

# IMPACT IN ACTION



PROFESSIONALISM



DIGNITY  
& RESPECT



PERSEVERANCE

BRIDGES OUTREACH IMPACT REPORT 2022

**BRIDGES**

DEMANDING CHANGE  
Ending Homelessness

## 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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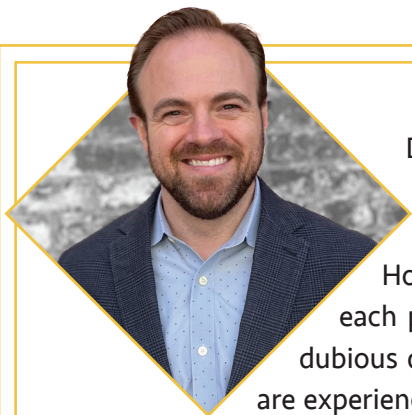
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Dear Friends:

## Why are we here?

Homelessness in New Jersey continues to become a more pressing issue with each passing year. Essex and Union Counties, where we focus our work, had the dubious distinctions of ranking #1 and #2 last year for the number of residents who are experiencing homelessness in NJ, according to the 2022 Point In Time Count. Bridges, through our consistent Outreach efforts and Case Management expertise, meets people where they are, literally and figuratively, in effort to provide for both their short- and longer-term needs. We are here to partner with people to prevent, or create an exit from homelessness. We are not here to feed and clothe our most vulnerable neighbors so that their experience of homelessness may be less severe. Rather, we believe that even one person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation tonight represents an urgent crisis – and we are here to help solve that crisis.

In 2022 we partnered with 76 people who exited homelessness through our journey together. The word choice here is important because we do not end homelessness for a person or household – this hard work is only possible when done together. This requires trust. And this requires that the approach to each case is individualized for that person or household. We have found, over nearly 35 years, that our approach, rooted in mutual respect, in dignity, and with an unrelenting passion for rectifying systemic failings; helps us build the rapport necessary to partner in this way with a household experiencing such a traumatic event as homelessness. In a more perfect world, experiences of homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring.

More now than ever before, prevention of imminent homelessness is an important part of our work. As the moratorium on evictions ended and landlord/tenant courts began to fill, our teams successfully prevented imminent homelessness for 19 people last year. This continues to be a growing part of our work.

So why are we here? We are here to end homelessness. Every Brown Bag Lunch or Hygiene Kit we distribute is a critical component of forming the partnership necessary to end or prevent homelessness for that person or household. The statistics we glean from our efforts and the stories we learn from the people with lived expertise help to demand change from broken systems and our teammates are key thought partners in reimagining and rebuilding those systems so we can all do better by our neighbors. Our work continues to evolve and we are only able to do so with your support. This difficult, people-driven work is fueled by your generosity, so I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership. Together, we are ending homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Uniacke'.

Richard Uniacke  
President

# 2022 By Numbers

Bridges Outreach has become the leading service provider for ending chronic homelessness in Northern New Jersey. For the past five years, we have actively worked to streamline our processes and develop a comprehensive system for supporting the most vulnerable members of our community in overcoming their individual barriers to gain independence through our Housing First theory of change. This four-step process includes:

## THE BRIDGES WAY



**Individualized  
Plans for Clients**



**Connect Clients  
to Resources**



**Recognize Barriers  
to Housing**



**Utilize Data on  
Homelessness  
to Drive Future  
Changes**

## EMPATHETIC EXHAUSTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

Interacting with our client population in this way has paved the way toward demanding systematic change throughout the state of New Jersey. We follow our clients from first encounter during Street Outreach, through the resolution of their unique barriers, into permanent housing, and we remain engaged until they can be independently successful.

## OUR IMPACT MODEL

**Street  
Outreach &  
Engagement**

**Intensive Case  
Management**

**Housing  
Navigation &  
Placement**

**Housing  
Sustainment &  
Skill Building**

**Homelessness  
Prevention**

**Shelter  
Placement**

**Identify  
Establishment**

**Benefits &  
Income**

**Healthcare  
Connection**

**Housing**

## Impact Model Statistics

**7,023**

**Individual  
encounters  
through outreach**

**1,197**

**Unduplicated  
Individuals reached  
through outreach**

**1,889**

**Individuals served  
at Drop-in  
centers**

**1,022**

**Unduplicated  
Clients**

**478**

**Shelter  
Placements**

**19**

**Homelessness  
Prevented**

**76**

**Housed**



# Volunteering with Dignity and Respect

## BRIDGES VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our volunteers amplify our impact immeasurably with their consistent commitment to our mission. From packing lunches and making soup to the distribution of hygiene kits, our volunteers are the heart of these initial encounters with people experiencing chronic homelessness. Each kit that is created bridges the gap between our Outreach and Engagement team and individuals who need our support. Each connection brings a person experiencing an unsheltered existence, closer to case management.

