fourth location.
Meeting the basic needs of homeless and food insecure individuals in our community is still a core pillar of the Bridge House mission. While the programs have shifted over time, the concept of providing access to basic resources as the first step to exiting the cycle of homelessness remains the same.

Our Path to Home navigation shelter operated from July 2017 through May 2020. As a pilot designed to combine overnight sheltering with intensive, housing-focused case management, the Path to Home model proved to be highly successful. More than 850 clients exited Path to Home with housing and support. The lease at the Path to Home location ended on May 31, 2020 and Homeless Solutions for Boulder County currently offers navigation services for the community.

**INTERN SLEEP PROGRAM**

Our intern sleep program provides an interim respite for those wishing to enter our Ready to Work program. The program ensures both the safety of our current trainees as well as ensuring proper fit for the individual and the RTW program as a whole.

**COMMUNITY TABLE DINNERS**

Community Table dinners is our longest-running program. Meals are served every weeknight by volunteers, offering a safe place to enjoy a delicious and nutritious meal to anyone in need. We believe that low-barrier access to food and a welcoming community is fundamental to building trust with adults experiencing homelessness. In 2020, we shifted these meals to a “grab and go” style driven by the issues created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **6,705** meals served at Community Table Dinners
- **962** unique individuals
- **640** first-time participants
- **110** adults supported as interns for the RTW program
  - [food, shelter, laundry, clothing, showers, COVID testing, vaccines, case management]
CTK operates out of our 17,000 square foot commercial production kitchen and demonstrates what is possible when mission and business merge. CTK provides jobs for Ready to Work trainees through meaningful, paid work that builds resumes and real-world work experience. Chef John Trejo and his team also operate our catering business and a café, located on the campus of Boulder Community Health.

CTK served a total of **148,570** meals for food insecure communities in 2022!

Our Danconias Truffle Brownie line also operates out of CTK, offering delicious gifts that can be shipped worldwide.
Our unique and highly-effective combination of employment, housing, and support breaks the expensive cycles of homelessness, incarceration and chronic unemployment. Ready to Work is a stepping stone to self-sufficiency. After one year, trainees graduate to mainstream jobs and permanent housing.

Ready to Work (RTW) is the only integrated, revenue-generating economic development and housing model in Colorado that offers a Work Works approach to solving homelessness.

**READY TO WORK OPERATES IN TWO LOCATIONS IN THE DENVER METRO AREA — BOULDER AND AURORA.**

**3-LEGGED STOOL APPROACH**

**Work + Housing + Support**

**Work:** Gain employment in one of two Bridge House owned social enterprises, our landscaping business or Community Table Kitchen, where trainees earn a wage, build a resume and establish positive employment references.

**Housing:** Stabilize and build a positive living history.

**Support:** Case management to meet personal goals through an individualized plan, including financial management assistance, medical care, substance abuse and mental health issues.

**AFTERCARE**

Ready to Work graduates stay connected with RTW and continue to receive career advancement support, guidance and resources to support their sobriety and success after reentering the community. **80% of graduates are still housed and employed 12 months after graduation.**
## 2022 IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RTWA</th>
<th>RTWB</th>
<th>COMBINED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success Rate</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights of Housing</td>
<td>15,604</td>
<td>15,682</td>
<td>31,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals Provided</td>
<td>47,046</td>
<td>46,812</td>
<td>93,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Hours Worked</td>
<td>19,400</td>
<td>19,400</td>
<td>38,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Enterprise Revenue</td>
<td>$492,464</td>
<td>$1,052,704</td>
<td>$1,545,167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More than 400 trainees have graduated from Ready to Work since 2015.

Ready to Work had a 71% success rate in 2022.
## 2022 REVENUE
(Bridge House and RTW Aurora)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals and Family Foundations</td>
<td>$1,422,369</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Foundations</td>
<td>$5,054,629</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Enterprise Revenue</td>
<td>$1,541,732</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTW Rent</td>
<td>$338,142</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment/Other Income</td>
<td>$100,463</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,457,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 2022 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
(Bridge House and RTW Aurora)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Service Expense</td>
<td>$4,740,089</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General Expenses</td>
<td>$896,819</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
<td>$305,004</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,941,912</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>
Volunteering at Bridge House means lifting up the spirits of our trainees. These good deeds help remind them of a community that supports them on their journey to self-sufficiency. Whether it’s serving meals, helping out at Community Table Kitchen, or providing one-on-one mentoring, the connection our volunteers create with trainees is immeasurable. The Kids Give Back program offers families an opportunity to volunteer together, through fun projects that foster a sense of service at a young age. The important outcomes we achieve at Bridge House are only possible when backed by robust community support. Volunteers truly are a key ingredient to the success of our trainees. Acts of kindness and an effort to connect one-on-one has an impact on our trainees long after their graduation from Ready to Work. Thank you to all who have served with us this past year!

