



Connecting Families Facing Homelessness to a Brighter Future



Bridge Communities is a dynamic, holistic, grassroots non-profit organization committed to transforming the lives of families facing homelessness through meaningful partnerships with community-based agencies and individuals. The program of housing, mentoring, employment and education counseling focuses families towards a goal of permanent housing and self-sufficiency. The problems Bridge Communities addresses are homelessness, underemployment, unemployment, skill deficiencies, lack of education, parenting issues and debt management. The objectives of the Bridge program are:

- Secure an improved employment status, therefore increasing earned income
- Reduce debt and improve credit rating
- Teach clients how to better utilize resources through life-skills mentoring
- Improve the client's and their children's educational opportunities
- Secure and sustain permanent housing upon completion of the Program
- Break the cycle of poverty within the family unit



Bridge Communities has helped more than 950 families achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

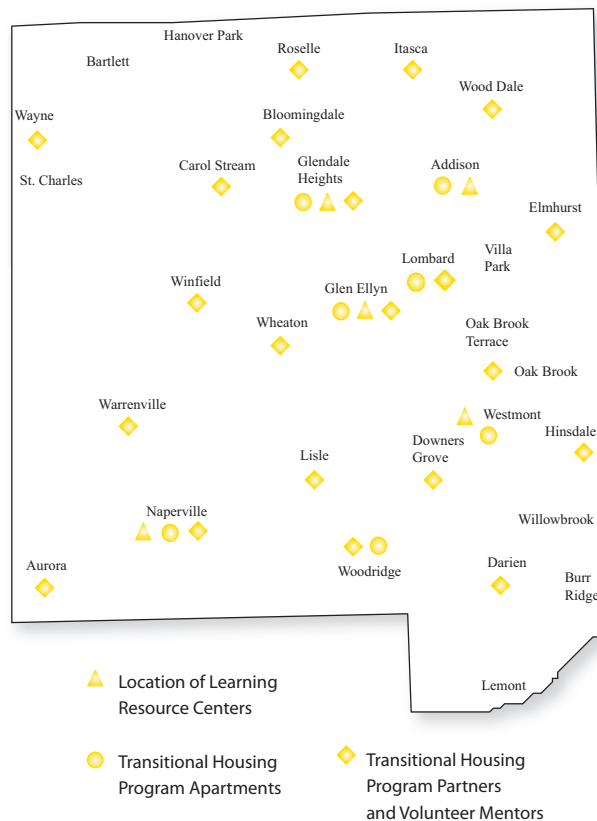
In 2022...

- 95 families were served (99 adults, 184 children)
- 43 clients landed full-time jobs
- 31 clients enrolled in college courses or vocational training
- 151 children received home visits from the children's team (virtual or in-person)
- 24 clients graduated



Achievements of 2022 Graduates

- 100% agreed their ability to communicate with and advocate for their children improved
- 92% of families secured permanent housing
- 100% reported they developed a Trusting Relationship with One Mentor
- 89% gained confidence in their ability to achieve their employment goals
- Median Debt moved from \$7,880 to \$2,739
- Median Income moved from \$2,307 to \$3,573
- Median Savings moved from \$0 to \$9,625



How You Can Get Involved at Bridge Communities

Sponsor a Bridge Special Event

Contact Director of Community Engagement Jenifer Bystry at 630-403-5095 or jenifer.bystry@bridgecommunities.org

Tutor or Volunteer at a Learning Resource Center

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Mary Slade at 630-403-5098 or mary.slade@bridgecommunities.org

Mentor a Bridge Family

Contact Associate Director of Program Partnerships, Marti Deuter at 630-403-5109 or marti.deuter@bridgecommunities.org

Volunteer for Bridge's Employment Program

Contact Director of Employment and Education Services Jodi Fegter at 630-403-5111 or jodi.fegter@bridgecommunities.org

Donate Your Car to Bridge

Contact Senior Case Manager Paul Matthews at 630-403-5104 or paul.matthews@bridgecommunities.org

Give to Bridge Communities

Contact Senior Director Amy Van Polen at 630-403-5090 or amy.vanpolen@bridgecommunities.org

Organize a Donation Drive or Fundraiser

Contact Volunteer Coordinator
Mary Slade at 630-403-5098 or
mary.slade@bridgecommunities.org



Why Support Bridge Communities?

Bridge is committed to being good stewards of your generosity!

- Our operating revenues are split between program partner fees, rental income and fundraising efforts, so you can be sure that Bridge families will always receive the housing and services they need.
- Program Partners from faith-based and community groups help underwrite the cost of housing and services.
- Bridge relies on generous friends in the community like you—not government funding—to keep our program going. We know that Bridge families couldn't thrive without you, and we are grateful for your support each and every day.



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