**IN 2022,  
OVER 3,200  
VOLUNTEERS:**

**DONATED APPROXIMATELY:**  
7,400 hours of time

**DISTRIBUTED:**  
42,042 meals  
11,042 items of clothing

**ENGAGED WITH:**  
6,439 patrons

## HIGHLIGHTING CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

This year we are highlighting the incredible volunteerism and corporate support consistently given by Prudential Financial.

Each year, Prudential Cares, led by Ryann Tierney has been a beacon of support for Bridges Outreach. Beginning with an employee match in 2010, Prudential Cares has made a tremendous impact on the lives of our clients. Employees engage in monthly volunteerism, packing lunches, hygiene kits or donating their time during Outreach Runs.

**THANK YOU for all you do, Prudential!**

**WE ENGAGED MORE THAN  
2,000 PRUDENTIAL EMPLOYEES  
DURING PACKING EVENTS  
TO CREATE:**

**5,000+**  
toiletry kits

**ASSEMBLE 5,000+**  
long shelf-life sustainable meals

**ASSEMBLE 1,500+**  
cold weather packs

Organize and execute one  
Service Fair for people experiencing  
homelessness in Military Park



# Professionalism in Outreach

## INTERVIEW WITH AN OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Our Outreach & Engagement team is often the first point of contact with people experiencing chronic homelessness. This dedicated team loads our van with bagged lunches and other necessities including hygiene kits, cold weather packs, and essential clothing. Their goal: Meet people where they are. Connect with compassion. Bring help and resources when all other agencies are closed. From 3-11pm, seven days a week, our workers focus on bringing relief where they can, building relationships where possible, and collecting the data needed to complete assessments and make specialized service referrals.

**In 2022, we connected with Outreach & Engagement Supervisor, Desiree Tindell to understand why she dedicates every evening to this work.**

*How long have you been working with Bridges and what drew you to this work?*

I've been with Bridges since 2021, but started doing outreach with my church. We were doing similar things for the clients; giving them food, clothing, and hygiene items. I started to have my own style and they started to trust me. It was natural for me to do this here.

*Do you like working with this population?*

I like being out here. People think that only one kind of person is homeless. People who have jobs can be in this situation too, rent can be unaffordable. Some won't go to shelters because they are waiting for a voucher, or just need enough money for a security deposit. I want them to have Bridges as a resource to help as they do. People who have been out here for a long time—they just want someone to remember their names.

*What is your personal goal for engaging in outreach?*

My main goal is to make people more comfortable with coming off of the streets. I talk to people out here. I help them know that there are people who will help without judging them. At Bridges, so many of the workers have lived experience. Sometimes, one talk will convince a person to come into case management. Other times, it takes many conversations and they tell me more on the street than they tell their managers in the offices.



**IN 2022,  
THIS TEAM:**

**7,023  
ENGAGEMENTS**

**405  
SHELTER  
PLACEMENTS**





# Intensive Case Management

Case management is the engine that drives Bridges forward and creates real outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. It is this team who demands change each and every day when systematic elements place people in impossible situations. They stand in front of imminent homelessness and never cease to press on in pursuit of permanent housing for each and every client. Their “No Dead Ends” approach is why case management appointments increased 61% in 2022 vs. 2021 and Bridges helped 76 people exit homelessness. Whether we encounter a person on the streets, or in an office, case management is the goal and the key to real change.

