

bridgehouse 

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2 0 1 3

*Creating Opportunities for  
the Homeless and Working  
Poor of Boulder*



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**A bridge to a better tomorrow. A bridge to a better future. That is what we are.**

For the more than 1,000 clients we saw in 2013, our bridges - access to health care, placement in a job, a safe place to be - were the first hope they have had in months, the only opportunity they have had in years. No two client stories are the same but the themes are common – loss, illness, the inability to make ends meet.

With each day, week, and month our bridges are getting stronger, wider. Thanks to you in 2013 we invested in our infrastructure and grew our Bridge of Opportunity. Thanks to hundreds of generous individuals, foundations, businesses and faith communities who believe that we can do better, who believe we can create opportunity and access for the homeless men and women of Boulder, 2013 was another great year for Bridge House.

When I look back over 2013 I am struck by three themes that describe our resolve and our work – **leadership, regionalism,** and, most of all, **action.**

Bridge House has taken a **leadership** role in the City, County, even the State in pushing for innovation and resource allocation for homeless services. We have been instrumental in numerous leadership bodies and have helped guide policy discussions on housing, services and employment. Additionally, our programs, such as the Resource Center and Ready to Work, have been recognized as examples of innovation and collaboration.

We have taken a **regional** view in how we create opportunities for our clients. Homelessness is not a problem isolated to one city so our solutions must include our partners across the region, and state. In 2013, we strategically identified ways to partner with other counties and organizations to find services our clients need. As an example, Bridge House became the referral partner for Ft. Lyon, a state-wide initiative to provide recovery and transitional housing to homeless men and women at the re-purposed military base in Bent County.

Most importantly, in 2013 we took **action**. We worked hard and saw results. We saw more than 927 people in case management, provided \$806,944.00 in funds for direct client support, and placed 108 in employment and 117 were housed. We doubled the size of Ready to Work and launched Community Table Kitchen – our new state-of-art kitchen that not only services our meal program, but it provides job training for clients and earned revenue to support our operations.

But we are not satisfied. 2014 will be another year of challenges and opportunities. We are fueled by the desire to be the bridge out of homelessness for our clients.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our passion.



Isabel McDevitt  
Executive Director



#### **Appointments:**

Pathways Home Colorado – Advisor to Governor Hickenlooper’s statewide homeless plan implementation

10 Year Plan to Address Homelessness – Advisor to Boulder County Commissioners on plan implementation

Homeless Planning Group – Advisor to the City of Boulder on homeless services

#### **Awards:**

PLAN Boulder County Award for leading innovative programs to end homelessness

United Way Spirit of the Community Award for participation and collaboration - Resource Center



James'



# Story

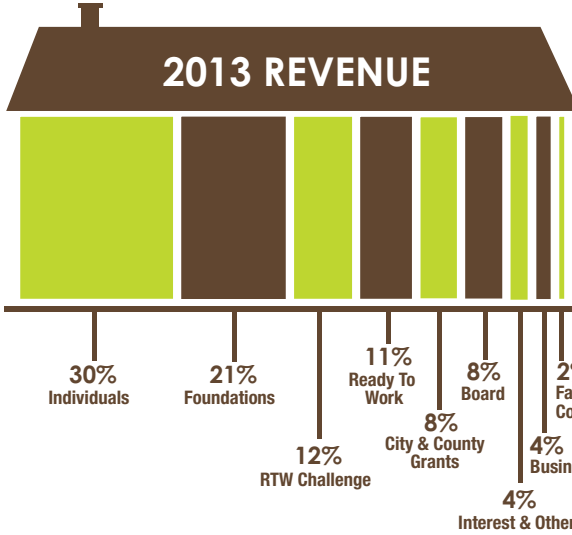
Homeless, James and his family - his wife and two children (6 and 11 years old) - lost everything they owned in the flood while they were camping up in Nederland. "After the flood we needed a hand up to survive" James said, "and Bridge House was there for us." Bridge House's open door policy made it easy for James to make an appointment with a Case Manager. "The case managers were kind and helped us with bus passes so I could get to and from work. I was able to keep my job because of Bridge House."

He met with case managers for support and guidance. They provided more to James than just services, they helped him emotionally. "Being homeless is not fun, especially in 12 degree weather."

"I had someone to talk to that didn't judge me." Dee Dee and Heather, two case managers at Bridge House rallied around James and his family. They saw how motivated and driven James was to get his family off the street. When he saved enough money for a deposit for an apartment, Bridge House was able to help him with the deposit for his electricity. "I can't say thank you enough, having someone to communicate with and that could direct me in the right direction was what helped me get my family off the street. What you do at Bridge House is invaluable. It is possible to get off the street, you just have to believe in yourself and have some support."

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2013

## Where do our funds come from?



Individuals	\$321,347 / 30%
Foundations	\$226,249 / 21%
*RTW Challenge	\$125,000 / 12%
**Ready To Work earned revenue	\$118,834 / 11%
City & County Grants	\$86,393 / 8%
Board	\$89,274 / 8%
Interest & Other	\$41,366 / 4%
Businesses	\$39,547 / 4%
Faith Community	\$26,454 / 2%

**\$1,074,464 / 100%**

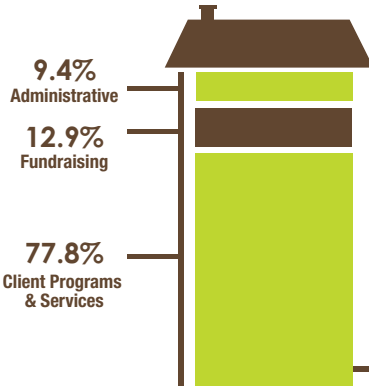
\* Funds raised from the Ready to Work Challenge will be applied to the expenses in 2014  
 \*\* Earned revenue through social enterprise

