

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



BRIDGES
to change

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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In our 17 years of service as an organization, Bridges to Change has persevered through many challenges as we work to reduce system barriers towards our vision of creating hope through the community. It is no surprise that Bridges to Change continues to see resilience in the face of uncertainty. The radical hope and determination of our participants, staff, community members and community partners show us that our collective efforts of change remain at the forefront of our work.

Looking back at 2021, our community continued to experience the long-term impacts of the pandemic. Families are rebuilding; our community health system looks for a way to move forward; our country looks for a way to come together. Bridges to Change has endured through two years of the greatest need we've seen as an organization, adjusting services as state regulations shift and seeking ways to stabilize funding for a more sustainable organizational strategy. With the landmark passing of Measure 110, we have not only been able to see the positive impact on families who are not losing loved ones to minor drug offenses.

We have also seen an incredible amount of potential financial resources available through grant application processes. Unlike ever before, the movement within the recovery field is about building together and prioritizing those most impacted by the war on drugs and punitive policy measures. There is a lot of energy to be found in looking at this historic change to our legal and community approach to drug possession.

As an organization with a mission to strengthen individuals and families affected by addictions, mental health, poverty, and homelessness, Bridges to Change is committed to finding creative ways to utilize these resources in creating a future where people are housed and cared for. We are excited to see new solutions and be active participants in the change.

OUR IMPACT

851

People who exited into
stable **HOUSING**

1720

People who were in BTC
PEER MENTOR SERVICES

519

People who accessed
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT



"People say BTC changed me, but no..BTC gives you opportunity to change yourself, at the end of the day the only person that can change you is you."

COVID RESPONSE

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RENTAL ASSISTANCE

We were able to distribute over \$48,000 in rental assistance to community members.

COVID LEAVE

During 2021, our staff were able to access COVID leave benefits to ensure safety and health. Employees utilized 3117 hours of COVID leave time, a total of \$43,491 in compensated time.



VACCINATION EVENTS

BTC hosted 5 different vaccine events in collaboration with CareOregon and other partners for our community members.

RECOVERY ACCESS CENTER

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We are excited to announce the opening of our Recovery Access Center in Gresham as well as the move of Club Hope from Stark St. over to this new location. The two programs share a 10,000 square foot building that is fully equipped with showers, laundry, beds, a kitchen, lounge area and rooms for meetings.

The RAC program is a combination day/night shelter, serving the tri-county area, where participants will be able to access recovery supports through peer mentors and have access to stabilization housing for up to 14 days.



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PDX RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

This year, Bridges to Change launched its first PDX Recovery Film Festival. This exciting annual event made a quick pivot to a virtual event and was a national hit, with submissions and attendees from all over the US. Some of the films are still available to watch online. We are looking forward to seeing you at our in-person event in September 2022.

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ATTENDEES

80

FILM MAKERS

[CLICK
TO](#)

WATCH NOW

PDX

R E C O V E R Y
F I L M F E S T I V A L

EQUITY

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In 2021, Bridges to Change continued its efforts and commitment to equity. Our organization stayed aligned with an anti-racist approach to our work.

Our DEI leadership committee completed a full **assessment** of the organization using the Protocols for Culturally Responsive Organizations and integrated initiatives into our strategic equity plan.

Our executive staff assisted and **supported** emerging culturally specific organizations in grant writing, program development, budgeting and financial management.

Our board of directors made a **commitment** to equity related board development through the support of an outside consultant to prepare for onboarding an Equity Manager.

Our executive director **participated** on various panels responsible for passing legislation related to recovery and equity initiatives. Some of the bills that passed include:

- House Bill 2417 sets up the infrastructure for the 9-8-8 hotline. Specifically, it directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide grants to cities or funding to county community mental health programs to fund mobile crisis intervention teams and other specified programs.
- House Bill 2086 appropriates money to the OHA for programs responsive to and driven by people of color, tribal communities, and people with lived experience; and increasing funding to for supports for people re-integrating into community who have been found unfit to proceed in a criminal proceeding due to mental incapacity, for co-occurring disorder treatment solutions and social determinants of health.
- House Bill 2980 directs the Oregon Health Authority to provide funding to peer-run organizations to operate three peer respite centers.