**1,889 CLIENTS  
IN 2022**

VS. 1,156 IN 2021

**665 NEW CLIENTS  
IN 2022**

VS. 457 NEW CLIENTS IN 2021

**76 PEOPLE HOUSED  
IN 2022**

VS. 45 PEOPLE  
HOUSED  
IN 2021

## TOP CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG BRIDGES' CLIENTS IN 2022:

1. Household breakup/  
Death in household
2. Job loss/Income reduction
3. Released from prison/jail
4. Asked to leave a  
shared residence
5. Eviction

# Breaking Barriers to Housing

## LESTER'S STORY

Lester Stewart had been living in an apartment in Summit, NJ. One night, as he walked back to his house, the block ahead was cut off by emergency vehicles and he quickly realized that his building was on fire. This was the beginning of a difficult journey that would last Lester almost sixteen years before he would again find himself with a roof over his head. In one night, his life changed drastically. "I found myself on the outs. I never thought it would take thirteen plus years to get from Summit Train Station to this," Lester says about being housed again.

**It was a long road for Lester, but the Bridges Outreach team, including our Intensive Case Management team, worked tirelessly to get Lester into permanent housing. After sixteen years of chronic homelessness, Lester now has his own front door.**

Our team spent nearly 100 hours working with him to reach the point of that housing opportunity and has been able to stabilize his healthcare concerns, which were often an obstacle to obtaining permanent housing. We ensured Lester was reaching his measurable goals to maintain his housing.

Our team is now working with Lester on an on-going basis as we focus on his long-term housing success. We know from our experience leading temporary hotel shelter efforts that transitioning to living "inside" can be very difficult and comes with unexpected challenges.

If Lester's journey has taught us anything, it is that people who are experiencing homelessness can be effectively housed. These experiences of homelessness should be rare, brief, and non-recurring. "The success of the Summit Private Voucher Pilot Program proves that this concept can work," Uniacke says. "Through private support we partnered with the person in our community who objectively needed this creative opportunity most. With additional support, we can do this again and again."

Through Central Presbyterian Church and the Lena Willis Fund, as well as furnishings from The Warehouse NJ, Bridges is able to provide permanent housing and supportive case management. Now, Bridges has successfully transitioned Lester Stewart's private voucher to a Section 8 Voucher, which is backed by HUD federally. He has continued to thrive in his apartment, and now with his voucher, he has more stability than ever.



"I found myself on the outs. I never thought it would take thirteen plus years to get from Summit Train Station to this."

# 2022 Front Door Society

Bridges donors have the ability to make a long-term, tangible difference in ending homelessness by joining our Front Door Society as a Monthly Sustainer or Annual Donor. These recurring gifts change the lives of our clients who are experiencing homelessness and are investments in the Bridges mission as we strive to ensure every person has their own front door.



## Thank you to the following individuals who supported the Front Door Society in 2022.

Priyanthi Alahendra  
Lynne & Don Blaesser  
Tricia Brentjens  
Richard Brown  
Michael John Callahan  
Ellen & Jonathan Camiolo  
Christina and Joseph Charland  
Valerie Conley  
Jean & Robert Crichton  
Rebecca Di Sabato  
Wendy Donat  
Claire and Matt Dragon  
Ashley Dunn  
Jean Engle  
Susan & Damon Falzone  
Dorothy Frank & Andrew Hollander  
Alicia & Dave Freidinger

Yolanda Fundora  
Nancy Gibbs  
Christine Holle  
Maryann Hughes  
Laurie Inglese  
Lila & Matthew Kalish  
Donna Maccaroni  
Trina & Ameet Mallik  
Lauren and David Mazzaresse  
Coleen & Dave McCaffery  
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Clarissa and Paul O'Hern

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Sheila Smith  
Uyen & Thomas Sokol  
Deborah Stelluto  
Florence Swanstrom  
Brynne & David Thompson  
Trump Lender Services, Inc.  
Meridith & Richard J. Uniacke  
Victoria Uniacke  
Melanie & Scott Waldman  
Connie Wong & Stephen Woitsky



"Bridges helps people by giving them the tools they need to live independently which helps to foster confidence and build a stronger sense of self worth. Confidence and self worth are the foundations of mental health and I love that Bridges understands that. It's wonderful to know this resource is available, especially in my local community, and why I choose to donate monthly!" — Lauren Mazzaresse, Front Door Society Member

If you are interested in joining our Front Door Society monthly giving program, please visit <https://bridgesoutreach.org/frontdoorsociety/> or email our Development team at [info@bridgesoutreach.org](mailto:info@bridgesoutreach.org).



## Special Events

### STREETS TO HOMES 5K 2022

Our 4th Annual Streets to Homes 5K Run / Walk and Kids Fun Run was held on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at the Village Green in Summit. Nearly 300 people came out to support our work to end homelessness, raising almost \$30,000 for Bridges.

