

THE BRIDGE: FROM PRISON TO COMMUNITY



Vision

To facilitate community reintegration and reconciliation for men in the justice system and their families through advocacy, education and restorative justice.

Mission

To provide services of discharge planning, transitional housing, and rehabilitative programs for victims, ex-offenders and families, by promoting and enabling healing and reconciliation of those in our community affected by crime.

**The Bridge
From Prison to Community (Hamilton)**

319 Barton St. E.
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905-522-0283

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Reg. Charity No. 890630940-RR0001

Facilitating community reintegration and reconciliation for men in the justice system, and their families, through advocacy, education, and restorative justice.

THE BRIDGE

AGM

JUNE 23 2021



From Prison to Community

**Located in Hamilton
Serving the Greater
Hamilton and
Halton Areas
And beyond.**



Head Office

319 Barton Street East
Hamilton Ontario, L8L 2X6

Contact Us

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Charitable status number:
890630940RR0001

Cover Photo:

Set up at Treats in the Streets, 2019





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Message from the Chair

Message from the Chair

Like many people around the world have been experiencing, this has been a year like no other for The Bridge. Through stay-at-home orders, emergency orders, and life changing as we knew it, The Bridge has persevered in its mission to provide services of discharge planning, transitional housing, and rehabilitative programs for victims, ex-offenders and families, by promotion and enabling healing and reconciliation for those in our community affected by crime. Throughout this year, I am proud to say our vision has remained in focus.

These efforts were continued by our Executive Director, Fanis Jama-Radstake, as well as our staff caseworker, Mike Raynsford and Administrative Assistant, Bonnie Barlow. While we've had to reduce staffing due to the pandemic, we have also had the support of Case Worker Justine Primeau, and Acting Executive Director Maja Rehou. I'd like to extend a special thank you for the hard work and dedication they have shown our organization during this challenging and ever-changing time.



The project in Halton has come to its natural end, and the Board is looking forward to opportunities to continuing to service that community.

We have found our footing in terms of adapting our governance electronically, with Board and Subcommittee meetings being conducted remotely. We are also working on a centralized digital database, that can be accesses by staff and board as required from the comfort and safety of their own home.

While we love our annual Gala, without being able to gather in person, our fundraising efforts have shifted to those platforms which can be accessed online, such as Go Fund Me, Rain Barrel purchases, and a standing invitation to donate on our newly updated website, to name a few.

Our fundraising efforts got a boost this year by the generous efforts of local faith groups, civic groups, and private donors. Donations and Fundraising make up a significant part of our budget.

We are also reliant on volunteers for help with programming, reducing the isolation that seems especially prominent at this time, maintenance of the Bridge House, outreach, fundraising and many other tasks. Thank you for the generous gift of your time and talents.

M. Robin McCourt, Acting Board Chair



Agenda

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

- 1 - Call to order and Welcome
Robin McCourt, Acting Chair
- 2 - Adoption of the Agenda
Robin McCourt, Acting Chair
- 3 - Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting
Kimberly Gallow, Secretary
- 4 - Treasurer's Report
Robin McCourt, Acting Chair
- 5 - Appointment of Auditors
Robin McCourt, Acting Chair
- 6 - Ratification of Board Actions
Robin McCourt, Acting Chair
- 7 - Nomination Committee Report and Elections
Wayne Baker, Past Chair
- 8 - Presentation of the Mort Paterson Award
Wayne Baker, Past Chair
- 10 - Adjournment
Robin McCourt, Acting Chair

Due to the health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, The Bridge's Annual General Meeting will be held by electronic means only. Voting by a show of hands via video.



2019 AGM Minutes

Wednesday, April 25, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Bernie Morelli Recreation Center
876 Canon Street East,
Hamilton, ON, L8M 1E2

Call To Order and Welcome: 7:20 p.m. by Chair, Karen Mason

Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion: To Approve the Agenda as printed.

Moved by JoAnn Carrothers.

Seconded by Gerry Douglas.

Carried.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting, as printed.

Moved by Ryan McComb.

Seconded by Karen Mason.

Carried.

Bylaws

Motion: to approve revised bylaws as printed. Approved bylaws would replace any current bylaws, and would become in effect upon approval.

Moved by Ryan McComb.

Seconded by Wayne Baker.