2022 IMPACT

797
Individual volunteers

4,978
Volunteer hours
If you ask Cedrik what made the difference in helping turn his life around, the answer comes without hesitation: work. “I like to work and I really enjoy my job,” he says. Born and raised in Greeley, Colorado, Cedrik grew up in a large extended family. His parents divorced when he was 2-years old, and the children were shuttled between households. His grandmother was a strong figure in the family, helping to look after Cedrik, his siblings, and their cousins.

In middle school, Cedrik experienced great loss when his grandmother passed away. Cedrik and his stepbrother soon started experimenting with substances. Following high school graduation, he enrolled in classes at a local community college while working in the construction industry. Throughout these years, his drug and alcohol use increased. Cedrik shares, “At first, I could control it but then I started coming to work high. I just couldn’t keep a job.” Cedrik began stealing cars and robbing houses, cycling in and out of jail for his crimes. “I even went to several different rehab facilities and halfway houses, but nothing worked,” he explains. His family became fed up with his destructive behavior and cut ties with him for several years.

Cedrik heard about the Ready to Work program through the Work and Gain Education & Employment Skills (WAGEES) program while in jail. WAGEES is a community-based program that facilitates reentry for people under the Colorado Department of Corrections supervision. As a WAGEES community partner, Ready to Work partners with the Colorado Department of Corrections to coordinate services and provide support for successful reentry. Cedrik came to RTW through parole and began to turn his life around. In 2022, he graduated from the program and now works on the Forestry and Wildland Firefighter Crew with Boulder County Open Space. His tenacity and strong work ethic also earned him the Dennis Fee award at the 2022 RTW graduation ceremony. Cedrik now feels a sense of relief, “I don’t have to worry about how I’m going to get money, how to avoid the law, or feeling bad from withdrawals.” He has also reconnected to his family and looks forward to a healthy, peaceful life.
MEET JERAMIE

Jeramie believes that his past does not define him. “I am still writing my story. I got my life back, everything changed, I owe a big part of that to everyone at Ready to Work,” he begins.

Jeramie grew up in Strasburg, CO in a farming community where his childhood was filled with lots of time outdoors, playing football, riding dirtbikes, and having fun with friends. Unfortunately, Jeramie suffered extreme abuse at the hands of his stepfather at the age of 15, a secret that Jeramie kept for years. By this time, he was in high school and his grades began to suffer. He was skipping school, drinking, and stopped playing football. He eventually received his high school diploma through an online program.

At the age of 28, he began feeling ill and was diagnosed with lupus and Rheumatoid arthritis. He went through treatments but still suffered from flare-ups which caused issues at work.

At age 30, he had a daughter with his long-time girlfriend. Jeramie shares, “It was a toxic relationship and I did pills or drank a lot during that time.” Soon, he lost his license due to a DUI charge, which in turn caused him to lose his construction job. He was in and out of detox for substance abuse for some time, but his path of self-destruction continued. His family and friends got tired of his substance abuse and he became homeless.

In 2021, Jeramie was referred to the Ready to Work Aurora house. He credits recovery groups and therapy with helping him work through his past trauma. Jeramie has also reunited with his family and now looks forward to raising his daughter. He has an apartment and a new position working with Consolidated Services Group in Aurora as a Special Project Manager. Jeramie continues to grow and recently received his Colorado Peer and Family Specialist certificate through training he completed at RTW. He has dreams of working in the recovery space and strongly believes that giving back is important. “I want people to know, you’re not alone, it might seem impossible but recovery is there if you want it,” he shares.
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IN THE FACE OF HOMELESSNESS
WAYS YOU CAN HELP

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ORDER Community Table Kitchen Take and Bake meals or Danconias Truffle Brownies for your family or friends.

EMPLOY a Ready to Work graduate at your company or for your business needs.

VOLUNTEER with us through our Community Table meal program or as a Ready to Work mentor.

FOLLOW us on social media and share our information with your networks.

INVITE people to our events. Purchase a table at our Farm to Table Gala, host a house party or dinner at Community Table Kitchen and invite people to get involved with our mission.

SHARE matching opportunities and fundraising campaigns with your networks.

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bhrtw.org
303-442-8300
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5345 Arapahoe Ave., Ste. 5
Boulder, CO 80303