

35 YEARS OF HOMES & HOPE!



BRIDGE
COMMUNITIES





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Dear friends,

As I look back on the 35-year history of Bridge Communities, I am struck by the number of lives touched. In 1988, Bridge's co-founders Mark Milligan and Bob Wahlgren started this organization with the vision of a community where all families are healthy, financially stable, and living in affordable housing – the very same vision we continue to work towards today.

As seen on the front cover of this book, Bridge Communities has adopted jade as a symbol of this momentous anniversary. This is not only because jade is the modern symbol for a 35th anniversary, but also because that symbol represents good fortune, wisdom, and love, which truly is the foundation Bridge was built upon.

Because of this strong foundation and the support of friends like you, our vision and impact has continued to shine through the years. Nothing is a better representation of that impact than the more than 950 families that Bridge has had the honor of serving as they created a better future for themselves.

This is not only over 1,000 parents whose lives have been transformed through the Bridge program, but thousands of children who were able to break the cycle of homelessness and find success as they grew up.

In honor of our 35th Anniversary, we reconnected with some of these young adults years after their families left the Bridge program and would like to share some of their inspiring stories with you.

Afterall, none of this would be possible without you. Whether you are a new friend of Bridge or have been around since Mark and Bob served our first clients, you have impacted countless lives and journeyed alongside families facing homelessness on their road to self-sufficiency. For that, you have my sincere appreciation.

Our 35-year history has prepared Bridge to continue to grow and help even more families achieve permanent housing and self-sufficiency. If the touching stories of the young people in this book inspire you to action, you can learn more about how you can further support Bridge Communities' mission on page 26.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support throughout these past 35 years. We look forward to your continued partnership in our commitment to improve the lives of families facing homelessness for years to come.

With gratitude for you,



Amy Van Polen
Chief Executive Officer
Bridge Communities

The 35 Year History of Bridge Communities from Co-Founder, Mark Milligan

The first meeting of Bridge Communities was conducted in July of 1988. It was held at my home in Wheaton around my kitchen table. While volunteering at a homeless shelter, I was moved by the number of families that relied on these services, especially when I noticed the same families repeatedly come back to the shelter. Seeing those same children returning time and time again really inspired me to take action.



At first though, I struggled with what I should do to address this issue of family homelessness in DuPage County, so I called a friend of mine, Bob Wahlgren. That afternoon, we decided we would rent an apartment and house a family facing homelessness there.

Our division of labor was that Bob would handle the administrative, and I would handle the program. Back then, we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into, but these early days of Bridge Communities became a time to establish who we were and what we valued.

In the following six years, Bridge Communities developed a three-month program for transitional housing, exclusively for families with children. This was a novel idea at the time when other transitional housing providers offered only three-week programs. After a little experience, we soon extended this to a two-year program.



At this time, we also started providing children with tutoring, the first of our Children's Services programming, and began to build our first apartment building in Glendale Heights, which still houses Bridge families to this day.

The following years were very exciting for us. By June 1998, Bridge went from being an all-volunteer organization to having a staff of five, and over a five-year period, we grew to have 60 families in our program. Around this time, the idea of Bridge becoming a support unit for DuPage churches wanting to work with families facing homelessness originated, and with these new Program Partners, Bridge continued to grow.



These were our days of rock and roll. We owned 10 apartment buildings in DuPage County and were debt free.

Children's Services was no longer just a tutoring program, but a comprehensive program exploring and working with all the concerns that children might have. To keep up with this new focus, the Children's team grew from one person to three. The Employment team similarly grew from one person to three as they began more comprehensive efforts to not only find a client a job but teach them how to get the best job.

Every division of Bridge Communities grew and got better over these years, which brings us to our current staff that can provide truly comprehensive services to the families we serve.

Over the past 35 years, the greatest joy I have experienced with Bridge Communities is seeing the lives of the children in our program turn around: seeing them start to thrive and even go off to college.

I hope you too will find joy in the remarkable stories of these young adults, who have broken the cycle of homelessness and been able to thrive.

Jay

“After a stressful time, Bridge was the spark we needed to reignite our ability to proceed with life.”