Carried



2019 AGM Minutes Continued

Treasurer's Report

Motion: The board be authorized to appoint auditors for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 years.

Moved by Karen Mason.

Seconded by JoAnn Carothers.

Carried.

Motion: The board be authorized to approve the 2018 audited statements, when received from the auditors, and distribute to members electronically, as requested.

Moved by Karen Mason.

Seconded by Ryan McComb.

Carried.

Ratification of Board Actions

The ratification of Board Actions, that all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payment enacted, made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the last annual meeting as the same that are set out or are referred to in the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, and the same are, approved, sanctioned and confirmed.

Moved by Karen Mason.

Seconded by JoAnn Carrothers.

Carried.

Nominating Committee Report and Elections:

JoAnn Carrothers reported on behalf of the nominating committee. Board members are now at 9 board members. No election needed as only 9 individuals were nominated to the board.

Motion: That we accept the recommendations of the Nomination Committee. That the following persons be members of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year:

Wayne Baker, JoAnn Carrothers, Kimberly Gallow, Karen Mason, Ryan McComb, Robin McCourt, Andreas Stefani, Rebecca Shea, Shaun Williams.

Moved by JoAnn Carrothers.

Seconded by Karen Mason

Carried.



2019 AGM Minutes Continued

Recognition of Volunteers

Karen Mason took the opportunity to review our volunteer involvement. Our volunteers sit on committees, sit with our clients, do repairs around the building, run programs, especially our Family Support Group – which is completely volunteer run, and several other things that we don't always see.

Presentation of the Mort Paterson Award

The Rev. Mort Paterson was a United Church Minister who served as a mentor when The Bridge was being formed in the 1980's. He had a keen interest in Restorative Justice, which The Bridge is based on. In 1997, The Bridge began honouring those in the community who have an understanding of Restorative Justice and have supported the work of The Bridge.

The Mort Paterson Award, given annually at the AGM, was awarded this year to James Bowick, presented by Gillian Kearns. While the award is not usually given to a staff member, James volunteered a great amount of time above his role in Executive Director. It was decided that James would be an excellent recipient of the award for the extra hours that he put in over the almost 10 years at The Bridge. James was unable to attend the AGM.

Adjournment of business meeting: 7:40 p.m.

Refreshments were served, courtesy of The Board and Staff, and was followed by the Daisy Dunlop Restorative Justice Lecture. This year's speaker was Karen Mason and Gillian Kearns. They shared the events of the past year, and some events that had happened up to April.



Board Motions

Motion to Ratify Board Actions

Moved by: _____
Seconded by: _____

the ratification of Board actions, that all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the last annual meeting as the same that are set out or are referred to in the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, and the same are, approved, sanctioned and confirmed.

Motion to Appoint Auditors

Moved by: _____
Seconded by: _____

that the Board be authorized to appoint auditors for the 2021 and 2022 years.

Motion to Approve 2019 and 2020 Audited Statements

Moved by: _____
Seconded by: _____

that the Board be authorized to approve the 2019 and 2020 Audited Statements, as distributed separate, and available on our website.

Motion to Approve Revised Bylaws

Moved by: _____
Seconded by: _____

That the Revisions to the Bylaws be approved.

Fincancial statements for review are in a separate package



Nominating Committee

2020 – 2021 Board

The Nominating Committee recommend that the following persons be members of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year:

Ryan McComb ~ Robin McCourt ~ Kimberley Gallow ~ Wayne Baker ~ Fred Redding ~ Barry Nye
Jim Tune ~ Maryam Pandi ~ Arfa Dar ~ Mirar Shaarnay ~ Stephen Bernstein ~ Nathan Portillo

The incoming slate of officers for the 2020-2021 term were approved through the board during the first attempt for the AGM in June 2020. The officers are:

Chair:	Ryan McComb
Vice-Chair	Robin McCourt
Past-Chair	Wayne Baker
Secretary	Kimberley Gallow
Treasurer:	Fred Redding

2021-2022 Board

The Nominating Committee recommend that the following persons be members of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year:

Returning:

Ryan McComb ~ Robin McCourt ~ Wayne Baker ~ Kimberly Gallow
Jim Tune ~ Maryam Pandi ~ Megan Burgess ~

New:

Adam Cox~ Denise Mirabelli ~ Kyle Van De Vooren ~ Stephanie Bene

Alternates:

Li Yun ~ Sara Masotti

The incoming slate of officers for 2021-2022 will be determined at the next Board Meeting following the AGM.



