



Bridges

Helping us engage people
outside the church

Annual Report 2015-2016

Highlights of the Year

Why Bridges? God's loving heart is for the outsiders. Bridge Leaders connect those outside of church culture to God's love.

November 3-day Training Conference - Healing Prayer

October Missional Skills Training for Congregations - First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills



"Best training ever!"



"It was obvious how much love there was in the group."



September Bridges Vision Event - San Fernando Presbytery hosts a 100+ person turnout

Bridge Leader Accomplishments

Kim & Isaac Bowser facilitated the baptisms of a few members of their Christ-following community in East Los Angeles.

Lou Federmann was named Associate Director of the Hope for Life RV Ministry in Huntington Beach where she serves among residents of a motorhome park.

Allison La Bianca met her \$40,000 fundraising goal to train leaders around the world in the transforming practice of Holy Yoga.

Cat Moore received a \$7,500 grant to expand her work in the community with think tanks and writer salons.

January 1/2-day Training -
Hearing God - hosted by
Glendale Presbyterian Church

*"...Praying with others—even those
I did not know at first—was an
incredible blessing as I saw the body
of Christ come together in a caring
and safe environment."*

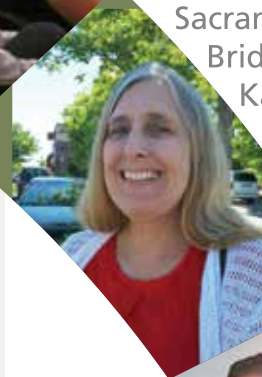
—Training Conference Participant



April Benefit Dinner -
\$30,000+ raised
- hosted by La Cañada
Presbyterian Church



May - Expansion to
Sacramento with
Bridge Leader
Kathryn Boyd



State of the Movement

Thank you for investing in the ministries of our Bridge Leaders. Together, we are making a difference in America. God is changing lives.

Bridges is training and supporting more leaders than ever before. **We have trained over 100 leaders and are currently nurturing and supporting more than 60 leaders.**

This means more new disciples, more new ministries, and more new communities outside existing congregations. **Our Bridge Leaders are regularly mentoring over 529 people and personally discipling over 217 people.** "I am so grateful for you—you've helped save my life!" says one woman a Bridge Leader met in her neighborhood.

And the Bridges movement is expanding. We now have Bridge Leaders in Sacramento, Freemont, Orange County, Tennessee, Maryland and Indiana. From RV parks to ESL classes to hiking groups and NASA offices, our Bridge Leaders are building relationships that make a difference.

July - Launching
Spanish language
Support Groups



Thank you for giving. Thank you for praying.
Thank you for helping Bridge Leaders with
your time and skill. God has used you to make
a difference.

With thanks and joy,

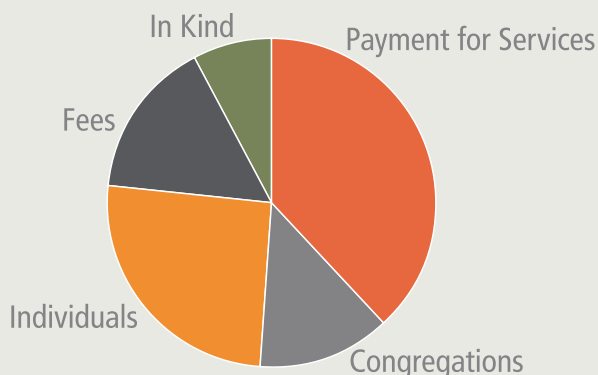
Jim
Jim Milley
Chief Catalyst

FINANCES - for the 12 months ending June 30, 2016

Keeping Our Finances Healthy and Strong

Bridges Finances

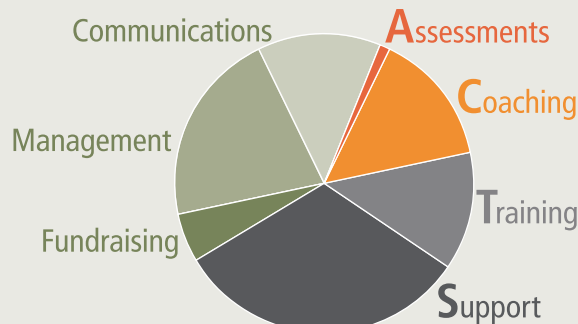
Income



Total Income: \$286,744

Payment for Services..	\$102,015	.....38%
Congregations	\$93,261	.....13%
Individuals	\$88,517	.....26%
Fees.....	\$51,892	.....16%
In Kind	\$21,748	.....8%