“My mom had enough of it,” Jay said. After his father became verbally and physically abusive, Sangita, Jay’s mom, knew she and her children needed to leave, but divorce can be costly. Bills began to pile up, and ultimately, their house went into foreclosure.

Those moments were really stressful,” Jay shared. “My mom was working three jobs, just focusing on how to make ends meet so she could put food on the table.”

Right when his family was considering moving into a one-bedroom apartment too small to fit Sangita, Jay’s two sisters, and himself, they were accepted into the Bridge program.



"It was a sigh of relief," said Jay. They were met with helpful mentors and support from staff. Soon they began building their savings.

Even though he was just 15 when they entered the program in 2008, Jay felt the need to do whatever he could to help support his family. However, being in Bridge let him focus more on his next steps. "Part of my time in Bridge was figuring out what to do after graduating high school," Jay said.

Bridge helped connect him with people that guided him through finding the right college and assisted him in the financial aid application process.

Jay also found community at Bridge. "Meeting neighbors that were in the same position as us was very encouraging," Jay said. "It felt like we were all in this together." In fact, one of Jay's neighbors even drove him to work whenever his mom was busy.

"The Bridge program definitely changed our lives," said Jay. "It was

a load carried off our shoulders. It's because of Bridge that we were able to save."

Today, Jay says life is good. He's happily married and owns his own home. He has also found a fulfilling and successful career as a doctor. "I practice optometry. It's a very rewarding job," Jay shared. "This is something that was meant for me."

Since their time with Bridge, Jay's family has been thriving. Both of his sisters have graduated from college and found careers as a practicing physician's assistant and a marketing professional.

"How can words even describe every little way that Bridge has supported my mom, myself, and my sisters?" said Jay. "The families in Bridge are so fortunate to be given a second chance."



Brian

**“It definitely helped us,
and it can help others.”**

Brian doesn't remember much of how he and his family ended up in the Bridge Communities program. What he does remember, though, is the peace of mind he discovered once they got there.

Brian shared that he, his mother, and stepfather never felt stable before they entered Bridge when Brian was in the second grade. Whether living in shelters or staying with relatives, their previous living conditions never came equipped with a true feeling of belonging.

But that all changed when they were accepted into the Bridge program in 1991.

“Having the same friends and having the same people around you is a lot different than when you're moving around



all the time," Brian said. "It was great to be in the same house, to have the same friends around. That's exactly what a kid needs."

To this day, Brian still remembers the daily basketball games with neighborhood friends and the bike that he received from a Bridge staff member, marking the first time he had ever had a bike of his own.

Yet, it was the stability of staying in the same place for the four years Brian's family was in the Bridge program that brought the most comfort. For the first time, he had a place to celebrate holidays, his own room, and friendships that remain intact to this day.

It also left a lasting impression that he now holds onto as an adult.

"The stability and the people who were there helping – I try to carry that with me," Brian said.

Now, life is good. Brian is married with a 12-year-old daughter. He has worked in support services for the same company for much of his adult life. In the next year, Brian is planning on buying his own home, where he hopes to provide for and support his family in the same way he felt supported by Bridge as a young boy.

"Bridge is awesome because without it, I would be the type who is moving around and going from job to job," Brian said. "I think it meant a lot, and it showed me that this is how it's supposed to be. And so, I need to strive to make it that way."

"The big thing is having that peace of mind – it helps bring your family closer together."



Tiara

“Bridge Communities is a bridge between what was and what could be – a bridge to a beautiful future as long as you utilize those resources.”

Even as a child, Tiara was well practiced in adapting to new situations, so when her parents split when she was young and forced her and her mom to forge a new path forward, Tiara did what she always did: made the best out of the situation.

Yet, when Tiara struggled to make friends after constantly moving around, Bridge Communities not only paired Tiara with girls her age but also helped mold a friendship that would last a lifetime.



Through Bridge, Tieara met Grace, a tutor assigned to her when she was in second grade. The tutoring relationship was scheduled to last a year, but instead, it developed into a steady relationship that is still strong 20 years later.