Budget - Income

THE BRIDGE: FROM PRISON TO COMMUNITY
2021 Projection

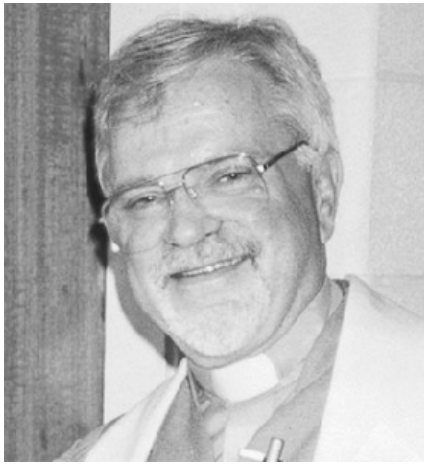
	Hamilton	Halton	Total
REVENUE			
<i>Grants</i>			
OTF - Program Grant	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 58,800.00	\$ 68,600.00
United Church Grant	\$ 22,375.00	\$ -	\$ 22,375.00
Halton Region - roll over to 2022	\$ 8,636.30	\$ 86,362.97	\$ 94,999.27
Other Foundation/Government Grants	\$ 115,000.00	\$ -	\$ 115,000.00
Total Grants	\$ 155,811.30	\$ 145,162.97	\$ 300,974.27
<i>Donations</i>			
Individual	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00
Corporate and Civic groups	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Margaret & John Whyte Foundation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Realtors' Association	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Faith Community	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
(100 Men Who Give A Damn Hamilton Branch)	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
Total Donations	\$ 53,000.00	\$ -	\$ 53,000.00
<i>Fundraising</i>			
Gala	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Nevada	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other events	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Total Fundraising	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Room Rentals (5 rooms consistently)	\$ 24,000.00	\$ -	\$ 24,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 218,811.30	\$ 145,162.97	\$ 363,974.27



Budget - Expenses

Expenses			
<i>Wages and Benefits</i>			
Executive Director= 32/hr/wk x \$38/hr x 50 weeks	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ 70,000.00
Admin Assist = 12h/wx\$15/h x 50 weeks	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00
Caseworker Hamilton = \$18/hx23/h/w x 50 weeks	\$ 20,700.00	\$ -	\$ 20,700.00
Program manager	\$ -	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
Caseworker Halton = \$20/hr x 15/wk x 50 weeks	\$ -	\$ 23,100.00	\$ 23,100.00
OTF Staff	\$ -	\$ 34,700.00	\$ 34,700.00
Additional grant related staffing costs	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -	\$ 22,000.00
MERC (Vacation, WSIB, other employee) est. 20%	\$ 21,033.00	\$ 8,012.97	\$ 29,045.97
Total Wages and Benefits	\$ 142,733.00	\$ 113,812.97	\$ 256,545.97
<i>Programming Expenses</i>			
Meeting Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials (food for meals)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Staff and Volunteer training	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Mileage & Transportation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Staff cell phones	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
HCRIF Operational Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 2,450.00
HCRIF - telecommunications	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
HRCIF - Mileage & Transportation	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
OTF Professional Costs - Volunteer Training CJI	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
OTF - Workshops	\$ -	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,600.00
OTF - Promotional	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
OTF - Equipment (Laptop, photo & video documentation)	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
OTF - Travel	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
OTF - program evaluation	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total Program Expenses	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 31,350.00	\$ 33,950.00
<i>Facility Expenses</i>			
Utilities	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Equipment purchases	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Telephone and Internet	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Security	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Residence phone	\$ 5,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00
Total Facility Expenses	\$ 22,500.00	\$ -	\$ 22,500.00
<i>Promotional</i>			
Printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Gala expenses (including CC processing fees)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Website	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Promotional Expense	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
<i>Operational Expenses</i>			
Bank charges and Interest inc. donation fees	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
CEBA - BMO COVID-19 LOC	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
NEVADA FEES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office Supplies	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Insurance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00
Audit and Bookkeeping	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Other Professional	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Legal Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IT service fees and maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operational Expenses	\$ 38,900.00	\$ -	\$ 38,900.00
Total Income	\$ 218,811.30	\$ 145,162.97	\$ 363,974.27
Total Expenses	\$ 211,733.00	\$ 145,162.97	\$ 356,895.97
Net Surplus/Deficit	\$ 7,078.30	\$ -	\$ 7,078.30

