

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 GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

At Bridges of Hope, we...

- Believe families can be strengthened through both formal and informal supports.
- Respect the diversity, individual needs, beliefs and values of those we work with.
- Set aside personal bias and honor the value and worth of every person.
- Go above and beyond by offering simple, consistent, and personalized services.
- Listen, encourage, and empower with kindness and compassion.

HOW WE BUILD BRIDGES

We function as a **single point of entry** for those in need or crisis, looking at the strengths and needs of each household and connecting them to the specific supports they need. 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 households to resources and following up afterward, to ensure they are connected to services most helpful to them.

In 2017, Bridges of Hope served approximately **1,500 households** (around 4,500 people). Approximately 73% of the requests we respond to are regarding to children and those who care for them. While our **core mission** is to serve children and their families, we do not turn away individuals seeking support and resources.

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 household 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.

Childcare Services: short-term ***Crisis Nursery*** childcare for children ages 0-12 during a family crisis; and regularly-scheduled ***Respite*** care for parents and caregivers of children ages 0-17 with mental health and/or behavioral challenges. (Both programs: CWC families only.)

Family Support Services: a strengths-based, in-home approach to help families thrive by offering support and resources to at-risk families.

Mentoring Services: a program for highly motivated adult women who are ready to make lasting changes in their lives; moving themselves from survival to sustainability through long-term mentoring relationships.

Resource Connection Services: a single point of entry in the community for individuals and families facing a short-term challenge; providing access to the resources they need to regain household stability.

Self-Healing Communities: a preventive, proactive and collaborative approach that focuses on individual assets and builds resilience as a way to combat Adverse Childhood Experiences; in the process, individuals, families, and the entire community is transformed. (New program to be launched summer/fall 2018).

COMMON GOODS

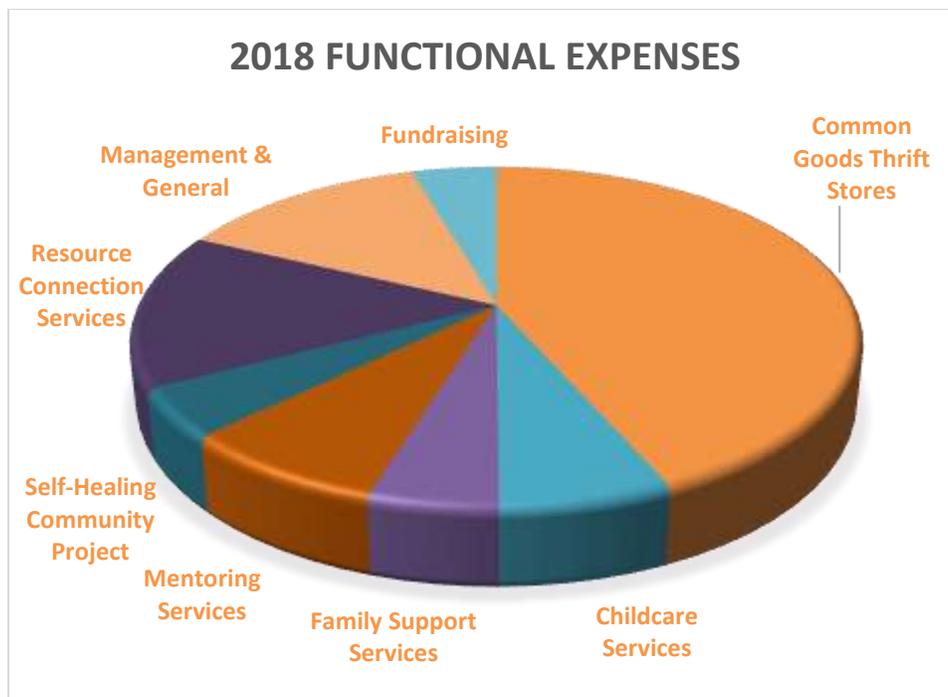
In 2009, Bridges of Hope launched a thrift store named Common Goods. Common Goods was created for the **community-minded shopper**, offering high-quality goods at reasonable prices; including a range of clothing, accessories, casual and one-of-a-kind home furnishings, and great furniture. In 2015, the organization opened a second Common Goods location in Crosslake. 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 **support Bridges of Hope's work with local households**. Last year, Common Goods funded approximately 47% of our human services work!

BOARD, STAFF & ORGANIZATION

Bridges of Hope is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, incorporated in 2002. The organization has an 11-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 eight full-time and two part-time staff at its human services location, and one full-time staff along with six to eight part-time staff at each Common Goods location (a total of approximately 26 employees across three locations).

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. Last year, **96 volunteers donated over 3,000 hours to our organization**—a value of over \$74,000!¹

Bridges of Hope's organizational budget for 2018 is \$1,084,000. Bridges of Hope spends approximately 82% of its budget on Program expenses; 13% on Administrative (Management & General) expenses, and 5% on Fundraising.



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

Bridges of Hope
PO Box 742 Brainerd, MN 56401
<http://bridgesofhopemn.org>
218.825.7682 or info@bridgesofhopemn.org
Donations are 100% tax-deductible.
Common Goods: 218.824.0923 or 218.692.7682

¹ <https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2018/> and <https://independentsector.org/value-volunteer-time-methodology/>