“When I was in school, Grace never stopped coming over and never stopped helping me,” Tieara said. “She didn’t choose to be my family – obviously, we’re not biological family, but the fact she chose to stay in my life means everything to me. So I’m very grateful.”

Tieara first met Grace at the Learning Resource Center Bridge had in Tieara’s building. There, Grace would help Tieara develop a love of learning, a good work ethic, and solid study

habits. Grace would also bring snacks for Tieara, a small act of kindness that Tieara remembers to this day.

Since then, the bond between Tieara and Grace has only continued to grow to the point where they are now part of each other’s support system. The love of learning Grace inspired in Tieara helped to carry her through high school, college, and postgraduate school.

Tieara, who earned a master’s degree in public health, works as a licensed dietician and is enjoying life. She lives in her own place, owns her own car, and has maintained steady employment in her field for the past four years.

The lessons Tieara first learned through Bridge Communities and her tutor turned lifelong friend are continuing to pay off in a life Tieara says she is fortunate to have.

“One of the main things I would want people to know about Bridge is to utilize this resource that they have because it can turn into something way more special than they could ever imagine,” said Tieara.



“Use those resources because it can turn into something phenomenal and have a huge impact.”

Justyn

“At Bridge, everything revolves around family.”

When Justyn was 13, his family spent over a year bouncing around without a consistent place to call home. Justyn, his mom, and his younger brother stayed in hotels, spent nights doubled up with family or friends, or slept in their car. All this changed when they found the support they needed in the Bridge program.

His mother worked hard to keep food on the table and did all she could to keep her two sons from feeling the same stress she did as she tried to find a place for them to stay. Still though, Justyn recalled the situation saying it was like “living with your guard up.”

“There was never a lack of love or support for each other,” said Justyn. “But you had friends. You could sleep over at your friend’s house, but the opposite wasn’t possible.”



When they were applying for Bridge, Justyn remembers not being too optimistic about it. His family had been rejected from a couple different organizations before. This made the surprise even greater when they were accepted in the winter of 2003.

"I remember getting to the apartment that first night and that being a really great feeling," said Justyn. "We got there, walked in, and we were home. There wasn't really that much work to do other than to just be home."

In the Bridge program, Justyn and his brother received tutoring, went to basketball camps, and met with supportive mentors.

"[The Bridge program] allowed me to have the comfort and stability I needed in those critical and formative teenage years. I was able to focus on adjusting to high school, succeeding in school, and preparing for college," said Justyn. "The timing couldn't have been more perfect."

"Bridge really changes families' lives and gives kids the opportunity to be kids again and gives parents the opportunity to put their best foot forward in a very trying time."

Today, Justyn is married with a six-year-old child of his own. He still lives in Chicagoland and works as a graphic designer. The rest of his family is also doing well. His mother is still as supportive and as present as always in her sons' and her grandsons' lives.

"As a child experiencing homelessness, you have certain guards built up to protect yourself and your family," Justyn said. "It's tough to lose those guards and [Bridge] does a great job of making that a more comfortable transition with all the support they provide, how supportive the staff is, and how welcoming everyone is. It's not what you'd expect but in a very good way."



Dayyana

“Bridge is a link to live a better life.”

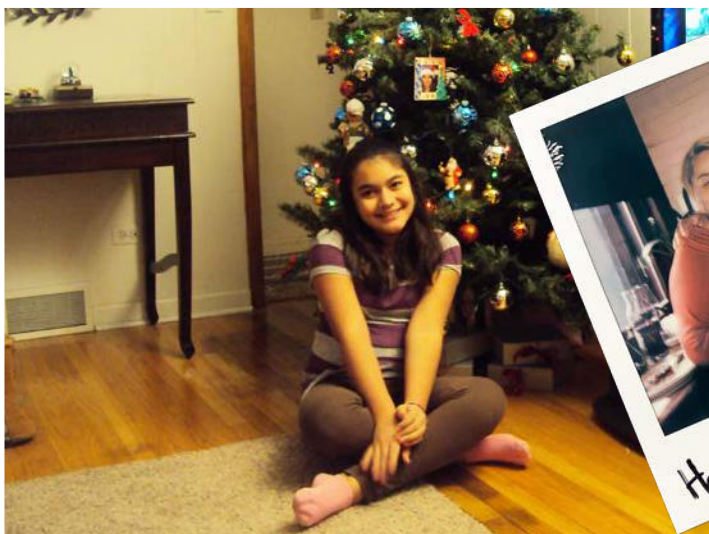
Dayyana and her mother, Karine, moved to the US from Uzbekistan in 2009 when Dayyana was just 11 years old. While Karine was a certified pharmacist in Uzbekistan, she had an extremely hard time finding a job in the US without being able to speak English.

