



**BRIDGING**

WE FURNISH HOMES WITH HOPE®

# REPORT TO COMMUNITY



2023

# Bridging Fosters Belonging

Dear Partners and Friends,

My name is Andrea Giles, and I serve as both a member of the Bridging Board of Directors and a Ramsey County deputy, school resource officer, and drug and alcohol counselor. I am committed to Bridging's vital work of *furnishing homes with hope*.

A furnished home through Bridging is essential for community members who are transitioning to housing stability. A furnished home provides the stability and comfort needed to focus on health, employment, and connections with family and friends.

Reflecting on my own journey as a single mother, I know Bridging would have been an incredibly helpful resource to me as I was establishing my household, working, and going to college, all while raising my family.

In part, that is why now, as a deputy and a Bridging board member, I strive to have a positive impact in the community and make a difference, one person at a time. This happens when a child will say to me, "You're the only cop I trust," or when I hear a recipient of Bridging's services say, "A furnished home gave me the confidence to move forward."

There is a need for big changes in community systems that continue to perpetuate inequities experienced by people who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC.)

## DEIB in Action at Bridging through:



Intentional conversations



Trainings



Recruitment efforts



Partnerships

As an organization, we are challenging ourselves at Bridging to put our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging statement into action through important and intentional conversations, trainings, recruitment efforts, and partnerships to ensure a welcoming and equitable Bridging experience for everyone.

I invite you to read Bridging's Report to the Community. I hope you will consider new ways to engage in Bridging's work and play an active role in advancing racial equity in our community.

Your participation is greatly valued as we work to end the inequities of housing instability and achieve Bridging's vision that *everyone lives in a furnished home*.

Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Andrea Giles (she/her)  
Bridging board member

*"It's hard for people who look like me or who have been in my situation to get access to resources, to be listened to, to have a voice.*

*The person at the front desk at Bridging — she was attentive and patient. She looked me in the eyes."*

— Ash, Bridging client



According to our 2023 client and volunteer surveys,

- 97% of clients felt welcomed during their engagement with Bridging.
- 99% of volunteers feel that they are welcomed, treated with respect and thanked by the Bridging team.

Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) is vital to our community and Bridging's work of *furnishing homes with hope* alongside people who are transitioning to housing stability.

During the last two years, Bridging's leadership and staff have invested significant time and resources in DEIB initiatives and training including:

- Microaggressions training
- Unconscious bias training
- Access to shelter and affordable housing training



Learn more about  
Bridging's DEIB journey  
on our website.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Bridging,

In 2023, we responded to the rising community demand for Bridging's services by increasing available appointments to 120 per week. We ended the year furnishing more than 5,000 homes with hope! The active participation of volunteers, staff, donors, and partners, like you, makes this important work possible.

Together, we continue to focus on what we do best, providing a foundational home setup of quality furniture and essential household goods to people who need it.

We remain diligent in our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging efforts as we create a welcoming experience with dignity for everyone at Bridging, while supporting the diverse needs and strengths of every person and household.

As you read our 2023 Report to the Community, you will find stories and outcomes that reflect our focus on dignity and commitment to service excellence. Looking ahead to 2024, we will be taking exciting steps to expand Bridging's capacity and community impact.

I am so grateful for you and the many ways you support Bridging's mission. Thank you for your important partnership.

Sincerely,

Mark Wilkening (he/him)  
Executive Director



# vol·un·teer

/ˌvælənˈtɪr/

agent of change

### Volunteer Service Hours Donated Last Year

Total number of volunteers:

**3,864**

12% increase from 2022



Total hours donated: **69,949**

*"We believe in person-centered service. We want them to have a good experience. The most important thing is to welcome people with a smile and know them by name. We like to get to know someone, ask about their interests, and what's important to them. This creates acceptance of each person."*



- Pam and Delores, Bridging  
volunteers

**We rely on volunteers to do  
just about everything  
at Bridging!**



Without volunteers, we couldn't provide foundational home essentials and meet the needs of our community.

Our volunteers are VITAL to our ability to operate each and every day!



Scan the QR code for more information about becoming a Bridging volunteer!

**When good people get together to do good things, then good things happen.®**

# CELEBRATE 2023



**5,009**

households served

**13,131**

individuals served; 45% were children under 17

**10%**

increase in the number of shopping appointments offered each week



"I don't know how I can make people understand how much getting a couch means to someone if you haven't had one. It's something new and something special. I wake up every morning and say, 'I have these new furnishings in my place.' Bridging made my apartment into my home. It's my style, and I just love it."

-Kelly Ann, former Bridging client and current volunteer (and service dog, Dino)

"I see a difference in my daughter. She enjoys our home a lot more. I feel more like an adult with a furnished home. It's so much better! I don't feel stressed about needing anything for the household. My home feels complete now."

-Kameshia, Bridging client



## 38 FULL-TIME STAFF



In 2023, Bridging employed approximately 38 full-time equivalent staff.

