Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I enter my third year as Executive Director I’ve come to appreciate that working at Bridge House is not just a job, but a vocation and that Bridge House is not just a nonprofit, but a tight-knit community that considers itself family and is built on trust and relationships. Daily life at Bridge House is anything but typical and we wouldn’t want it any other way.

It’s a privilege to share with you some of the joys, milestones, and challenges our Clubhouse has experienced in 2016-2017. It’s been an exciting year. We celebrated our 30th year with a festive summer block party, a beautiful fall Gratitude Gala, and a springtime Brew and Chew. Bridge House also published a commemorative anniversary book filled with stunning portraits and poignant stories, describing the impact the Clubhouse has had on many lives.

I’d like to share one of those stories: Louis, a member since 2003, credits Bridge House with helping him to turn his life around, and considers Bridge House his second home. Today Louis has an apartment, a job, attends school and is financially independent. He leads a much healthier lifestyle, has given up many addictive behaviors, and is very happy to have close, meaningful relationships with his family and friends. Bridge House would be unable to provide the support we do to our members without financial support from our community and donors: you are our life-line. Our supporters are a vital component to our members, like Louis’s success.

Without your support, we’d be unable to provide warm, healthy meals, safe reliable transportation, education and employment opportunities, and true friendships that inspire members, like Louis, to work on their recovery. We are always searching for new and rewarding initiatives and partnerships to prepare our members for rejoining our communities.

For over 30 years we’ve been able to offer our members quality programs. Our ability to deliver on our mission is dependent on our capacity to plan well for the future. As many of you know our state is facing a budget crisis. We began to prepare to face these funding challenges three years ago and will continue to through this crisis to ensure our members are served and thriving. Our Board, staff, and members are working on Board development, diversifying our funding and program growth.

Together, with your support Bridge House will be able to continue our mission to provide a positive encouraging environment of programs and support which give persons with psychiatric disabilities opportunities to live productive and satisfying lives.

You play a vital role in our success, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen McGuire

[Image]
IN OUR BOARD PRESIDENT’S WORDS

From Bridge House’s 30 Years | 30 Stories

“I can’t explain it—you just have to go there to see for yourself. Those were the words of my former boss when he asked me with a smile to join him in a visit to Bridge House 12 years ago. I am so grateful that I took him up on his offer, and now I know exactly what he meant when he said I just had to see it to understand it. When you walk into Bridge House, there are no divisions. No patients and doctors. No helped or helpers. No ill and health. What you see is a family where members and staff share responsibilities, experience, and their lives in an incredibly warm, safe and life-changing environment. And when I say life-changing, I mean for everyone involved, including Board members like me.

I have been on the Bridge House Board of Directors for close to eight years now. The last three serving as President of the Board. Before I joined the Board, I had compassion for those struggling with mental illness, but I had no idea the challenges they face in the community. More important, I had fallen into the trap that so much of our society falls into—identifying those with mental illness by their illness and not the soul beneath the illness. Bridge House opened my eyes to that problem and introduced me to some of the most gifted, insightful, and caring people I have ever met. Not the most gifted people with mental illness I have ever met, but the most gifted people period.

I have had the same experience over and over when I visit the house. I sit down with a member and have conversation about our lives. That conversation is not focused on the member’s illness, but rather just on what we are both doing at the time. I hear stories of new jobs they’ve started thanks to Bridge House’s employment program, of social outings they went on with other members and staff, or their family members who visited that day, or just the latest news around town. Often, I’ll hear stories of a career the member had when their illness hit, or how difficult—and, at times, frightening—it was before Bridge House existed, when there was nowhere for them to go. But what amazes me the most throughout these talks is that the member makes me feel happy about life. I thought that as my role when I first started going to the house. But I soon realized that the house wasn’t about roles, but about experience. I come away from every visit a better person, a more appreciative person, and a more understanding person. I also come away that much more determined to help our members.

Bridge House is a place of hope, support, and safety that our community desperately needs. Thank you for helping us open the doors every day making a difference in the lives of so many special people while changing our society’s view on mental illness. And for those of you who haven’t had the opportunity to visit our house yet, please come by and see us; I can’t explain what you’ll experience, you’ll just have to see for yourself.