Without a source of income, Karine and Dayyana had to live with a family member, doubling up in an apartment too small to fit all of them. “I didn’t know where my home was or where I belonged,” said Dayyana. “I felt like a guest in someone else’s house all the time.”

It was around this time that Dayyana and Karine met a Bridge volunteer that encouraged them to apply to the program.

“When we joined Bridge, I remember feeling a lot more relief,” said Dayyana. “The apartment felt like my home.”

Dayyana still struggled to find a sense of belonging though. She had only moved to the US a few short years ago



and was still learning English. After so many big changes, she felt somewhat out of place, even in her own home.

One thing that helped Dayyana find her sense of belonging was meeting the other girls in the Bridge program. They bonded over their shared experiences and became friends. She even went to summer camp with them, something that Dayyana describes as her favorite Bridge memory.

When Dayyana was older, Bridge also connected her with an ACT tutor that met with her once a week. "I was the first person in my family to go to an American university. I don't think I would have been able to go to college, without Bridge's ACT help," said Dayyana. "It helped me get my scholarship."

It was around this time that Dayyana connected with Vicky Joseph, founder of Families Helping Families, one of Bridge's Program Partners.

"Vicky told me 'If you never ask, the answer will always be no.' And that's

a piece of advice I carried with me through my life," said Dayyana. In fact, it was this piece of advice that empowered Dayyana to call her financial aid office and negotiate a more generous scholarship.

"No matter your background, Bridge is there to help and improve lives and give people the resources they need."

Since then, Dayyana earned her bachelor's degrees and her master's in accounting. She and her mother are both living in Texas where Dayyana recently got a new job working in Nokia's sales program.

"I'm so grateful for [Bridge]. It changed my life in so many ways, both directly and indirectly," said Dayyana. "I'm so happy to have gone through the program and am just so thankful for the life I'm able to live now."



Shaylee

“If it wasn’t for Bridge, we wouldn’t have had anywhere to go.”

Shaylee moved so much as a kid that when her father told her and her siblings that he had found a new apartment, it seemed like just another move.

Shaylee didn’t know it at the time, but acceptance into the Bridge Communities program would provide her family with more support and stability than they had ever known, even if she and her siblings were too young to fully grasp what was happening at that time.

“None of us really knew that Bridge Communities was actually more than just an apartment complex,” Shaylee said.

The family found Bridge after they had to leave their previous apartment following a breakup Shaylee’s



father had with his former partner. This not only ended the relationship but left Shaylee and her family with nowhere to go. That was when Shaylee's father, Tony, applied for the Bridge program.

Once in the Bridge program, Shaylee and her siblings began receiving a tutoring program that offered the one-on-one instruction and educational support they needed to succeed in school. They were able to focus on their education and watch as their father received assistance from Bridge staff members on how to manage his money and time.

Shaylee, perhaps for the first time, felt like she had real roots and a place where they could all thrive under the same roof.

"It was nice because we knew we were going to be there for a while," said Shaylee.

As their time in the Bridge program came to an end, Bridge connected the family with Habitat for Humanity, which helped them move into a single-family home. Today, Shaylee lives in Wisconsin with her partner and works in a managerial role at a carwash.

Her younger siblings remain active in school and sports, thankful for the support they found through Bridge. At just 19, Shaylee has a bright future ahead of her. She is grateful for what she has and leans on many of the same lessons her father gained in the Bridge program to carve out a better life for herself.