## 270 PARTNER AGENCIES



Clients are referred to Bridging through a network of 270 social service partners and more than 2,400 referring caseworkers.

## MINNESOTA'S BEST 2023

Bridging won gold for "Best Place to Volunteer" and silver for "Best Nonprofit"



"I liked being able to go to Bridging myself and select the items I wanted and needed. I came in and it was almost like going to a store. Everyone was so nice. Truly, I was pleasantly surprised to feel that level of dignity, that feeling of 'we're happy to have you here.' It was awesome, I can't come up with better words. It was empowering to choose what I wanted and needed."

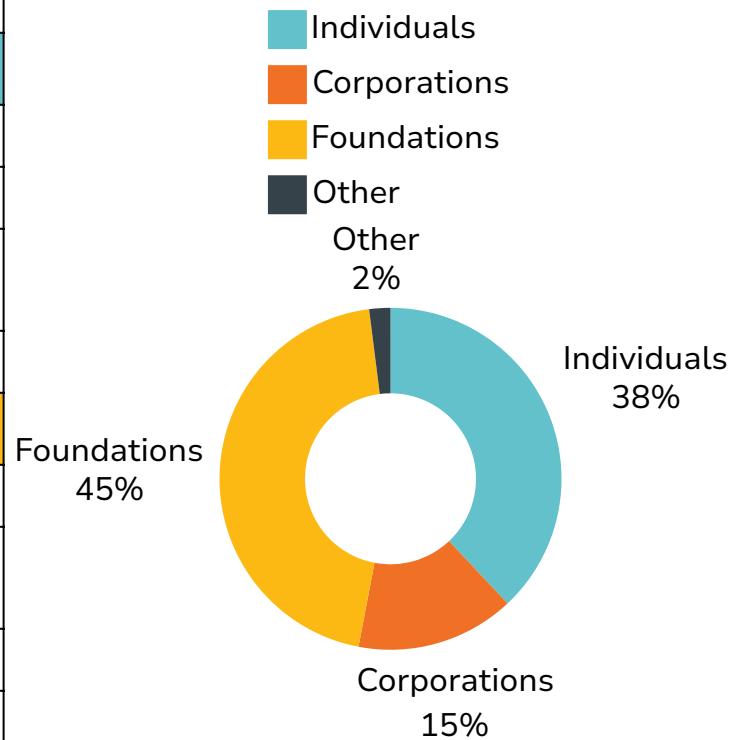
-Nickie, Bridging client

# Our Finances



Revenue	2023	2022
In-kind	\$6,651,168	\$5,994,576
Foundations, Grants, Contributions	\$3,144,214	\$2,017,605
Service Fees	\$1,361,617	\$1,244,268
Other Revenue	\$879,943	\$815,280
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$12,036,942</b>	<b>\$10,071,729</b>
Expenses	2023	2022
Program Services	\$10,163,669	\$9,258,754
Fundraising	\$443,971	\$340,687
Management & General	\$361,966	\$299,364
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,969,606</b>	<b>\$9,898,805</b>
Balance Sheet	2023	2022
Current Assets	\$5,177,097	\$4,040,557
Property & Equipment	\$4,250,466	\$4,485,902
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$10,178,298</b>	<b>\$8,600,999</b>
Liabilities	\$916,518	\$406,555
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,261,780</b>	<b>\$8,194,444</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$10,178,298</b>	<b>\$8,600,999</b>

## 2023 Contributed Revenue Breakdown



# BRIDGING IN



The 25th annual Original Mattress Factory Bedrace for Bridging was held at Buck Hill on Saturday, March 11.

Creatively dressed teams of four raced against each other, zipping down the tubing hill atop custom covered mattresses, all while raising nearly \$150,000 for Bridging!



On December 9th, Bridging once again partnered with the Original Mattress Factory for the 5th annual Bring a Blanket collection event. Donors drove up and dropped off blankets at one of four retail locations.

Nearly 1,500 blankets were donated in just two hours!

Special thanks to K102's morning show, Chris Carr and Company!



# THE COMMUNITY



Each year, the Gala for Bridging brings together hundreds of individuals, corporate donors, and community partners who are committed to Bridging's vision that everyone lives in a furnished home.

On September 29, this uplifting event — Bridging's largest fundraiser — raised nearly \$670,000 to support Bridging's mission.



On November 4, Bridging introduced a new lamp collection event (hosted by KS95's Staci and Hutch and supported by our friends at IKEA-Minneapolis) to help brighten the homes of those we serve. The community was encouraged to bring table and floor lamps to donate. Nearly 350 lamps were donated by our generous community in just two hours!





**OUR MISSION:** Bridging empowers people to thrive in their homes by providing quality furniture and household goods for those pursuing housing stability.

**OUR VISION:** Everyone lives in a furnished home.

**OUR VALUES:** Dignity, Service, Partnership, Stewardship, Excellence, and Gratitude



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