



## 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

“Even after I completed the Bridges program, they encouraged me to keep going and this year I became a homeowner! A big thank you to Bridges for everything! You’ve helped me grow and kept me going.”

- Bridges Alumni



LEARN. LEAD. WORK. THRIVE.

Dear Friends,

In fiscal year 2017, we found much reason to rejoice as we celebrated our 32nd anniversary. Over the past three years, Bridges has persevered through several changes—changes that would have left any other organization facing a great deal of uncertainty about its future. In 2014, we rebranded from the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless to Bridges to Independence. In 2016, we experienced a change in Executive Leadership. Although the world around us continued to change, our resolve to build bridges out of homelessness for the families we serve never wavered.

Since our founding in 1985, our mission has been to respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community. The cost of living in our area continues to rise, placing an incredible burden on those we serve. As a result, the number of families in need of housing stabilization and support continues to grow. This year, the number of families we served increased by a record-breaking 31%.

This increase prompted us to review our decision to relocate our office and training space. After months of careful consideration, the Board of Directors determined that purchasing office space in Clarendon at this time would significantly limit our ability to provide the support that our families need in order to maintain housing stability. As a result, a decision was made to recommit our valuable resources where they are needed most. As we consider our plans for the future, we pledge to remain vigilant to the needs of our community and our program participants, while being the best stewards of the donations given by our generous supporters. As our plans unfold, we will keep you updated on our progress.

We are pleased to present highlights of the last year, knowing that none of our achievements would have been possible without you—our generous donors, committed volunteers, and concerned citizens of this great community. In addition, we are grateful to E\*Trade for their tremendous support and commitment to Bridges over the last decade.

I am especially grateful to our committed staff. Their long hours and dedication to our program participants are largely responsible for our achievements and organizational success! They are true Bridge Builders!

On behalf of the entire team here at Bridges and our program participants, thank you for being a part of the Bridges family.

Sincerely,

  
Samuel L. Kelly, Jr.

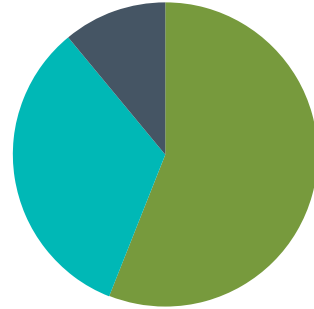


## FISCAL YEAR 2017:

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

### TOTAL REVENUE

\$2,218,492



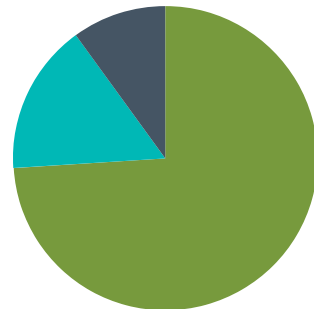
Grants \$1,233,382

Contributions \$726,917

In-Kind Donations \$258,193

### TOTAL EXPENSES

\$2,199,815



Program services \$1,616,925

Management and general \$370,545

Fundraising \$212,345

**“I was a homeless mother with two children. Bridges to Independence helped me start all over again. Today, my kids are so happy and we are so grateful to have a home.”**

**- Bridges Participant**

# BY THE NUMBERS



**90¢ of every \$1**

Donated to Bridges goes to support families experiencing homelessness.

Total individuals served  
**507**

Aged 5 and under  
**53%**

**212**  
Alumni

**295**  
Through critical housing programs

Transition aged youth (18-24)  
**20%**

Individuals sheltered at Sullivan House  
**109**

Transitioned into safe, affordable, and permanent housing  
**91%**

Foreign-born participants  
**27%**

Individuals served by Rapid Re-Housing  
**234**

Youth Development program participants  
**50**

Youth receiving one-on-one tutoring  
**22**

Families remaining in permanent housing with their own lease  
**88%**

Adults leaving the program employed  
**76%**

High school seniors graduated and began attending college  
**100%**

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make it possible for Bridges to offer an array of activities that improve our clients' language skills, boost fitness and well-being, prepare for employment, and excel at school work.

Bridges to Independence thanks the 277 volunteers and groups who worked 1,705 hours in fiscal year 2017.





## CIVIL RIGHTS HONOR

In November 2016, Bridges to Independence received Arlington County's highest human rights honor, the James B. Hunter Award. The award honors individuals, community groups, nonprofit organizations and businesses that promote cultural diversity and equal rights for all residents. Since our inception, Bridges has had the privilege of serving individuals from over 50 countries.

## BRIDGE TO WORK

Bridge to Work, our new employment services initiative, was launched in the third quarter of FY2017. Bridge to Work brings together the skills, knowledge, and community networks our participants need to become and remain self-sufficient. The program provides group employment training and one-on-one career mentoring. Topics include effective job seeking, interviewing skills, and job retention. In FY2017, our first Bridge to Work cohort served 18 individuals.



### CONTACT:

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### FOLLOW:



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Bridges to Independence is independently audited by Kositzka, Wicks & Company. View copies of our 990 Forms, by visiting:

[www.bridges2.org/who-we-are/financial-info](http://www.bridges2.org/who-we-are/financial-info)  
or  
[www.guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com)