Paul Lalli
Board President since 2013 | Board Member since 2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mary Ellen McGuire
Executive Director

BOARD OFFICERS
Paul V. Lalli, Esq.
President
Michael Giaquinto
Vice President
Timothy P. Ryan, Sr.
Treasurer
Anne Foley
Secretary

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Christopher Rallo
Patricia Bryson, Member
Ellen Rosenthal, Esq.
Rudy Castro
George Ruderman
Pedro Montalvo, Member
Peter H. Struzzi, Esq.
Christina Prete
Thomas Swanson
OUR MEMBER WORK-ORDERED-DAY INCLUDES

Advocacy and Public Speaking
ArtBeat
Boutique
Education Club
Employment - Job Club
Food Bank
House Meetings - Weekly
Housing Support Club
Membership Bank - Financial Literacy
Membership Outreach - Weekly

Out-of-House Activities - Weekly and Monthly Wellness Activities
- Smoking Cessation
- Weight Education
- Exercise/Daily Walks

CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES
**BRIDGE HOUSE: OUR CLUBHOUSE**

Empowering adults living with persistent mental illness to improve their quality of life.

**WE EMPOWER OUR MEMBERS**

Bridge House has served thousands of members since its inception nearly 30 years ago and we continue to provide a critical safe haven for adults in the Greater Bridgeport area and Fairfield County who are struggling with mental illness. Our program focuses on employment, education, housing, and connecting members with the resources they need to achieve their goals.

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS TO REENTER THE WORKFORCE**

27% INCREASE IN MEMBERS REENTERING THE WORKFORCE

**OUR EMPLOYERS**

- Bigelow Center for Senior Activities
- BJ's of Fairfield
- Bob's Stores
- Boston Market
- Christian Heritage School
- City of Derby
- Continuum of Care
- CT Beardsley Zoo
- CVS
- Denny's Restaurant
- Diocese of Bridgeport
- Discovery Museum
- DMHAS Mental Health Center
- Hobby Lobby
- Home Goods
- HR Block
- In Order To Succeed
- Jewish Home for the Elderly
- Lord & Taylor
- Maplewood Assisted Living
- Marshall's
- Nature's Way
- St. Vincent’s Behavioral Health
- Staples
- Stop & Shop
- TJ Maxx
- UPS
- US Recruiting Office
- VA Hospital
- Walgreens
- Westport Weston Family YMCA
Bridge House is one of over 300 accredited Clubhouses around the world and one of two in Connecticut. Bridge House is certified by Clubhouse International which requires a reaccreditation process every three years. Bridge House adheres to the rigorous 37 International Standards for Clubhouse Programs.

Our mission is to provide a safe and supportive place where members can experience a sense of belonging. Membership is free to members and participation is always voluntary. Bridge House is an evidence-based psycho-social rehabilitation program created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Members play a vital role in the Bridge House community, we are a bottom up model and members run our Clubhouse. Our members are valuable volunteers in our community. Staff and members work together, side by side, in a work ordered day to provide community support services to all members who need them. Members enjoy: low-cost meals and our on-site snack bar which reduces isolation and enhances member socialization skills; social and recreational activities on nights, weekends and holidays; access to Bridge House’s low-cost clothing boutique; our food pantry; employment skills training, job support and placement; housing and education support; and banking assistance.

All of this is possible due to the generosity of private donors. The Clubhouse can also help out with emergency funds for a variety of special needs.

Proud Recipient
of the 2014

CONRAD N. HILTON
HUMANITARIAN PRIZE
ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

BRIDGE HOUSE 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & GRATITUDE gala

CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE

Board Retreat

BRIDGEHOUSE BREW & CHEW APRIL 28, 2017

Youth Adult Program Growth

MEMBERS

Psycho-Social Rehab Coalition
Saying Money, Saving Lives
Cost-effective LAUNCHPAD to living independently
COMMUNITY. SUPPORT.

