

BRIDGES OUTREACH IMPACT REPORT 2023



OUR MISSION

Bridges ends homelessness through volunteer-driven outreach and individual case management focusing on health, housing, and independence. We form relationships with those experiencing homelessness while meeting their most urgent needs.



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Dear Friends:

2023 was one heck of a year!

homelessness, or facing the imminent threat of homelessness. Our unique approach, combining Street outreach with Intensive Case Management and leveraging the data collected from each of these interactions continues to drive change in the systems meant to help people and has resulted in significant increases in our access to public funds. These funds are critical to our ability to respond with urgency in the prevention of homelessness, as well as to create rapid exits from homelessness. Despite the added complexity which comes with these funds, and the reality that they are essentially passthrough dollars, they are significant to our collective impact.

With your help, Bridges helped record numbers of people experiencing

As eviction has become the #2 cause of homelessness in NJ, the work of Bridges has increasingly been not just to create exits, but to prevent our neighbors from facing that harsh reality. This development fits perfectly with our mission to end homelessness because it enables us to prevent "inflow", thus reducing the number of people we engage during Street Outreach. Last year we saw our Prevention results jump by 30X – a figure we certainly didn't aim for, but which became the result of significant homelessness prevention funds made available to Bridges because of our high volume and the high caliber of our Case Management. With your support, our team prevented 283 people from experiencing homelessness last year. That's 283 people who didn't need a shelter bed, who didn't end up in line at one of our Runs – and this included 51 children who didn't face the adverse childhood experience of homelessness.

Your support of Bridges has created something very special. We have become a critical component of the homeless services and prevention ecosystem in NJ. In the coming year, we will see a significant increase in our Street Outreach in Newark, which is becoming a 24/7 program, and the ground breaking for Newark's new 24/7 drop-in center on Raymond Boulevard, where Bridges will be the provider of homeless services and homelessness prevention services. We continue to reach new heights through your generous support. I hope you are as proud as I am of what Bridges is becoming each and every year. Together we are ending homelessness in New Jersey. Thank you for making it possible!

Gratefully,

Richard Uniacke President

Where We Are Headed

The Bridges Board and senior staff, led by President Rich Uniacke, are working collaboratively to achieve our mission of demanding change to end homelessness. Bridges is at the forefront of this effort, providing street outreach and case management services in Essex and Union Counties.

Our 2023 Accomplishments document the success of our intensive outreach model, which involves reaching out to individuals in the streets, abandoned buildings, and other unsuitable locations, coupled with case management that addresses the specific needs of the unhoused. By adopting a philosophy of "no wrong door," we have significantly contributed to reducing the number of unsheltered individuals living on the streets of Newark by 57.6%.

In 2023, Bridges will persist in its tireless endeavors to eradicate homelessness in Newark and Essex County while extending our model to Union County. We are steadfast in our dedication and will persevere until homelessness becomes rare, brief, and non-recurring.

How 2023 Accomplishments Help Us Get There

In 2024, Bridges, our community, stakeholders, and supporters will unite in dedicated efforts to eradicate homelessness in Newark and Essex County and expand our model to Union County. Our commitment is unwavering, and we will persist until homelessness becomes rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Bridges does not just speak; it takes tangible action. We are devoted to advocating for the vital changes that will end homelessness. This is not just a slogan; it's the practical journey we are taking, step by step, to address the moral crisis of homelessness.

One of our primary focuses in 2024 and beyond will be investing in Union County's infrastructure, paving the way for similar successful outcomes.

We will continue collaborating with other organizations to combat the housing crisis hindering our efforts to end homelessness. Additionally, we will develop strategic initiatives, advocating for increased funding for affordable housing and pushing for policy changes to enhance our success and advocate for change at the federal, state, and local levels.

Bridges Is Our Impact

Our Impact Model was developed from our 35 years of experience and excellence in Union and Essex Counties in our mission to end and prevent homelessness.

By focusing on effective street outreach and engagement, intensive case management, housing navigation and placement, and housing sustainment & skill building, we ensure that the cycle of homelessness is unrepeatable.

Our Impact Model provides a sustainable, flexible roadmap to let our services fit the client, not vice versa.