The Mort Paterson Award



Rev. George Morton (Mort) Paterson
February 15, 1935 – February 22, 2019

In 1997, The Bridge began honoring those in the community who have an understanding of Restorative Justice and have supported the work of The Bridge. The Mort Paterson Award is awarded annually at the AGM in recognition of individuals who have contributed their time and service to The Bridge.

-
- 2019 Edward "Ted" Mercer
 - 2018 James Bowick
 - 2017 Larry Belbeck
 - 2016 Amanda Kollee
 - 2015 George Georgas, Darryl Henry
 - 2014 Larry Ricciardelli
 - 2013 John Shea
 - 2012 ~not given~
 - 2011 Ron Crawford
 - 2010 Don Swiston and Michael Peroune
 - 2009 Patricia McNeice
 - 2008 Barbara and Guy Mersereau
 - 2007 Dr. Raymond Johnson
 - 2006 Margaret and Murray Luke
 - 2005 Jean Peters
 - 2004 Canon Dorothy Johns
 - 2003 Rev. Bill Petherick
 - 2002 Brian Haughie
 - 2001 Sr. Marjorie Masterson
 - 2000 Mary Wood
 - 1999 Alison Beleny, Fr. Gus Smith
 - 1998 W. Murray McCulloch
 - 1997 Joe Bochsler, Bill Cockman, Malcolm Curtis



Daisy Dunlop

Restorative Justice Lecture



“Daisy believed she was called by God to work with prisoners as they moved towards repentance, restoration and renewal,” he said. “She also felt God call her to help people understand this. She often said one of her biggest jobs was to help society get to a ‘place of forgiveness’, tolerance and acceptance. That remains a struggle even today.”

Daisy was instrumental in creating programs on Ontario around restorative justice and reintegration for incarcerated individuals. Daisy had provided the inaugural Annual General Meeting presentation, and we have continued the tradition in her honour. In 2019 the membership elected to have the lecture held at our annual gala, and we look forward to the fall when we are able to host our annual Bridge to Hope Gala.

2019 Karen Mason & Gillian Kearns

2018 Barbara Studholm

2017 Rachel Braithwaite

2016 Lisa Colbert

2015 Donna de Jong

2014 Ralph Walker

2013 Peggy LaFlamme and Wendy Meek

2012 Helen Norris

2011 Russell Kelly

2010 James Bowick

2009 Roger Zsiros

2008 Don Mackay

2007 Brian Mullan

2006 Randy Charbonneau (Philip Walsh)

2005 Linda Orme

2004 Garry Glowacki

2003 Casey Konstanji

2002 Daisy Dunlop



Board Honour Roll

2020-2021 Board

Executive

Chair:	Ryan McComb
Vice-Chair	Robin McCourt
Past-Chair	Wayne Baker
Secretary	Kimberley Gallow
Treasurer:	Fred Redding

Board Members

~ Barry Nye ~ Jim Tune ~ Maryam Pandi ~ Arfa Dar ~ Megan Burgess ~
~ Mirar Shaarnay ~ Stephen Bernstein ~ Nathan Portillo ~