“ I appreciate the Bridge House staff and how patient and empathetic they have been with my situation. ”  
 John



108

Clients Employed



## How are program funds spent?

### 2013 EXPENSES

Client Programs & Services	\$806,944 / 77.8%
Fundraising	\$133,383 / 12.9%
Administrative	\$97,106 / 9.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,037,433 / 100.0%</b>

358

ID's provided

## Client activities with case managers

Employment 1,014	Benefits 2,042	Substance Abuse 377
Housing 166	Mental Health 856	Medical 458

“ With the help of Bridge House, I was able to gain access to mental health services, sobriety support, and my prescription medication. ”  
Sara

### Our Visits

**29,470**

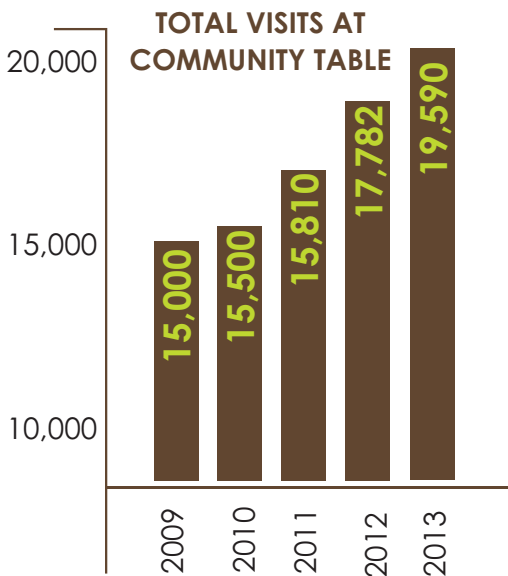
Visits to Bridge House

**3,519**

Visits to the Resource Center

**1,514**

Unduplicated visits to Bridge House



## BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Arfmann  
Barbara Bennett  
Linda Caven  
George Epp  
Allan Graham  
Danny Hassan  
Eric Holloway  
Veronica House  
Ted Howard

Roger King  
Tara Mohr  
John Pollak  
Peter Resnick  
Bo Sharon  
John Sheldon  
Fred Smith  
Meredith Spear  
William Treadwell

## OUR STAFF

### **Executive Director**

Isabel McDevitt

### **Program Services**

Heather Pauze  
Le'Driedre "Dee Dee" Sease  
Sarah Steenblock  
Steve Tombleson  
Eric Holloway  
Chris Vibrans  
Alma Collins

### **Ready to Work**

Tim Arnold  
Chad Carbone  
Dennis Fee  
Chris Hazen  
Juli Than

### **Administrative**

Vera Line  
Debbie Little-Keene

### **Development/Community Affairs**

Emily Messina-Heim  
Shane Wyenn  
Germaine Johnson

### **Community Table Culinary Arts**

Scott Medina  
John Trejo  
Aaron Gould

“ After the flood we needed a hand to survive and Bridge House was there for us. James ”



# READY TO WORK



**273**

Prescriptions Provided



**80%**  
graduated the program

**17** clients found outside employment

clients in the program: **10**

as of 12/31

**100%**  
of trainees are saving a portion of their earnings, maintaining sobriety and addressing barriers to employment

Average length of homelessness for trainees

**13** months

**18** months

Average length of unemployment prior to Ready to Work

**\$118,834** in earned revenue



“ I was tired of going nowhere and I wanted to earn some money of my own. Ready to Work really has helped my self-esteem, I feel like I am going places now. Ready to Work has given me a goal to set and stick to. I am able to occupy my time and that keeps me away from drugs. Bobby ”



**117**  
Housing assistance provided

# OUR DONORS 2013

## \$20,000 and Over

Boulder County  
Boulder County Dept of Housing/Human Services  
Daniels Fund  
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Anonymous Donation  
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Odell Brewing Company

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

At Bridge House, we rely on the generosity of people like you to help us serve the thousands of people who come through our doors. Please consider **Making A Gift, Donating Your Time, or Sharing Your Stuff** with Bridge House.

### MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT

You can make a big difference in the life of a homeless man or woman by providing financial assistance to our programs. A little goes a long way at Bridge House.

**A gift of \$1,000** - for a Case Manager for one month at the Resource Center.

**A gift of \$500** - for 2 months of bus passes so Ready to Work trainees are able to get to work on time.

**A gift of \$200** - for food for one day's meals for 100 people.

**A gift of \$100** - Sponsors our afternoon women's hours.

### DONATE YOUR TIME

We have a volunteer opportunity for nearly every schedule and skill level. Some examples of volunteer jobs include:

- To help with meal preparation, serving and clean up
- To assist clients with mock interviews
- To assist with administrative tasks
- To help organize our Annual Event
- To take videos and photos at special events

### READY TO WORK

- Hire a graduate of the program
- Hire the Crew for an exterior clean-up or landscaping job

### SHARE YOUR STUFF

Our clients need things that many of us take for granted.

**Here's a list of supplies that we can immediately put to good use:**

- Hats, gloves, underwear, boots and socks
- Food: Peanut butter, jelly and coffee
- Supplies: Towels, bowls for serving, silverware, laundry detergent, sewing kits, office supplies, day planners, notepads, pens, paper
- First Aid: Multi-vitamins, first aid supplies
- Outdoor supplies: tents, tarps, sleeping bags, backpacks and camping pads