Expenses

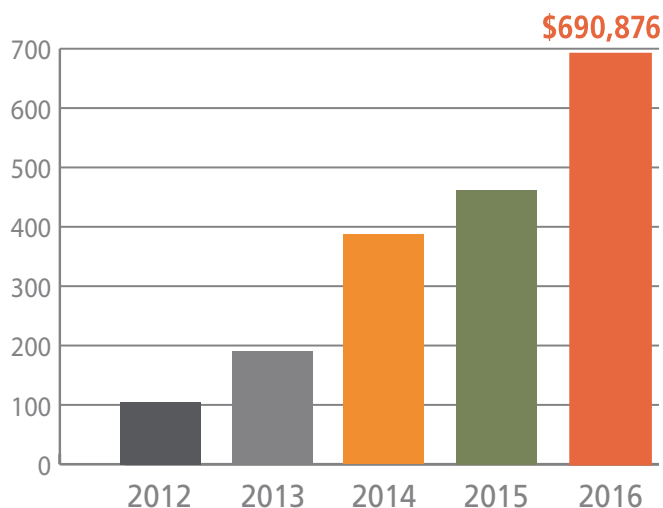


Total Expenses: \$240,993

Assessments	\$2,751	..... 1%
Coaching	\$34,911	..... 14%
Training	\$30,722	..... 13%
Support	\$54,799	..... 32%
Fundraising	\$12,469	..... 5%
Management	\$63,595	..... 21%
Communications..	\$41,747	..... 13%

"Bridges will be working hard to manage overhead and increase services to our Bridge Leaders over the next 12 months."—Jim Milley, Chief Catalyst

Bridges Total Annual Income (including Bridge Leader income)



Together 27 Bridge Leaders raised \$448,689 in addition to the Bridges income depicted above.

"Over the last year Bridges has tightened spending and increased cashflow, allowing us to expand services to Bridge Leaders. Thank you for partnering with us as we joyfully steward these funds."

—CFO of Board, Kevin Sheldahl

Exciting NEW Opportunities!

Bridges now offers training to local congregations

In September, Bridges partnered with First Presbyterian Church Granada Hills to bring Missional Skills Training to lay members and leaders that enable them to engage people outside of church culture.



"It was a really meaningful class and I know God moved people to a deeper place in action and calling. Bridges ministry is awesome!"—Jennifer Gunther, Associate Pastor

The Six Missional Skills

- ❶ JOIN an existing social group
- ❷ LEARN to speak their language
- ❸ ADD VALUE to their community
- ❹ HELP people to live like Jesus did
- ❺ GATHER & LEAD GROUPS in spiritual practices
- ❻ TRAIN other people to do the above

Upcoming Training Opportunities

6-week Missional Skills Training

Starting September 18th
at Faith Valley Village Church

All-day Missional Skills Training

Saturday, November 5th
at 1st Presbyterian Church of Encino

Contact Jim to have Bridges come
alongside your congregation:
Jim@BridgesUS.org

The Annual Benefit Dinner (\$30K+ raised)



"You're doing such great work—keep it up. This is inspiring!"



In April, over 150 people gathered at La Cañada Presbyterian Church to catch Bridges' Vision. Bridge Leaders shared transformational stories from their unique ministries supporting parenting teens, living among the economically disadvantaged, befriending their neighbors, and building community among artists.

"I loved the evening, the program, the people I had a chance to reconnect with, and the award for the presbytery."

—Ken Baker, Executive Presbyter,
San Fernando Presbytery

The Heart of How We Invest in Bridge Leaders

\$333 per month fully supports a Bridge Leader with Assessments, Coaching, Training, and Support

"I think the Bridges approach of bi-vocational ministry using missionary tactics is exceptionally well suited to the culture we are living in today."
—Tim Hunt, Barnabas Group



Number of Bridge Leaders				
Service	2013	2014	2015	2016
Assessment	25	40	67	78
Coaching	18	35	55	48
Training	27	106	61	150
Support Groups	29	40	49	57
Support Accounts	9	13	20	27
Support Grants	0	0	3	3



"I change my whole schedule around just to be able to come to this support group each month—that's how important it's been to my own development."
—Cissy Brady-Rogers, Bridge Leader