Former Board of Director's Honour Roll

Rev. George Addison 1990-1993	Angie Hamilton 2013-2017	Neville Nunes 2007-2012
Dora Anie 2012-2014	Diane Hewat 2014-2016	Anita O'Keeffe
Brett Aston 2017-2018	Dorothy Johns 1994-2004	Michael Peroune 1996-2010
Bonnie-Jean Barlow 2016-2018	Karl Johnson 2014-2015	Rev. Bill Petherinck 1993-2004
Dr. Larry Belbeck (alternate)	Ray Johnson 1994-1996	Joan Podmokly 2007-2009
Debra Bertollo 1996-1997	Dave Kenny 2009-2010	Rev. Willard Pottinger 1990-1993
Fran Bevan 2012-2015	Sean Kiely 2014-2016	Clement Pudjunas 1994-1996
Dan Black 2015-2016	Lorna Lamparski 2012-2015	Geoffrey Michael Read 2015-2017
Peter Boushy 2007-2009	Margaret Luke 1990-1994	Larry Ricciardelli 2009-2011
Caroline Brown 1994-1996	Murray Luke 1990-1994	Art Samson 2003-2005
JoAnn Carrothers 2001-2012	John Lumsden 2009-2012	Fr. Gus Smith 1990-2003
Lillian Curtis 1998-2012	Karen Mason	Don Swiston 2003-2010
Susan Davis 1998	Sr. Marjorie Masterson 1991-2001	Rev. S. Van Houton 1990-1991
John Duguay	W. Murray McCulloch 1990-1994	Cara Tabron 2014
Fr. Joe Durkacz 2014-2016	Ted Mercer	Ryan Vandenhaak 2012-2014
John Ellis 1997-2002	Barbara Mersereau 1999-2008	Robert Westbrook 2004
Lynn Gates	Patricia McNeice 1993-2008	Neil Wheatley 2011-2012
Emily Goodall 1991-1997	2012-2014	Mark White 1994-1999
Denise Graham 2012-2014	Tammy McGillivray 2002-2012	
	Tara Mimnagh	

Staff



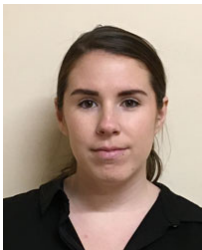
Executive Director

Fanis joined The Bridge in October 2019, as the Executive Director and onsite counsellor. Fanis has brought a new level of diversity and inclusion to the foundation and operations. Fanis has been an encouraging leader for staff, providing many opportunities to be a sounding platform for staff. She has also brought a renewed vision to The Bridge programming and we look forward to bringing the new vision to fruition as the pandemic recedes and the province opens back up.



Case Worker

Mike first began his career in 1994 as an Addictions Counsellor at Moreland. He started out with The Bridge as a volunteer, in 2018, and was putting together an addiction support program. Mike joined the staff in 2019, as a Case Worker at The Bridge House in Hamilton where he provides reintegration support to our clients transitioning out of custody. He is an avid snooker player and looks forward to his annual fishing trip to Hearst where he gets the opportunity too relax in nature. When not using meditation to work on self awareness, Mike enjoys a good plate of jerk chicken with a side of Greek salad.



Relief Case Worker

Justine joined The Bridge in 2017 as a student with the Mohawk College SSW program, with our Halton team, then as a volunteer, and finally as a caseworker, providing support in Hamilton, as well as relief in Halton. Justine has continued to provide relief support for our programs.



Administrative Assistant

Having been with The Bridge for over 5 years years, Bonnie has been steadfast in her support and dedication with our organization. Her passion centers around advocacy for mental health awareness, suicide safe communities, and volunteerism. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep us running and organized. Whether it is our marketing materials, website, or other administrative related tasks that keep us going, Bonnie has a wealth of talents that we are grateful for.



Interim Executive Director

Maja has a wide breadth of experience in the criminal justice system. She began her career in the courts, and moved on to supervising Adult Community Justice and Diversion Programs . She also has had the unique perspective supporting clients in custody as Social Worker at the Toronto South Detention Centre . She became part of The Bridge family when she took on the role of Program Manager in our Halton program in 2019. She has recently come back to support the program as Acting Executive Director. When not passionately advocating for her clients, she likes to cuddle with a big bowl of popcorn and watch Netflix.

The Board members of The Bridge would like to thank The Bridge staff for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the last year.

Service Award



We would like to give special appreciation to Bonnie Barlow for her 5 years of dedicated service to The Bridge. She first joined The Bridge as a volunteer in December 2016 as a board member and family support group co-facilitator. In January 2019 she transitioned to the role of Administrative Assistant. She is the smiling face that clients, staff and the community have come to know as the backbone of our organization.

Unfortunately we were hoping to have the plaque ready to present at the AGM. However, with all things this year, nothing has been predictable and the plaque is still at the trophy store being made. Stay tuned for a photo of the real thing in our July newsletter.



2020 A Year in Review

Programming

This past year was a very challenging time for everyone around the world due to COVID-19 and the global pandemic. We spent a year navigating lock down after lock down and other safety protocols that we quickly had to adjust to.. Many people lost loved ones as we watched the number of cases increase month after month.