STRATEGIC PLAN

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Bridges to Change's board of directors, executive team and general staff participated in a strategic planning initiative from 2019-2021. With the start of the pandemic, our planning approach took a significant turn. We are proud to have completed a clear, ambitious strategic plan for 2021-2023. These are some highlights.

STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Develop a budgeting and finance structure focused on financial management
- Develop comprehensive financial policies and procedures

ENHANCE OUR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

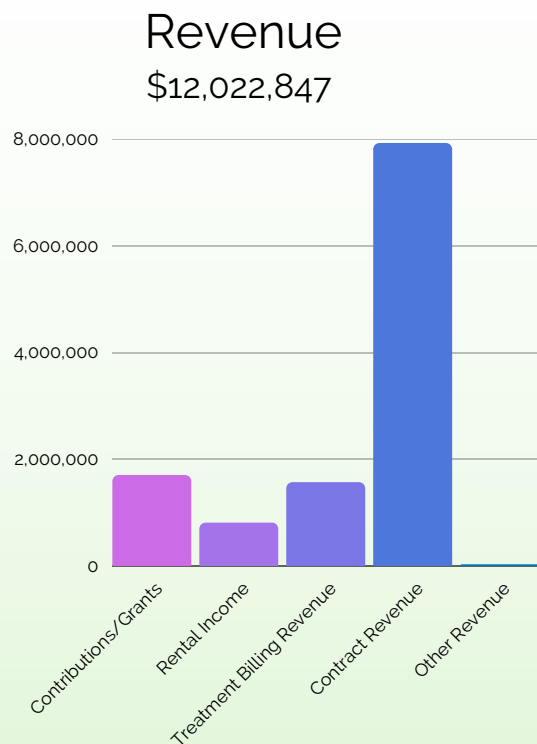
- Expand service options
- Increase our engagement with our audiences
- Establish a marketing and communications strategy.

IMPROVE STAFF EXPERIENCE AND PROGRAMS

- Develop an internal philosophy that aligns with our values
- Strengthen existing programs
- Improve staff retention and practices
- Streamline data practices

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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BTC's total revenue increased 17% from fiscal-year 19/20, due primarily to a large influx of COVID-19 relief grants. BTC was awarded \$176,959 from the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration; \$107,105 from CareOregon and a \$958,200 SBA Payroll Protection Loan that was fully forgiven. BTC also received over \$40,000 in rent assistance grants that were used to help residents in our program housing transition to permanent housing. In June 2021, BTC received a \$375,000 Measure 110 Access to Care grant from the Oregon Health Authority. Those funds posted to fiscal-year 20/21, but are restricted to fiscal-year 21/22.

Despite pandemic challenges, other revenue remained mostly stable. Contract revenue saw 3% gains, and treatment billing was almost identical to the prior fiscal year, which is especially impressive considering the transition to a telecare model. Rental income saw a 17% decrease from the prior year due to a higher rate of vacancies and nonpayment of rent.

Expenses saw modest 9% increases, resulting in a strong financial close to fiscal-year 20/21.

GET INVOLVED

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The Board of Directors

Quisha Light, President

Janan Stoll, Treasurer

Federal Public Defender's Office

Judy Belk, Secretary

Center for Communication and Learning Skills

Willie Chambers

Fresh Prince of Proteins

Eric Knudsen

Retired Law Enforcement

Jesse Neilson

Oregon Law Center

Ricardo Jimenez

Donate cash or goods

Visit our website at www.bridgestochange.com/donate to give online and see what kind of goods we are accepting. You can also send a check to PO Box 16576, Portland OR 97292.

Join our monthly giving program: Housing Heroes

Contribute every month to support our residents by setting up automatic monthly payments. Go to www.bridgestochange.com/donate and select Monthly

Giving Alternatives

Fred Meyer Rewards: Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Bridges to Change at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number (#RV011)

AmazonSmile: Shop for your products on AmazonSmile the same way you do on Amazon and they give back, go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0751239>