OUR IMPACT MODEL

Street **Outreach & Engagement**

Intensive Case Management

Housing Navigation & Placement

Housing **Sustainment & Skill Building**

Prevention

Homelessness

Shelter **Placement** Identify Establishment Income

Benefits &

Healthcare Connection

Housing



Relevant **Metrics**



Housed and **Stabilized**

Essex County/ Newark: 347

Union County/ Summit: 145



Street Outreach and Engagement

> **Essex County/ Newark: 9221**

Union County/ **Summit: 403**



2,766 **Case Management**

> **Essex County/** Newark: 2237 **Union County/**

Summit: 529



Shelter Placement

Essex County/ Newark: 365 **Union County/** Summit: 2

Bridges Is Volunteering

From 2022 to 2023, we streamlined our volunteer process by synergizing effort and effectiveness. We recognize that our mission to solve homelessness and the avoidable housing crisis will be all hands on deck and that no contribution is too small.

Our 2023 volunteers reflected this, as young children, teenagers, parents, young professionals, and retirees participated.

Teens Tackle Homelessness (TTH) is a volunteer group of high schoolers from across New Jersey dedicated to supporting Bridges Outreach's mission of ending homelessness through volunteer-driven outreach and personalized case management. Our students engage in weekend Outreach Runs, and convene monthly at the Oakes Center in Summit to coordinate assembly events for hygiene kits, sandwiches, and sustainable lunches. This year, our students have organized several coat, clothing and toiletry drives at their schools, held a "Sleep Out" to raise homelessness awareness, and managed a student-leadership election process.

In 2023, our volunteer expansion continued its collaboration with community and corporate sponsorships, especially with Prudential. Our Prudential partnership has granted us a plethora of new opportunities to engage our clientele and marry our grassroots volunteer efforts with our expansive community partnerships.





Bridges Is Outreach

On August 11th, 2023, the City of Plainfield condemned multiple buildings and gave tenants 24 hours to evacuate. Using our Department of Community Affairs funding, we worked with other community partners to ensure the citizens of Plainfield got the help they needed.

When that wasn't enough, we launched an Emergency Outreach Team and partnered with local Plainfield schools to ensure that our team got the evacuated tenants food, clothing and resources

As a result of our Plainfield housing crisis response in the Summer of 2023, we were able to build a partnership with the Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSPNJ).

Due to this partnership, we worked closely with their drop-in center to ensure Plainfield citizens and clients got the necessary skills, support, and resources to recover from the unprecedented Summer 2023 housing crisis.

At Bridges, hot spots are the key areas of homelessness we target. These include notable, commonly known locations such as Newark Penn Station, Harriet Tubman Square, and Military Park, but also lesser known areas like 110 William Street and Raymond Brown Park.

HOT SPOTS

| LOCATION | COUNT |
|---|-------|
| Penn Station Newark Area | 6891 |
| Frelinghuysen Ave | 574 |
| Mulberry Commons | 307 |
| Military Park | 302 |
| 110 William Street | 184 |
| S 10th/Springfield | 116 |
| Peter Francisco | 780 |
| McCarter HWY/Raymond Blvd | 88 |
| Raymond Brown Park | 58 |
| 4 32 Wharton Ave | 35 |
| 717 Arlington - Plainfield, NJ | 19 |
| Anna St and Monroe Ave – Elizabeth, NJ | 8 |
| Community Wellness Center – Plainfield, NJ | 83 |
| Elizabeth Courthouse | 21 |
| Elizabeth Library | 47 |
| Jefferson Park - Elizabeth, NJ | 24 |
| Leggett Park – Elizabeth, NJ | 30 |
| Mt. Olive Baptist Church - Plainfield, NJ | 31 |
| Olympia Square – Elizabeth, NJ | 10 |
| Snyder Academy Soup Kitchen – Elizabeth, NJ | 19 |



Bridges Outreach hopes to build on our incredible 2023 outreach numbers by pushing for our mobile case management & outreach teams, but also closely working with city officials in launching a state-of-the-art 24/7 Drop-In Center, allowing us to synergize our case management and outreach efforts further.

Bridges Is Case Management

Our mission to end homelessness evolved from just lunches and runs in 2023, as our case management evolved to not just end homelessness for our clients, but empower them with skills and knowledge to prevent them from ever going into homelessness again.

We expanded our Essex and Union County case management services to facilitate meaningful relationships built on trust & empathy to navigate through both the housing process and skill building to facilitate their transition back to independent living.

Across the board, we saw awe-inspiring jumps from our 2022 to 2023 metrics in relation to the case management process.



We went from engaging

7,038 CLIENTS TO 9,623

all across the parks, streets and alleys of Essex and Union County in 2023,

a 37% INCREASE.