However, through it all The Bridge kept providing service to some of the most vulnerable people in our community, people being released from custody. The pandemic was especially difficult for our clients during this time, as many services they depend on became harder to access and social distancing measures made our clients even more socially isolated both in and out of custody than ever before.

We quickly pivoted behind the scenes through virtual Zoom board meetings to staff supervision over the phone to ensure that we were still able to provide the much needed service that our clients and the community have come to rely on for the past 30 years.



Discharge Planning & Transitional Housing

Lock downs and social distancing did not keep us from providing clients with the release planning and housing they needed to successfully transition from in custody into the community. When visits were stopped as a safety precaution to keep COVID-19 from entering the correctional institutions, the relationships we have nurtured with the Discharge Planners at the Hamilton Wentworth Detention Centre, Maplehurst, as well as local probation & parole offices over the many years allowed us to continue supporting clients being released from custody even when we could not be there in person.

Support Group & Meal Based Programs

When lock downs necessitated closing of in person meetings we continued to provide our Tuesday and Thursday meal based program. Our case worker continued to cook wholesome tasty meals, which the clients then took up to their rooms to enjoy. The case manager was always available by phone to provide any support the clients needed while we followed Public Health safety guidelines.

Programming Continued

Family Support Group

Throughout the year, The Family Support Group continued to meet bi-weekly via Zoom providing relatives and immediate relational networks of people who are incarcerated or in conflict with the law with community resources, practical information, peer and emotional support, and advice for those that have a loved one involved in the justice system.

We are registered with the Canadian Families and Corrections Network's (CFCN) and follow its criteria for facilitating Family Support Groups.



Safety at The Bridge

With more work being done offsite during COVID-19 due to health and safety precautions, as well as Public Health's required social distancing and work place lock down measures during the pandemic, onsite security became a critical focus at The Bridge. As a result, in the summer of 2020 we applied for the annual Ontario Realtors Care Foundation grant to support the installation of new cameras throughout the Bridge House. The grant application focused on upgrades to some of our technology, including upgrading and expanding our security system.



This not only helped to make our staff feel safer. The remote access to the video footage provides staff with a means to see the activity of the house while offsite.

We would like to thank the Ontario Realtors Association for providing the funds needed to get these resources in place.



Community

Community Connections

Stand together by being apart has been the catchphrase throughout the pandemic and that is exactly what the Bridge has done. Although we could not be together physically we put the infrastructure in place so that we could continue to meet with our families and community partners virtually, as well as provide programming that followed Public Health Guidelines to keep both our staff and clients safe and healthy. This included getting our own Zoom account and upgrading our technology to ensure we had video cameras on our computers so that whenever we attended a virtual meeting everyone would be able to put a name to a face. We maintained our community connections by attending various meetings with community partners in the Hamilton and Halton regions including: the PPSN, the Hamilton, Halton and Provincial Human Services Justice Coordinating Committees (HSJCC), the Halton and Barton Street BIAs, executive directors monthly meetings and housing task force meetings in the region.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Client Voices

Hello, my name is Tee. This is just a brief summary of my stay at the Bridge so far. I was incarcerated prior to coming here and didn't really know what to expect especially during this pandemic. So far everything has been great though. I haven't had any issues with clients or the staff. No concerns with privacy, the guys that have been here since I've been here are respectful and we get along alright. I understand because of Covid things had to be somewhat limited but I think Mike and Bonnie have done a great job when it comes to support. Just having them to talk to has helped me in adjusting into a new area and bouncing ideas off them about my future. I know there would be more programs running but the lockdown pretty much stopped that for the time being, regardless I've been able to get a lot of the support I was seeking while being here so I'm appreciative.

Grants

Many businesses and charities took a big financial hit this past year because of the pandemic. But The Bridge was not forgotten. Many of our dedicated funders knew that the work we do would become even more important in this great time of need and provided us with the funding we needed to keep doing the great work that we do. We would like to thank our funders for their generosity and steadfast support.



