

PRESS RELEASE

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Bridges to Independence Announces \$2.5 Million Capital Campaign
Funds will support the purchase and renovation of new headquarters

Arlington, VA - Bridges to Independence (Bridges), a safety-net nonprofit organization which helps individuals and families in Arlington and the City of Alexandria out of homelessness and into stable, independent futures, has launched a \$2.5 million capital campaign for a new headquarters space in Arlington, VA.

Bridges held a campaign kick-off event with community stakeholders and longstanding supporters on February 6, 2017 at Screwtop Wine Bar in Clarendon. Sam Kelly, Executive Director, announced that Bridges will contribute \$1 million from the sale of its previous building. When coupled with the additional \$1.5M fundraising goal, the campaign will fund the purchase of the organization's new ground floor headquarters, a 4,700 square-foot multipurpose space, as well as outfitting the building and furnishing it to fulfill Bridges' expanded programmatic and organizational needs.

The new Bridges to Independence headquarters will include a children's room for youth initiatives, classrooms where Bridges program beneficiaries can receive assistance in areas ranging from job training to personal counseling, two multipurpose rooms, and offices for their growing staff. Bridges will move staff and programs to its new home in September 2017, all of which have been sharing space in the organization's emergency shelter, Sullivan House, next door.

"Our new space will enable us to provide employment readiness training and other critical supportive services to help youth and adults overcome homelessness and the cycle of intergenerational poverty," said Samuel Kelly, Jr., Executive Director of Bridges. "We look forward to continuing to serve those in need in our community for many years to come."

For over 30 years, individuals and families experiencing homelessness have turned to Bridges for the support they need to build a better future. Bridges' services provide the skills, knowledge, and community networks people need to become and remain self-sufficient. In 2016, Bridges served nearly 500 individuals in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

To learn more about the capital campaign and donate, call (703) 525.7177, ext. 112 or visit <https://bridges2.org>.

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About Bridges to Independence

Since 1985, Bridges to Independence has provided housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Northern Virginia. More than a safe place to sleep, Bridges is here for these men, women and children every day, empowering people with the tools and resources they

need to achieve stability and self-sufficiency. In 2016, Bridges' emergency shelter, Sullivan House, sheltered 37 families, totaling 104 individuals. Following their stay, 80% of these individuals transitioned into safe, affordable, and permanent housing. In addition, 56 families (189 individuals) were served by Bridges' Rapid Re-Housing program. At program completion, 98% of these families remained in permanent housing with a lease in their own name and 85% had achieved gainful employment. Bridges provided supportive services to an additional 212 individuals. Approximately 40% of Bridges' clients are foreign-born and 60% are under the age of 18.