We provided case management services to over **2,400 INDIVIDUALS IN 2023**, a **29% INCREASE** from the **1,879 WE SERVED IN 2022**.



We went even **FURTHER BEYOND** with services provided to our clients in case management, demonstrated by our **311 CLIENTS** we set up with benefits and income in 2023



All of the improvements to our case management services in 2023 lead to us placing **209 CLIENTS** in permanent housing in 2023, **NEARLY TRIPLE THE 76 CLIENTS** we placed in 2023.





SCAN OUR QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EXHAUSTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND HOW WE WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE OUR MODEL IN 2024.

Bridges Is Events

It takes a community to help end and prevent homelessness, which is why we here at Bridges Outreach continued to spread the word of our mission and engage our community with events of various scopes and sizes. Through rain or shine, we were able to host a wide variety of events in 2023 that not only helped us fundraise but put an end to homelessness for a sizable number of people.



TAKE A SWING AT ENDING HOMELESSNESS

In April 2023, we gathered at our "Take A Swing at Ending Homelessness" at the TopGolf Swing Suite, where we hosted sporting events, a silent auction, and fund-a-need appeal. From over 80 attendees, we raised over \$80,000 and ended homelessness for 11 individuals.

5TH ANNUAL BRIDGES 'STREETS-TO-HOME' 5K WALK

In September 2023, we hosted our 5th Annual Bridges 'Streets-to-Home' 5K Walk despite the rainy weather. From over 200 attendees, we raised over \$36,000 to end chronic homelessness in Union and Essex County.

2023 PROJECT CONNECT SERVICE FAIR

In addition, we also hosted our 2023 Project Connect Service Fair, right in Essex County. Graciously sponsored by Prudential, our service fair allowed us to maximize our community partnerships to provide free personal grooming, case management, support services, clothing, food and more.

SMALL EVENTS, BIG IMPACT

Lastly, we had our "Small Events, Big Impact" in the form of packing events held at local public schools and with our corporate partner, Prudential. Thanks to the children, volunteers and corporate employees engaged, our small scale events allowed us to distribute over 72,000 meal kits, clothing items, hygiene kits and more to our clients.



Bridges Is Our Community Partners

Our mission to end and prevent homelessness is one we cannot do alone. That's why we'd like to thank our amazing community partners for the work they helped us accomplish in 2023.

By creating partnerships with key community partners and stakeholders, we are able to expand our scope in our mission to fight homelessness through additional funding, partnerships, and grow our network with more empowered difference-makers.

We did this in 2023 by expanding our community partnerships, which allowed us to increase the services available to our clients. For example, our partnership with **The MCJ Amelior Foundation** allowed us to purchase vans that enable us wider access to our outreach methods in Essex and Union County.

In Union County, we expanded our community connections to organizations like the **Summit Foundation**, which allowed us to have intensive case management out of **Beacon Church in Summit**, **Propeller Communications**, which has assisted with our brand design efforts, and **Boston Consulting Group** for various corporate events. Then there is our newest community partner, **CSPNJ**, who collaborated with us in ensuring that some of the most vulnerable citizens of Plainfield received the best of care after evictions in August 2023.

Boston Consulting Group (BCG): Our partnership with companies such as BCG allows us through employee engagement activities to create a key driver of connections and essential supplies for our work. Last July we partnered with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to pack 2,000 kits which are critical components of outreach efforts.

The Summit Foundation: Thanks to our partnership with The Summit Foundation, we were able to provide intensive case management and consistent outreach at Beacon Church in Summit.

Propeller Communications: If you've seen our new fleet of vehicles in Union or Essex Counties, then you recognize they have become mobile billboards advertising our work in the communities we serve. Neither of these beautiful additions nor the incredible videos many of you have seen would have been possible without the generous expert support from Propeller. Led by Bridges Trustee, Charlie Flax, Propeller's support of Bridges spans our special events, employee engagement, graphic design, and video production. We are indebted annually to this amazing team.

The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey: In Essex County, we partnered with the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey to expand the services provided by our Project Connect Newark office, particularly enhancing the mobile case management elements of our street outreach program.

With **Prudential's** support of our Annual Service Fair and employee engagement events, we supported the community by feeding thousands and connected to more individuals through outreach.