The Power of Presence in the Parking Lot

Bridge Leader Jaime (Right) builds relationships with Latinos in East Los Angeles. Once a week Jaime brings coffee, donuts and water to over 40 day laborers in Home Depot's parking lot. But he doesn't say a quick prayer and then leave. He stays with them

for six hours, listening to them and caring about their stories. One man who was despised by the other laborers approached Jaime to say he hated working there because no one liked him. As he looked in Jaime's eyes, his heart changed. He said, **"I don't want to be an angry person anymore. I decide today to change my life."** I no longer want the nickname

"The Louse"—I change my name to Ezekiel. And you are my witness to my decision." He started smiling as the other men stood there with mouths open in awe. God is at work in new and exciting ways! Thank you again for supporting the work of Bridge Leaders like Jaime who are connecting those outside church culture to the transforming presence of God.





Assessments - Assessments measure meaningful aspects of leadership and help leaders develop holistically in the midst of ever-changing ministry.

"Finally some surveys that actually measure something important and useful for my growth as a leader!"—Bridge Leader Cat



Coaching - Our experienced Coaches are gifted in coming alongside Bridge Leaders on a monthly basis to maximize the work they're already doing with God.

"I feel humbled and grateful to be a part of Bridges as a coach. It is a blessing to watch leaders grow into the people God created them to be. I thoroughly enjoy coaching Bridge Leaders as they do the difficult work of starting ministries."—Justin Beck, Coach



Trainings - A few times per year we offer focused, practical trainings for individuals, small groups and congregations around the 6 Missional Skills.

"The sessions have brought me to a much greater level of understanding how to hear the voice of God."—Training Participant

The Power of Presence to Break the Power of Addiction

Bridge Leader Nvard met "Jane" after Jane had just been abused by her boyfriend. Knowing Jane was high on heroin, Nvard asked her if she would be willing to consider making better choices to change her life. They talked about who Jesus was in Nvard's own life—what He had healed and delivered her from. Through these conversations, Nvard realized that Jane was ready and willing to get help. So she found a Christian Addiction Recovery Retreat and paid for this woman to attend. Leaders there were able to support Jane in opening up about her addiction and help her take steps toward sobriety. Soon after, she began attending a



Support Groups - Monthly cohorts gather to learn together, pray for each other and encourage each other around texts and case studies that are relevant to their ministry work.

"I'm so thankful that our leaders are consistently building up sustainable systems for discipling hundreds of people in and around Los Angeles."— Nick Warnes, Support Group Leader

Support as Fiscal Sponsor - We provide the administrative and legal infrastructure for Bridge Leaders who want to raise funds, which frees up their time and energy for ministry work.

Nvard lives out her passion to help others "walk free of bondage." For Nvard, "Bondage is anything in our life that holds us back from living the life of Christ."



local church where she could address with God and in community the deeper issues that led her into addiction.

Bridge Leaders Equipped With ACTS Services Are Seeing This Growth in the Field

Activity	Apr-2015	Apr-2016
Bridge Leaders Responding	30	42
Groups Joined	107	180
Intentional Friendships	1066	1260
Meeting with Regularly	308	529

Activity	Apr-2014	Apr-2016
Bridge Leaders Responding	20	42
Disciples	209	217
Disciple Groups	21	48
Leader Groups	25	27

Norm Gordon

Bridging through local Meet Up Groups

Norm is a Bridge Leader in Maryland who is building relationships by using "Meet Up," the national online platform that connects neighbors to neighbors. Recently Norm attended a Meet Up Bible Study. He discovered that the organizer was a long-time Christian who just couldn't find a fit with the small groups in his local churches. He was a church person looking for church outside of church! Norm says, "It's the irony we live in today. I wouldn't have met him unless I spent the last nine months moving from the large church I was serving in as a full-time pastor to reaching out to others outside of church attendance. Only after going into really deep waters with Meet Up did I realize more than ever that I need to find these people who can't find a fit and help them connect to Christian community."



Lou Federmann

Bridging in an RV Park

Lou is a lay leader serving a community of motorhome residents in Huntington Beach, California. She spends several days per week building relationships with people who are often in crisis and ashamed to open up about their situations. Lou spent more than six months getting to know a Mom with three girls before there was a breakthrough: "I had a woman open up to me that their youngest daughter doesn't discern right from wrong the way the other two girls do. I went home and discovered, right there on my bookshelf, '103 Questions about Right and Wrong' that gives Biblical perspective in response. I was so excited! Now I'll be able to facilitate a little conversation group with all three girls, so the littlest isn't singled out or given a lecture, and it may help the whole family bond. I'll bake treats and involve the Mom as well, especially as she was just saying they want to come back to church—and this is a great step!"