"Bridge helped us go from being on the streets to finding an apartment," said Shaylee. "I don't know where we would have been if we didn't have Bridge."



Kevin

“Bridge made it seamless for our family. It was a huge relief. We knew we had a place to go to and that was no longer up in the air.”

Kevin grew up in a stable living environment, but when his mother and stepfather split when he was 19, everything changed for him and his sister.

Kevin watched as his mom had to manage the household finances for the first time while continuing to provide a home for her two children. His mother did everything she could to keep up. She worked extra hours, took on extra shifts, and even worked side jobs to keep the bills paid.

But after a year, the bank foreclosed on their home.

It was then that Kevin’s mother applied for Bridge Communities, which set the family up with a two-bedroom apartment and a new lease on life.



“It was a huge relief,” said Kevin. “We knew we had a place to go to and that was no longer up in the air.”

Bridge connected Kevin’s mom to computer instruction, English as a Second Language classes, and mock job interviews. Kevin even remembers Bridge bolstering his mom’s



professional wardrobe through the Bridge Communities Boutique which gave her clothing she could wear to work.

"I know she is a hard worker," said Kevin. "She just needed that reassurance from somebody else to tell her that she can accomplish what she wants to accomplish and that there are resources out there for her and that the path that she wanted to take is not as impossible as she thought."

Kevin, meanwhile, met Joe – a mentor who became something of a father figure to Kevin's family. Joe introduced Kevin to conversations he had never considered. The two talked



"It's not a free ride by any means, but it encourages clients to better themselves."

about self-sufficiency and about Kevin becoming his own boss.

While studying engineering, a life change forced Kevin to stop taking classes, but in remembering what Joe told him, Kevin started a career in insurance with State Farm, where he has worked for four years now. Kevin, now 28, purchased his own condo and will soon run his own insurance agency.

He credits the new direction his family's lives took, and so much more, to Bridge.

"This is such an amazing program, it's a life-changing program," said Kevin. "It's not a free ride by any means, but it encourages clients to better themselves. I think that's the best part."

Ryan

“Bridge is life changing. It really gives people the opportunity to change.”

After his family lost their home, Ryan went into his senior year of high school not knowing what they were going to do next. He recalls not having that sense of belonging that a home provides.

However, his family found that and more through joining the Bridge program and moving into their new apartment.

“It absolutely felt like a fresh start,” Ryan said. “It’s a pretty powerful feeling to know that everyone is happy and good and safe.”

In addition to a stable apartment to call their own, Bridge provided Ryan’s mother with training that helped prepare her to reenter the business world, and Ryan’s two siblings received tutoring and other Bridge programming. Meanwhile, Ryan was able to take a new focus on his life goals, which included going to college.

“Bridge helps people who are in a horrible situation escape a horrible situation, and they provide the



number one thing that a family may need which is a place to live, a place to call home," Ryan said. "They keep families together as a family unit."

Ryan also remembers the support his family received from weekly meetings with their mentors, as well as holiday parties and other events that made Ryan and his family feel cared for.

"Everyone genuinely cared," Ryan said. "You can obviously sense if someone does not really care – it's kind of like a front, but there was never that vibe from anyone."

Originally, Ryan thought that going off to college would be too expensive, so he planned to put his dream university on hold and attend junior college. However, thanks to a scholarship from Bridge Communities, he was able to attend Bradley University.

Today at 26, Ryan is thriving. Since graduating college in 2020, his work has taken him to California and then to Florida, where he now works as a marketing account executive. His

professional life is flourishing, but as he continues with a career he loves, the lessons he learned from his time with Bridge will continue to guide him.

"Anyone can be one step from a dire situation." Ryan shared. "Now, I know what to do and what to focus on to make sure I never end up in a situation like that."

"Bridge really sets people up for a fresh start, and I feel it's a very successful fresh start."



Jireh

“Now that we have this opportunity to grow after being part of the Bridge community, I feel like we’ve taken advantage of that and been able to figure out our place.”

Jireh remembers the uncertainty she felt constantly bouncing from place to place despite being only 10 years old.