Giving Day presented by Farfield County's Community Foundation

01.0917
DONORS AND PARTNERS

Jane Bohnsack
James Bolger
Gerald and Katherine Brown
Peter Brussel-Smith
Martin and Alayne Burger
Martin J. Buxton
Valerie C. Carlson
Larry and Carol Anne Carroll
Christopher Caruso
William and Nancy Caulfield
Carol and Everett Chaffee
Beverly A. Chmielewski
Amelia Colbert
Cathy Comstock
Lincoln Craighead
James Cronin
George and Kathleen Damman
Stephen and Moreen Donahue
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Nina and Mark Engstrom
Rosalie and Paul Forni
Claire Fray
Herman and Phyllis Freeman
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Michael J. Giaquinto
Claire and Newell Grace
Robert and Helen Hansen
Ruben Jeffery
Kaufman Fuel Company
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Barbara Kohler
Carolyn R. Linsey
Ivan and Margaret Murray Maisel
Keith and Kathleen McConnell
Milton M. and Judith L. Meinck
Phyllis Milano
Hunter Murtaugh
Nichols United Methodist Church,
  United Methodist Women
Parris Ochsner
Howard T. Jr. Owens
William and Gloria Paul
Mary Pedrosa
Elizabeth Peterson
Elizabeth M. Pfriem
Marc Poulson
Michael and Myrna Retsky
Dr. James and Joan Roach
Joan Rosenbaum
Ellen Rosenthal
Larry Rubin
George and Lisbeth Ruderman
Timothy Ryan
Suzanna and Ernest Santo
Richard and Rita Seclow
Karen Seferi
Jocelyn T. Shaw
Frank and Christine Silvestri
David and Marcie Slepian
James F. Stapleton
Laurie Stone
Peter and Lorella Struzzi
Elizabeth and Brian Sullivan
Edgar L. and Inge VanGelder
Edward and Lynn Wetmore
Judith Brooks Wiley
Martin and Hinda Wolf

FOUNDATIONS

David and Eunice Bigelow Foundation
Bridgeport Rotary Foundation
Fairfield County Community Fund
Peter and Anne Foley Gift Fund
Reuben and Robin Jeffery Foundation
Knight-Ruderman Education Fund
Newman’s Own Foundation
William and Gloria Paul Family Foundation
People’s United Community Foundation
Schreiber Family Foundation
St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation
Trefz Family Foundation Inc.
**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Bigelow Center for Senior Activities
Bridgeport Hospital - Yale New Haven Health
Bridgeport Rescue Mission
City of Bridgeport
Community Providers Association
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Reaching Home Campaign
Continuum of Care
Cooperative Educational Services
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
Family Reentry
Greater Bridgeport Disability Advocates
Hall-Brooke Behavioral Health Services
HOTT Team
Housatonic Community College
Keep the Promise (KTP)

LifeBridge
Mental Health CT
Mercy Learning Center
NAMI Connecticut/NAMI Fairfield
National Health Care for the Homeless
Our Parents
Psycho-Social Rehab Program Coalition of CT
Recovery Network of Programs
Sacred Heart University
Southern Connecticut State University
Southwest Community Health Center
Southwest Regional Mental Health Board, Inc.
The Kennedy Center
University of Bridgeport
The Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project (YHHAP)
## REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governmental Grants</td>
<td>1,326,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>52,473</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income, net of fees and expenses</td>
<td>16,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>13,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising, net of direct expenses</td>
<td>37,818</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>42,648</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized gains/losses</td>
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**TOTAL INCOME**  
1,518,333

## EXPENSES

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>1,209,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>272,554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>25,517</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**  
1,507,619

Revenue over expenditures: 10,714

Net assets, beginning: 1,277,006

Net assets, ending: 1,287,720

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We are registered with Guidestar where you can review our 990’s.
YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES

Bridge House has become an essential part of its community. For more than 30 years, Bridge House has empowered adults living with persistent mental illness to improve their lives. Our supportive community helps adults bolster their self-esteem, sharpen their skills, and work towards achieving their individual goals to help them lead fulfilling lives.

Members leverage their interests, strengths, and talents each day at Bridge House in a safe and positive setting.

HOW DOES YOUR DONATION SUPPORT BRIDGE HOUSE?

- $10,000 covers the installation of our new communications system.
- $6,000 a year supports the rental of the new phone system.
- $4,000 sponsors a member for one year.
- $3,500 supports our Health and Wellness program for one year.
- $3,000 supports our ArtBeat program for one year.
- $2,000 provides a match to the funds raised through our Annual Flower Sale which would allow all of our active members to take as many as 10 summer day trips.
- $600 supports our transportation fund for one month.
- $500 funds a member’s tuition for a course at Housatonic Community College.
- $50-$100 gift cards* help members purchase household items.
- Donation of gently used business attire for members to wear to work and school.
- Provide a transitional employment opportunity for the clubhouse to help our members build their skills as they progress on their journey to regaining permanent employment.

* Member favorite: Gift Cards help our members as they rent new apartments, start new jobs, increase their independence.

We can’t do our work without your continued support!
Bridge House empowers adults living with persistent mental illness to improve their quality of life.

880 Fairfield Avenue | Bridgeport, CT 06605 | 203.335.5339
www.BridgeHouseCT.org