



## 2016 Annual Impact Report

### The Power of Place, Permanence, and Shared Social Purpose

Bridge Meadows remains the only intentional intergenerational housing model of its kind in the region, and the only one in the country in an urban setting. Our community-driven program of integrated onsite support services and therapeutic interventions generates reciprocal social capital for **former foster youth, adoptive parents and elders of modest means**. In 2016, your support has helped improve quality of life for all three generations. *Thank you!*

Bridge Meadows currently serves 69 residents, which includes: 30 youth (25 youth formerly in foster care), 9 parents (all single women heads of household, all with a kinship relationship to the youth that they are parenting), and 30 elders of modest means (ages 55 to 93). As children move from the instability of foster care to permanent homes and families, they begin to heal from trauma and manifest academic potential. Adoptive parents receive essential social support to increase their confidence and efficacy in parenting children who have experienced trauma. Elders of modest means combat the deleterious effects of aging and social isolation by serving as honorary grandparents, mentors, and friends, while keeping their bodies fit and their brains engaged. *All three generations are building resiliency and demonstrating improved health and wellness.*

“I actually do have a feeling that everybody here does love me. Everywhere I go, when I see someone, I have the feeling that I’m always their favorite. I don’t know why. Like once I get to meet them, I get to meet them like a hundred more times again. It’s almost like I know everybody in the world. Awesome.” -*Brodie, age 7, formerly in foster care, now adopted.*

### 2016 Program Highlights:

#### ◆ **Housing Stability as a Lever for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

97% of Bridge Meadows residents have maintained stable housing for the past 12 months. Residents are diverse in ethnicity, age, education, orientation, and income—with people who might not otherwise encounter such diversity of background and perspective living together in community, mutually invested in each other’s success. 16% of residents identify as Latino, 4% as mixed race, 12% as African-American, 4% as Native American, and 3% as Pacific Islander. The voice of the community is captured through formal and informal feedback, community forums, and discussions, and all Bridge Meadows staff participates in formal Equity training workshops, designated as a Professional Development priority. Specific examples include training through the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME), United Way of the Columbia Willamette’s Racial Equity Training, and the National Equity Project training sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As we expand to additional community sites, a minimum of 20% of all subcontractors used in construction of future projects must be certified women- and minority-owned businesses.

#### ◆ **Permanency for Youth and Families**

Since coming to live at Bridge Meadows, nearly 80% of the youth who were formerly in foster care have achieved permanency, either through adoption or legal guardianship; and 15% are in the process of achieving permanency—which may look different for different families. For example, for some children with complex special needs, continuing with a foster care status can be preferable because it allows the family to continue receiving significant social support services that would otherwise be lost with a change in status.



#### ◆ **Children Achieve Greater Academic Success and Social Well-Being**

As supported youth move toward adulthood, they are better prepared to raise healthy, stable families of their own, breaking the cycle of poor health and poverty for the next generation. With the strong foundation of permanent homes, families, and extended community, 100% of youth at Bridge Meadows are attending school regularly, and they are achieving greater academic success by meeting or exceeding grade-level benchmarks at school. Youth demonstrate improved social functioning as well, many of which are experiencing a reduction in mental health-related disruptions at school by managing their emotional challenges better. Support from elders in the community through tutoring and mentoring helps children with academic performance, increasing the web of community connection and resulting in greater self-esteem and confidence. Children are more enthusiastic and confident about attending school, engaging socially, and participating in group activities—and one young student was chosen out of all of the Portland Public School system to have her art on display at the Portland Art Museum!

#### ◆ **Parents and Elders Increase Parenting/Mentoring Skills & Build Community**

Bridge Meadows provides a safe, healing community to support trauma-informed parenting and mentoring. 90% of adoptive parents accessed supportive services to assist in addressing children's behavioral and mental health issues, while both parents and elders report an increased sense of self-confidence and self-efficacy in parenting and mentoring former foster youth. Peer support from other parents who are experiencing the same kinds of unique challenges helps parents to manage their own stress in more effective ways. Facilitated by the onsite Community Support Specialist, parents and elders participate in weekly, trauma-informed social support "circles" to better understand the needs of youth who have been in foster care, and how to support them in their healing. Weekly "Happiness Hour" gatherings, where residents enjoy a communal meal, has evolved into a signature event for Bridge Meadows residents, a time to celebrate birthdays and other milestones, a "Wellness Check" to see how folks are doing, connect cross the generations, and simply enjoy life together as a community.

#### ◆ **Elders Increase Social Connection through Volunteer Activities**

Resident elders agree to contribute 100 hours per quarter in service to the community as part of their lease agreement. This creates daily opportunities to engage with peers, parents, and children, which combats the deleterious effects of social isolation that aging adults frequently experience. Each month elders provide an average of 325 hours of childcare and parent support, 185 hours of youth tutoring and mentoring, 280 hours helping their neighbors, and 95 hours supporting other elders. Our Elders self report an increase in their social connection and overall wellness, allowing them to safely age in place longer.

#### ◆ **Intergenerational Connection through Arts Enrichment**

Artistic exploration is both a therapeutic tool for youth who are processing and healing from trauma, as well as a powerful, organic way to build community connections. In the Bridge Meadows intergenerational storytelling group, "Once Upon a Time," youth and elders engage in dramatic re-enactment of stories, both real and imagined, with themes that explore friendship, belonging, courage and overcoming challenges. This engagement with stories in a therapeutic setting deepens relationships between youth and elders and acts as a positive buffer to challenges that both groups face. The celebration of Bridge Meadows' 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 saw the creation of a Resident Art Gallery (BRAG) featuring art work from all three generations, with many created during various trauma-informed community art classes and workshops. This was a resident-led concept that will now be a permanent installation with rotating exhibits throughout the year.