Yet, even after she, her mother, and younger siblings entered the Bridge Communities program, a sense of stability came with even more change.

“My whole life, I had known the city and to move somewhere else was a huge transition for me,” Jireh said. “I had never had a place to call home, but once we moved out here, it was like a huge help.”

After spending her entire life in Chicago, a move to suburban Naperville seemed even bigger than the miles suggested. But thanks to Bridge, Jireh’s mother was able to find the stability her family needed and enroll in college – a choice that has



paid off for her family and continues to benefit them today.

However, while her mother balanced work, caring for her kids, and her college course load, Jireh was asked to take on some of the responsibilities and help look after her younger siblings.

Now as a high school senior, the lessons she learned through Bridge are preparing Jireh for her own college experience. Today, she is busy focusing on her own class load while trying to decide which school provides her with the best path forward as she pursues a career in criminal justice. She manages the balancing act for the most part, but sometimes finds things stressful, she admits. Still, she has learned a lot through her mother's experiences.

"With my mom, I remember seeing her struggle with trying to make sure that we were on top of our work and trying to take care of all of us at the same time

while trying to go to school and still work," Jireh said.

Lessons on finding a life balance that works for them are only one of the many positives that Jireh and her family have taken from Bridge. Seeing how Bridge prepared her mother for college taught Jireh the value that the pursuit of a college degree will have for her – a path that she knows will lead to success down the road if she's willing to put in the work.

"Bridge is a community that helps people better their lives."

"Bridge has changed my life for the better," Jireh said. "If you put in the effort, you can definitely see it towards the end."



Carmen

“Bridge is giving. They give people new opportunities and new support.”

Carmen’s story with Bridge Communities began six years ago when her parents got divorced. Without her father paying any of the bills, they wound up losing their home.

“It was definitely really difficult,” shared Carmen. “It all felt so different. I had to move and leave so many of the people I knew. I’m a dancer, and I had a studio that I had to leave. I had to stop dancing.”

Though entering the Bridge program was a big relief for Carmen’s mom, Michelle, it was a sudden change for Carmen. Her family had gone from owning their own home to facing homelessness and entering the Bridge program in such short succession, and all of this happened when Carmen, the eldest of her two siblings, was just 10 years old.



Even though it felt strange at first, Carmen began feeling at home when she met her family's mentors and some of Bridge's staff. "Our mentors were always super nice and super fun," said Carmen. "We still talk to them."

Carmen also took part in a lot of Bridge's services. While in the program, Carmen received tutoring with Bridge, went to summer camps, and joined her mom at some Nutrition workshops. She even recently attended Bridge's What's Next, an educational workshop for teens to help plan their next steps after high school.

Today, the future looks bright for Carmen and her family. Carmen has dreams of becoming a vet and is so dedicated to pursuing her goals. She is taking all honors and Advanced Placement courses with a focus on science, including classes like anatomy

and vet sciences. She is also working at a pet store to get more experience working with animals and is captain of her high school's varsity poms team.

Michelle is getting closer to graduating nursing school, and Carmen's younger siblings are doing well in school and pursuing extracurricular activities. The whole family is working hard to achieve their goals, which are all starting to seem within reach.

"We're still in touch with Bridge, and they're still there for us."

"Bridge was there for us to help my mom figure out what next steps to take and helped guide us along the way," said Carmen. "It continues to help you even after you've graduated the program."



Thank you for your incredible support through the years!

If you'd like to further support Bridge as we help even more children break the cycle of homelessness, check out some of the ways you can get involved below.

Volunteer Opportunities



Make an impact by volunteering your time and/or expertise to Bridge Communities.

Employment Program volunteering:

HR professionals assist job-seeking clients by reviewing client resumes, participating in mock interviews, and providing feedback.

GetInvolved Contact Jodi Fegter at jodi.fegter@bridgecommunities.org.

In-kind professional services: Support our families by providing services; we're in need of attorneys, mechanics, doctors, hair stylists and barbers, test prep professionals, dentists, orthodontists, optometrists, oral surgeons, and more.