Dave Cameron

Bridging among restaurant staff

Dave organizes Eucharist of the Beloved, a community that follows Jesus in Pasadena, California. As they've met monthly in an upper room of a local restaurant for worship, they have built relationships with the staff. "Kate" is a waitress, who moved to LA to pursue acting. She was disconnected from community and had not been associated with church since attending Catholic mass as a middle schooler. As she served Dave's group week in and week out, trust was built, and eventually Dave invited her to participate in communion. She gave Dave a huge hug and thanked him for letting her participate. Now Kate takes a break from her work shift in the restaurant below just to come up to the meeting room to receive communion. Dave says, "For Kate, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is hugely important. Serving one another the Eucharist and opening it up to staff members like Kate has been transformative for all of us."



Accomplishments over the past 12 months

deepening and expanding our impact

- Discipled **217** people from outside existing churches
- Facilitated **48** discipleship groups and **27** leader training groups
- Led **9** monthly Support Groups for Bridge Leaders
- Trained **50+** Bridge Leaders over 3 days at The Oaks Camp and Conference Center
- Offered training in Spiritual Practices to Bridge Leaders, their friends and neighbors
- Expanded our services with multi-week courses to come alongside local congregations

Goals for the next 12 months

- Empower an additional 50 Bridge Leaders.
- Launch Bridges services for Spanish speakers.

For every **\$2000** we receive above last year's giving, we can empower a Bridge Leader to impact the lives of those outside existing church culture. To do this, we will need to raise another \$100,000.

Latest Partnership Opportunities (monthly or one-time)

\$25 assessments for 1 Bridge Leader	\$50 hospitality for a monthly Support Group Meeting	\$75 1 month of personal coaching for a Bridge Leader	\$200 scholarship for a Bridge Leader to attend a training conference	\$500 fully sponsors a Bridge Leader for three months
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BridgesUS.org/give

Jim@BridgesUS.org

Contributions are solicited with the understanding that the Board of Directors of Bridges has complete control and discretion over the use of all donated funds.

Financial Partners, Thank You for your continued support!

DONATIONS TO BRIDGES

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Charles Plowman

"Bridges is a perfect fit for me because it brings the training to you so you can use it with the people you're ministering to. It's so helpful and right on the money!"

—Lou Federmann, Bridge Leader

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Allan & Pat Yuen
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Norma Jean Zuelow

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First Presbyterian Church
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
Glendale Presbyterian Church
Hope Christian Fellowship

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Ralph Mitchel

Our Giving is Growing!

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Donors	26	108	176	314
New Donors	26	88	106	203
Gifts	47	356	600	1279

More than doubled!

Mike Guerrero
 Roger & Joy Gulick
 Betsy Hall
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 Steven Hardy
 Mike Harness
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"What a cool idea to imagine how Christians can think more entrepreneurially about doing ministry. I'm involved in the start-up world, and I've never heard of this being done by the church before!"

—Vision Dinner attendee

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 Sheryl Lloyd
 Michael Locke
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 Bruce Watkins
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 Donald Woodard
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 Paul & Elizabeth Yoo



On behalf of the 60+ Bridge Leaders currently engaging Bridges' ACTS Services, THANK YOU! Your gifts are enabling us to build bridges more effectively among those God's called us to love: in parking lots, in elementary schools, in cafes, in law offices, in yoga studios, and beyond! Visit our website for more in-depth Bridge Leader profiles: BridgesUS.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Tom King, Chair Tom advances clean energy for America through his work with SolarCity, "America's #1 full-service solar provider."

Kevin Sheldahl, Board CFO Kevin runs an investment advisory firm focused on wealth management and financial planning.

Jim Milley, Secretary Jim is the Chief Catalyst of Bridges and an ordained Pastor both in America and Ethiopia.

Karen Berns Karen recently retired from 40 years of pastoral work within churches across the USA.

Mike Gibney An IBM consultant for Fortune 500 companies, Mike's work takes him across the USA and all over the world.

Greg Jones Greg has been practicing law in Greater LA for nearly 30 years.

Jorge Vazquez Jorge is a scientist and a friend to his colleagues at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.





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