## 2016 Organizational Accomplishments

### ◆ Replication and Expansion of Bridge Meadows Communities

In response to the increasing demand for affordable housing and permanency-focused alternatives to foster care - and at the invitation of Mayor Denny Doyle - Bridge Meadows is proud to have broken ground in September 2016 on a second site in Beaverton, Oregon. Construction will be complete in August 2017, and Bridge Meadows Beaverton will welcome home 75 intergenerational residents in September 2017, doubling the number of parents, youth, and elders served across the two sites.

Bridge Meadows is also preparing to break ground in early 2017 on New Meadows, a community annex to the North Portland site with safe, stable housing for 15 young adults, ages 18 to 24, who have aged out of the foster care system without a permanent family connection. Working in partnership with New Avenues for Youth, New Meadows will offer these young people a scaffolding of vocational, educational, and emotional support to help them succeed as adults and community members. New Meadows youth will be able to benefit from all the resources available at the North Portland site, while taking those first adult steps toward self-sufficiency and independence.

### ◆ Program Growth and Evaluation

As Bridge Meadows begins to expand programming through replication, and as other organizations from across the country seek out Bridge Meadows for consultation and guidance on intergenerational housing solutions, the need for effective evaluative tools to collect relevant data and communicate impact is key. In partnership with Portland State University's Institute on Aging, Bridge Meadows gained its first evaluative insight into the impact that living in an intergenerational community has on the well-being of children, parents and elders. Data includes demographic information, process indicators (types of activities residents have engaged in), and outcome indicators. Next, Bridge Meadows will partner with a Harvard-trained consulting firm for a Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis to quantify the public cost savings that flow from our smart business model.

### ◆ Awards and Recognition

Bridge Meadows was proud to be named one of Oregon's 2016 Most Admired Companies by the Portland Business Journal; Executive Director Derenda Schubert received Portland Monthly's Light a Fire 2016 Award for Extraordinary Executive Director; and Corporate LiveWire, an international business publication has recognized Bridge Meadows as a 2017 Innovation and Excellence winner for Innovation in Fostering Solutions - USA. Bridge Meadows continues to consult with other organizations and to present at local and national conferences, including as a co-convenor with AARP, Elders in Action, and Metropolitan Family Service for Encore.org's Regional Convening in Portland. **2016 Media Coverage** included a feature in Yes! Magazine on Bridge Meadows' "first" family and living in a multigenerational housing community; television and print coverage on the Beaverton groundbreaking; an interview on the VoiceAmerica radio show "Leadership Matters"; and an interview on Boomer Generation Radio with both Dr. Schubert and Associate Director Renee Moseley on intergenerational living.

### ◆ Sustainability

Over this past year, Bridge Meadows has continued to deepen relationships with donors, effectively stewarding multi-year pledges, and increasing donor-engagement. Compared with this time last year, Bridge Meadows has increased new donors by 9.7%, with a 102% increase in average revenue per new donor gift. Our Annual "Bridge Builder" Spring Luncheon was enormously successful, topped only by the annual gala celebration, IMAGINE, which surpassed its fundraising goal by \$50,000, or 26%. As a testament to the growing momentum and support



for intergenerational community solutions, it is significant that Bridge Meadows exceeded our ambitious annual funding goals, even during a major capital campaign. Such success was the result of additional staff capacity, including a new Resource Development Associate, and Encore Fellow.

Support from local philanthropic leaders, such as Meyer Memorial Trust, the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund, and United Way of Columbia Willamette has helped open doors to national foundations with a reputation for principled and strategic innovation, including the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, the Concordia Foundation, and the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust. This growing circle of support holds intergenerational innovation and impact at its center, masterfully balancing creative vision and passion with rigor and due diligence. Such enlightened investment has challenged Bridge Meadows to continue rising to new challenges as an organization, driven by our guiding principles of People, Place, Permanence, and Shared Social Purpose.

### **What's Ahead: Capacity, Technology and a New Look**

Even in uncertain times, Bridge Meadows maintains an unflinching commitment to: helping children in the foster care system find stable, permanent homes, and loving families; to providing their adoptive parents with the practical and emotional supports they need to nurture family stability; and to re-connecting elders of modest means with purpose and joy while aging in place.

Even with much to celebrate in 2016, there remains tremendous, urgent need. Bridge Meadows' Board of Directors and staff have developed an ambitious vision for growth, and you are included:

- ◆ **Capacity:** Bridge Meadows' vision for growth preserves the core mission of the organization, and includes increased depth and breadth of staff capacity to deliver programs and services, and secure the financial resources that sustainable operations require. Targeted Capacity-Building investments will build the **sustainable organizational infrastructure and staffing** for successful resource development, operational management and program delivery across multiple sites. Examples include: new, specialized staff positions; technology infrastructure upgrades such as cloud conversion for file sharing and accessibility across multiple sites, and staff training to ensure successful implementation of the new platforms and equipment; clear articulation of Bridge Meadows' return on investment (ROI), including public cost savings; and national advocacy on behalf of intergenerational community solutions.
- ◆ **New Look:** Bridge Meadows is excited to be updating the look and feel of our strategic branding to better reflect our impact, tell our story, and engage audiences, and increase investment opportunity. We have partnered with Cambia Health Systems to help amplify our core messaging. Stay tuned for a new website and overall branding early in 2017 to take us to the next level of growth.