GetInvolved Contact Mary Slade at mary.slade@bridgecommunities.org.

Tutoring: Use your certified teaching expertise as a tutor in a one-to-one setting one hour per week.

GetInvolved Contact Mary Slade at mary.slade@bridgecommunities.org.

Mentoring: Provide encouragement and guidance to our client families so that they can achieve self-sufficiency.

GetInvolved Contact Marti Deuter at marti.deuter@bridgecommunities.org.

Young Professionals Board: Provide strategic input, raise funds, build your network, and have fun.

GetInvolved Contact Liza Sury at liza.sury@bridgecommunities.org.

Special Donations



Gift our families with the resources they need to be successful.

Women's professional clothing: Help women in the workforce look and feel the part with women's professional clothing.

GetInvolved Contact the Bridge Communities Boutique team at clothes.boutique@bridgecommunities.org.

School supplies: Start the school year off right for children in Bridge by donating school supplies at our annual drive. For easy ordering, go to Bridge's Amazon charity page: <https://a.co/8tF1ovy>.

GetInvolved Contact Mary Slade at mary.slade@bridgecommunities.org.

Specialty drives: Let us help you get creative with special drives, e.g. a fine motor skills toy drive, welcome kits for kids and/or parents new to the program, toy drive for Bridge's holiday party, care baskets for families going through intake, and more.

GetInvolved Contact Mary Slade at mary.slade@bridgecommunities.org.

Automobiles: Gift Bridge's working parents with reliable transportation by making a tax-deductible donation of your car.

GetInvolved Contact Paul Matthews at paul.matthews@bridgecommunities.org.

We want to share all the latest and greatest news from Bridge Communities with you. Connect with us on social media:

[Bridge.Communities](https://www.facebook.com/Bridge.Communities)

[@BridgeDuPage](https://twitter.com/BridgeDuPage)

[@BridgeCommunities](https://www.instagram.com/BridgeCommunities)

Special Events



Volunteer as a day-of helper, committee member, connect us to business sponsors, or buy a ticket and join us at one of our many fundraising events.

Celebrating Women, Transforming Lives

Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ

Wine Women & Shoes

Sleep Out Saturday (SOS)

GetInvolved Contact Margo Matthew at margo.matthew@bridgecommunities.org or visit [bridgecommunities.org/news-events](https://a.co/8tF1ovy) for more information.

Drives & Collections



Help Bridge families achieve their financial goals.

Help stretch our clients' budgets by donating gift cards, gasoline cards, quarters for laundry, and hygiene and household products. For easy ordering, go to Bridge's Amazon charity page: <https://a.co/8tF1ovy>.

GetInvolved Contact Mary Slade at mary.slade@bridgecommunities.org.

Impactful Giving



Invest in Bridge families' futures and help support their goals through meaningful and fulfilling giving.

Circle of Hope Recurring Giving: Ensure a consistent, reliable source of support to families through your monthly or quarterly gift.

GetInvolved Contact Liza Sury at liza.sury@bridgecommunities.org.

Scholarships: Help a child attend summer camp, enrichment programs, or even higher education with scholarships.

GetInvolved Contact Kristin Short at kristin.short@bridgecommunities.org.

The Bridge Communities Founders Fund:

Connect teens to college prep workshops, career assessment, ACT and SAT tutoring, scholarships, personal assistance with college applications and financial aid forms, and more.

GetInvolved Contact Kristin Short at kristin.short@bridgecommunities.org.

Adopt a family: Help provide a gift card(s) to a family so that they can shop for their family's holiday needs.

GetInvolved Contact Kristin Short at kristin.short@bridgecommunities.org.

#GivingTuesday: The first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, join this global generosity movement and support families transitioning from homelessness to hope. This movement not only promotes a cause, but it is a day of unity within communities, giving to those less fortunate, and providing an opportunity to make change.

GetInvolved Make a gift at bridgecommunities.org/support-us/ways-to-donate/givingtuesday.

The Cornerstone Society: Let Bridge help you achieve your financial goals and leave a legacy of generosity.

GetInvolved Contact Kristin Short at kristin.short@bridgecommunities.org.







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