Bridges Is Our Donors

Thank you to all who generously donated in 2023

Below is a list of those who gave \$500 or more from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

\$50,000+

Gary C. Butler Family Foundation
City of Newark
Healthcare Foundation of NJ
HHS Congressional Appropriation
New Jersey Department of Community
Affairs

Prudential Financial The Lena Willis Fund of Central Presbyterian Church

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Community Health Connections Foundation Lydia Collins deForest Charitable Trust The Greifeld Family Foundation Cassandra Hardman and William Baker Horizon Foundation of New Jersey Mary Ragan Select Equity Group Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The Barberry Foundation

Belle Buoy Foundation
Richard Brown
Nancy and Henry Klingeman
Nancy and Steven Magee
The MCJ Amelior Foundation
McKinsey & Company
David Ophel
The Pechter Foundation
Summit Foundation
United Way Worldwide
Victoria Foundation, Inc
ZT Group International, Inc.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Best Bakery Equipment Boston Consulting Group, Inc. Covanta Energy, LLC Coni Frezzo and Ed Sannini Gertrude L. Hirsch Charitable Trust Jaime Levine and David Gilman Edward and Francesca McBride Jessica and Nick Mills New Fortress Energy Overlook Foundation Sarah and Ben Seelaus Kristin and Kevin Sterling William M. Stevens Summit Luminary Fund Ann Earle Talcott Fund The Tyler Foundation United States Gypsum Foundation Christa and Nicolas Volpicelli Ginger and Geoff Worden

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Jamy and David Barton

Andy Berndt Merrill Buice Michael John Callahan Central Presbyterian Church Billy Colgan Fortress Investment Group Renée Simms Frank and Richard Frank Glenwood Elementary School P.T.O. Iris Teen Tzedakah, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Metrowest NJ Junior League of Summit Liquid Church Jennifer and Michael Markovitz loe and Chris McGrath Morrison Family Foundation New York Football Giants Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child Dena and Byron Peyster The PIMCO Foundation PI Callahan Foundation, Inc. Flizabeth and David Sims Victoria and Peter Smith Debra and Luke Somers Brynne and David Thompson Susan and Richard Ullrich Melanie and Scott Waldman Maria and Evan Williams

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Allen W. Roberts Elementary School

Allied Beverage Group

Heather Althoff and Don Bailey

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PSE&G Foundation

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Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Marie Santos Sumitro Sarkar

Samantha and Paul Schifano Meghan and Daniel Schorr Linda and Ross Silver Sheila and Tripp Smith Uyen and Thomas Sokol

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Starfish Fund Molly Stassfurth Stop & Shop

Tiger Baron Foundation
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Vicki Uniacke United Health Group John Vigilante Warburg Pincus Foundation

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Charities Aid Foundation of America

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Kathy and Don Weida West Monroe Partners Kristina Winterfeldt Rachel and Grant Wood

Mary Zoll

2023 Front Door Society L

And a special thanks to our 2023 Front Door Society Members!

Privanthi Alahendra Lynne and Don Blaesser Tricia Brentjens

Richard Brown

Michael John Callahan

Ellen and Jonathan Camiolo

Jean and Robert Crichton

Kavla Cronin

Rebecca Di Sabato

Wendy Donat

Matt and Claire Dragon

Ashley Dunn

Susan and Damon Falzone

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Lauren and David Mazzarese Coleen and Dave McCaffery

Lisa and Michael Miller

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Adrienne Najjar-Keith and Jeffrey Keith

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Ralph Pantozzi

Kathy and Paul Parsons

Jennifer Pisani

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Uven and Thomas Sokol

Deborah Stelluto

Florence Swanstrom

Trump Lender Services, Inc.

Meridith and Richard Uniacke

Vicki Uniacke

Melanie and Scott Waldman

Connie Wong and Stephen Woitsky

SCAN THE QR CODE TO **MAKE A DONATION TODAY!**



Bridges Is Transparency

We are fully committed and thoroughly embrace the values of accountability and transparency as related to our mission, work, finances, and operations.

Bridges is proud to be rated a four star charity on Charity Navigator and to have earned Candid's Platinum seal. Earning four stars on Charity Navigator means we have an exceptional rating, exceeding industry standards and outperforming most charities in our sector. We have demonstrated ongoing fiscal excellence and shown that we are well-positioned to pursue and achieve long-term change. Only .01% of US charities have received Candid platinum status, which indicates we share clear and important information with the public about our goals, strategies, capabilities, achievements, and progress, demonstrating the difference we are making in ending homelessness.











