



Building bridges between families and those that can help.

OUR MISSION & VISION

To build bridges of support, anchored in Christ's love, between families in the Lakes area and the community assets that can help them thrive and gain hope. Bridges of Hope links families to community supports and resources, creating partnerships within the broader community to help strengthen, stabilize and support families in the Lakes area, sending a message of hope and empowering families to thrive.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The organization has affirmed these four Strategic Priorities to guide its work:

Strengthening families by providing both a breadth and depth of programming;

Engaging the community in two-way relationships;

Centering our organization in Christ by nurturing our staff and Board of Directors in their individual faith journeys; and

Developing and being good stewards of the resources we are entrusted with.

HOW WE BUILD BRIDGES

Everyone who approaches Bridges of Hope is facing a unique challenge. By providing a **single point of entry** for those in need or crisis, we create a system that looks at the **strengths and needs** of each household and connects them to the supports they need to thrive. By continuing to identify all of the assets that exist within our community and **mobilizing the community** to collectively utilize those assets, Bridges of Hope impacts the lives of both individual families and **transforms the community** as a whole. Bridges of Hope goes beyond resource and referral, however; not only finding resources but linking families to resources and following up to ensure they are connected to services most helpful to them.

In **2015**, Bridges of Hope served approximately 2,200 households (around 6,200 people). Approximately 65% of the requests we respond to are regarding to **children and those who care for them**. While our mission is to serve children and their families, we do not turn away individuals seeking information about resources.

Volunteers increase Bridges of Hope's capacity to serve those in need, and volunteers come in a variety of names, including *Intern, AmeriCorps VISTA Member, Mentor, Community Volunteer*, and more. BoH has always utilized volunteers to assist with its services and has had excellent partnerships with many of our area volunteer organizations and educational institutions.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Whatever kind of crisis a household is facing, Bridges of Hope has the community expertise to walk them through it. Whether we work with a family over a few weeks or several months, the goal is always to prevent child abuse, maltreatment and neglect; reduce isolation; increase family stability; and promote stronger, healthier families. Bridges of Hope has four program service areas:

Childcare Services: free, short-term childcare for children during a family crisis, and/or regularly scheduled breaks for parents and caregivers of children with significant mental health or behavioral challenges.

Family Support Services: longer-term supportive services; typically working with families in-home to set goals and to connect them to community-based supports; with the goal to reduce child abuse and neglect and to empower families to access support in the future.

Mentoring Services: an adult mentoring program with the goal to move participants from survival to sustainability by increasing informal assets through mentoring relationships.

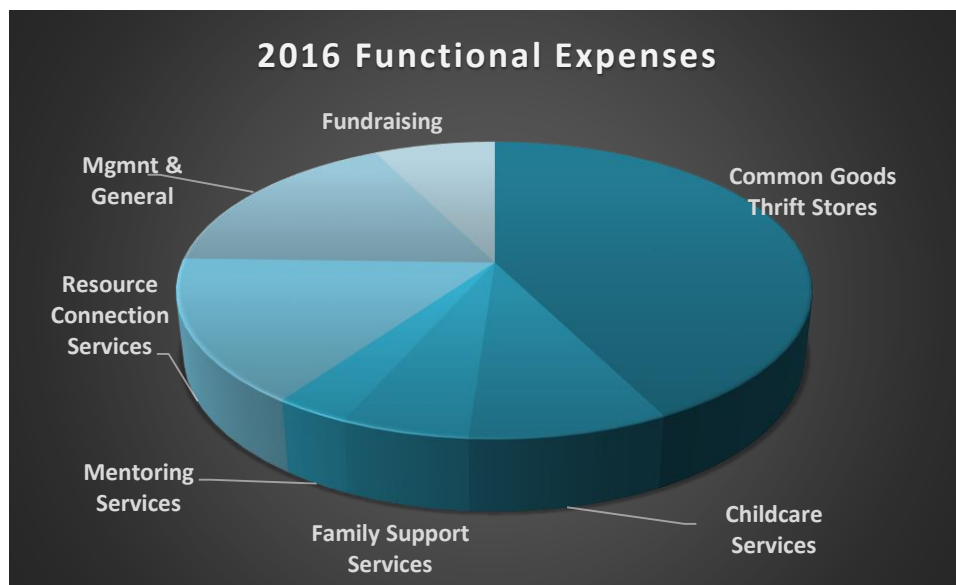
Resource Connection Services: a single point of entry in the community for families experiencing a financial crisis, connecting them to viable community resources, in order to improve family stability.

COMMON GOODS

In the fall of 2009, Bridges of Hope launched a thrift store named Common Goods. Common Goods was created for the **community-minded shopper**, offering high-quality goods at reasonable prices, including a range of clothing, fashion accessories, casual and one-of-a-kind home furnishings, and unique furniture pieces. Our goal is to have a major impact on the number of products leaving our area or entering landfills. We work to **recycle and redistribute these goods within the community**, extending their use. As a result, local donations stay local and proceeds from the store serve local families in need. Common Goods was created to be **a venue for community members to give their time, talents and treasures**, and the **proceeds support the ongoing work of Bridges of Hope**. Volunteers are always welcome: call for current opportunities. During the summer of 2015, the organization opened a second Common Goods location in Crosslake.

BOARD, STAFF & ORGANIZATION

Bridges of Hope is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, incorporated in 2002. The organization has a 9-member Board of Directors, made up of a cross-section of community members. The Board provides leadership and oversight to the ongoing formation of Bridges of Hope in planning, budgeting, fundraising and community networking. The organization employs five full-time and three part-time staff at its human services location, and one full-time staff along with five to seven part-time staff at each Common Goods location (a total of approximately 22 employees across three locations). Bridges of Hope's organizational budget for 2016 is \$874,786. Bridges of Hope spends approximately 76% of its budget on Program expenses; 17% on Administrative (Management & General) expenses, and 7% on Fundraising.



To help bring the gift of hope to local families, contact:

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Common Goods: 218.824.0923 or 218.692.7682