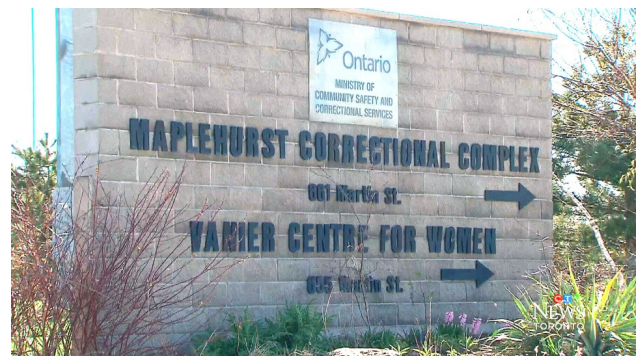
DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



Halton Region

Stride Circles of Support

Towards the end of 2019, we submitted our application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, to work in collaboration with Community Justice Initiatives in Waterloo. The seed grant is to help bring the STRIDE program to the Halton Region to work with Vanier Centre for Women in Milton, and their population. COVID-19 put this program on hold but we have recently begun to get this initiative underway so we can expand our client services to include reintegration supports to women in the Halton region.



Volunteers

vol•un•teer

/,välən'tir/

agent of change

peer

/'pir/

*one that is of equal standing
with another*

2020-2021 proved to be a challenging year for us, and being able to use our volunteers to the fullest potential. We are looking forward to resuming our volunteer and peer program, as we enter in to the end of the pandemic, we are looking forward to reconnecting with our volunteers, and to expand our peer program.



A volunteer training session

For the purpose of our volunteers confidentiality, we refer to our volunteers, regardless of lived experience, as volunteers.

In many cases, being able to help our clients with things like navigating the transit system, or taking them to the park for a game of frisbee golf, brings an element of peer support.

We have been working on our training program, to be able to empower all our volunteers to not only work with our clients, but to also be a part of social change in the community.

Volunteer roles include, but are not limited to:

- peer support
- cooking
- social isolation activities
- programs
- board - and related committees.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, reach out to Bonnie at admin@hamilton-bridge.ca or visit gigitmarketplace.ca to fill out an application.

Donors



- Brian Childs
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- Ryan McComb
- Wayne Baker

And many donors who wish to remain anonymous



Corporate Donors



- Ancaster Film Festival
- Brabant Foundation
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Hamilton Criminal Lawyers Association
- WB Management Inc
- Canadian Martyrs Catholic Women's League
- Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
- East Plains United Church
- Immanuel Christian Reformed Church
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- Hamilton Regional Police Services Foundation

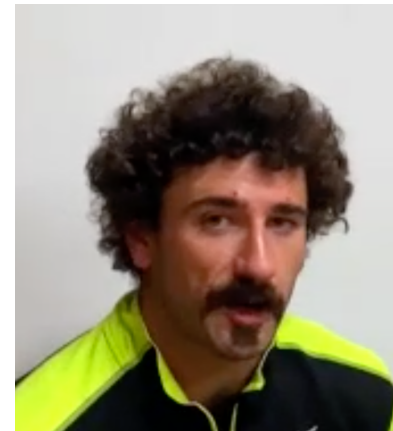
2020 Bridge to Hope Gala



A Gala to Remember



If 2020 did anything, it challenged us to get out of our comfort zones. We went to territories never before attempted by our organization. Our two primary event organizers, Leanne and Bonnie, started out expecting to take what we have done in previous years and improve upon it. What usually takes us a year to put together, gave us a great start, but with the constraints of COVID-19 and the uncertainty it brought, the decision was made to host the gala virtually, thus thrusting us where we have never been before. Leanne and Bonnie approached the board with tasks that would help us pull the event together. They knew that we would needed everyone to chip in and connect with the entire community to be able to get this to be a success.



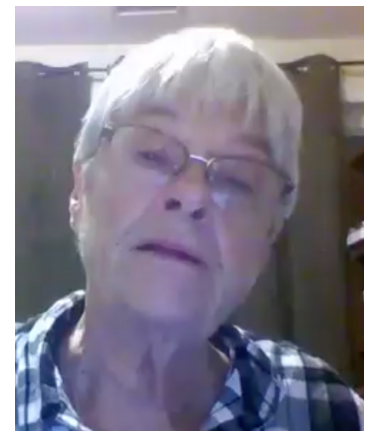
2020 Bridge to Hope Gala



A Gala to Remember

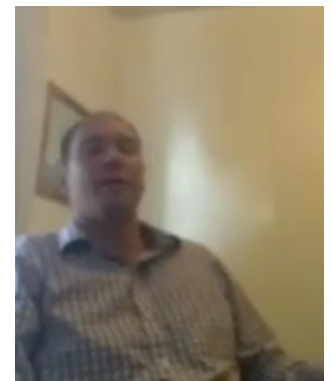


We would like to thank Indwell for their support in organizing our gala. The team at Indwell held their gala in June, and allowed us to connect with them to find out what worked for them. From there, we pulled in all our favours, and brought together many people from our communities (including former clients) and put together our first ever Bridge to Hope Virtual Gala.