Attendees decorated brown bags and assembled sustainable lunches that will be distributed during Bridges' Outreach & Engagement activities, visited sponsor booths, and warmed-up before the event with Veracity Athletics. Music for the morning was provided by New Jersey DJ Services.

Children received a shiny star for each lap they completed during our Kids Fun Run and picked up a participation medal along with a bag of goodies provided by Sweet Nothings.

We are grateful for the support of our lead sponsors of this event: Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, BCG, Allied Beverage Group, Paper Ribbon & Wrap, Wakefern/ShopRite, and Club Pilates Short Hills.



### 2022 SERVICE FAIR SPONSORED BY PRUDENTIAL

Bridges' Annual Service Fair for those experiencing homelessness was held on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at Military Park in Newark. This event was once again graciously sponsored by Prudential Financial.

Some of the services provided were free haircuts, meals, clothing, hygiene items, and case management by Bridges staff. Service providers were onsite to provide counsel and case support for family support, legal services, healthcare, and veterans services.





WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR IN-KIND CORPORATE PARTNERS



# Thank You To Our 2022 Supporters

## **\$50,000+**

Central Presbyterian Church  
City of Newark  
County of Essex  
David Tepper Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Cassandra Hardman and William Baker  
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Lydia Collins deForest Charitable Trust  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
Prudential Financial  
Victoria Foundation, Inc

## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Community Health Connections Foundation  
Gary C. Butler Family Foundation  
Nancy and Steven Magee  
Mary Ragan  
Select Equity Group Foundation  
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Vericon Construction Company

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

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Jessica and Nick Mills  
Overlook Foundation  
Summit Foundation  
The O'Toole Family Foundation  
Ginger and Geoff Worden

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation  
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## **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

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## **\$500 - \$999**

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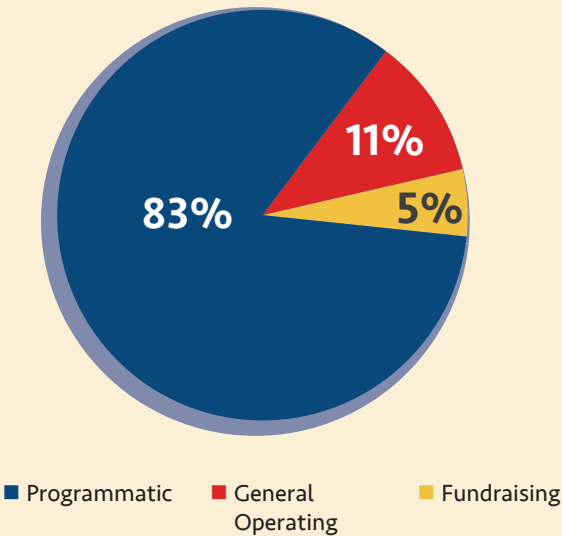
# Transparency

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

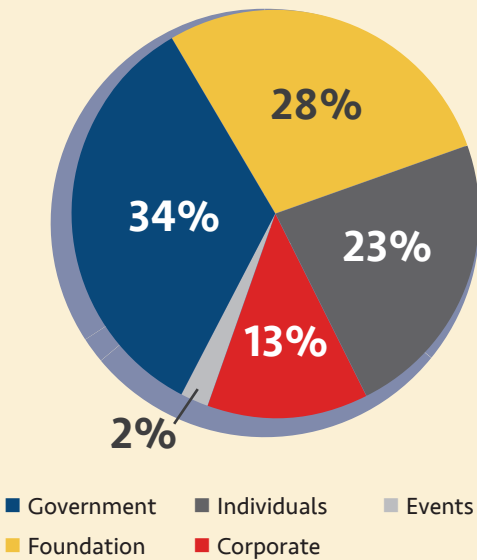
Bridges is proud to be rated a four star charity on Charity Navigator and to have earned Candid’s platinum seal. Earning four stars on Charity Navigator means we have an exceptional rating, exceeding industry standards and outperforming most charities in our sector. We have demonstrated ongoing fiscal 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.

## 2022 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

2022 EXPENDITURES



2022 REVENUE









**DEMANDING CHANGE**  
**Ending Homelessness**

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Summit, NJ 07901

908-273-0176

[www.bridgesoutreach.org](http://www.bridgesoutreach.org)