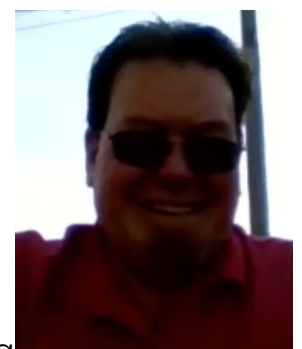
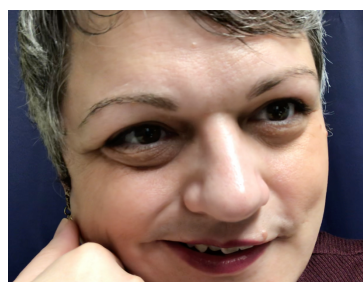


We hope to be able to see you, be it in your home or ours, in the fall for the 2021 BTH Gala.

The organizing committee would like to thank the many community members who sponsored, provided their voices, and otherwise helped bring the gala together.



The board would like to thank the gala organizing committee for the time and energy put into creating the gala.



Christmas - COVID Style



The Bridge house was kept full all through the pandemic thanks to the hard work of our staff.

Residents were very understanding when it came to COVID-19 and the necessity for the Tuesday and Thursday meal program to be altered to accommodate social distancing and Public Health guidelines.

However, we know the holidays are often the most difficult time of year for our residents. Social isolation, not being with family and friends while watching everyone else around celebrating the festivities can be really hard. Our Christmas suppers are a long standing tradition at The Bridge House that the residents, staff and Board look forward to all year long. This year was no different. We didn't let COVID-19 squash our spirits. Although everyone had to maintain social distancing, a delicious meal was prepared and enjoyed by all.





Fundraising

During the year, The Bridge ran the following successful fundraisers to raise awareness and generate revenue:

- Great Green Fundraiser Seed Sales \$331
- RainBarrel Sales \$318
- Fundscrip \$227
- Flipgive \$140
- Popcorn Sales \$120

We are currently running the following in 2021:

- Rain Barrel – <https://rainbarrel.ca/bridge/>
- Until June 30
- Fundscrip – Use code 30607 to register and the Invitation Code is 9EYVVK
- Flipgive – Use code LY95LC to join our team
- First Aid Kit Fundraiser – Coming In July!

If you know of any other fundraisers that might be a good fit for us, please contact us at: admin@hamilton-bridge.ca



FlipGive

FundsCrip™



How can you get involved

Financial Support

Finances remain the single biggest challenge The Bridge faces. Individual donors make a huge difference. You can contribute in several ways.

- Attend a fundraising event
- Give one time or monthly. We can take cash, cheques, Mastercard, Visa, or Debit.
- Give online. To donate online, go to www.canadahelps.org (or link to it from our website) and search for "The Bridge Hamilton."
- Estate giving. Consider including The Bridge in your will, or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy

Donate Goods

We have a steady need of :

- Cleaning Supplies
- New or gently used single sized linens, pillows, and towels
- Toiletries
- Non-perishable food items
- Laundry detergent
- Bus fare
- Call and ask us if we need appliances such as Air Conditioners, Washers/Dryers, Freezers, etc.

Volunteer

Program Support

- Our programs can use volunteers and we are always looking for folks interested in trying something new

Fundraising

- Interested in fundraising? Contact us for more information

Event Planning

- Can you help us put together some of our exciting events? We have lots of opportunities!

Social Media

- We need people with skills in this area to help us with our web site, Facebook, etc.

Other?

- What are your gifts and interests?

Please SPREAD THE WORD! Like and share us on Facebook.

Join our email list and share.

Help us get the word out about The Bridge!

