Members of the South Hadley Community IG Leadership Team at their training and the resulting Veterans’ Breakfast co-hosted by South Hadley High School

Thank you!
Dear Friends & Supporters

We are delighted to be sending out our second Annual Report for Bridges Together Inc. Because of your efforts and generous support, we have continued to thrive and grow. In this report, you will see our accomplishments and impact of our wonderful work during the past year.

It is with great joy that we welcome Michele Fisher as our new Board Chair. We are pleased that outgoing Chair and founding board member Chris Hammer will continue to be an active participant and serve as Governance Subcommittee Chair.

As we celebrate our 5th Anniversary of incorporation and the 25th Birthday of the Bridges Program Curricula, the board and staff have been mindfully putting people and resources in place to continue our impact. We are planning innovative ways to make our trainings and materials more accessible to people throughout the United States and the world.

We look forward to further collaboration and would be happy to hear from you by phone, email or over a cup of coffee!

Warm Regards,

Chris Hammer & Michele Fisher
on behalf of The Bridges Together Board

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Our Updated Vision, Mission, Approach & Core Values

Vision
Every child and older adult will experience the richness of intergenerational relationships and interdependence

Mission
Bridges Together’s mission is to empower leaders to connect generations thereby transforming lives for today and tomorrow.

Approach
Bridges Together raises awareness and advocates for intergenerational engagement. We educate, provide resources for and connect people who are committed to uniting generations.

Core Values
- Intergenerational Inclusiveness
- Recognizing People’s Giftedness
- Joy and Kindness
- Gratitude
- Lifelong Learning
- Collaborative Efforts

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Chris Hammer & Michele Fisher
on behalf of The Bridges Together Board

Emma C. shares her “baby egg” psychology project with “adopted grandpa” and longtime Bridges volunteer Frank V.

Deb Cahill from Middlesex Savings Bank joined our board and graduated from The MetroWest Leadership Academy with BT Founder & Executive Director Andrea J. Fonte Weaver.
Making the Case for an Intergenerational Mindset: Raising Awareness

One of Bridges Together’s goals is to raise awareness about intergenerational issues and to encourage others to develop an intergenerational (IG) mindset and culture.

**In FY2017, Bridges Together...**

- Oversaw Intergenerational Month in Massachusetts
- Produced 6 How-To Guides thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging
- Organized the Grand Family Faire and a Scavenger Hunt around the grounds of Longfellow’s Wayside Inn, as part of Intergenerational Month and funded by the Sudbury Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council
- Attended and participated in MA Governor’s Council on Aging Listening Sessions
- Published a paper on integrating IG efforts in nonprofits (available at BridgesTogether.org)

“I'm getting as much out of this as the kids are. I love these kids. And I love the other seniors! I learn from all of them.”

Volunteer, Bridges: Lifelong Journeys

**In January 2017, Bridges Together**

announced that it would carry on the work of Colorado-based organization Intergeneration Month and the global oversight of Intergenerational Month in September.

We are so honored that Intergenerational Month founder, Sandy Kraemer, passed the torch to Bridges Together! Sandy is pictured to the right with BT Board Chair Michele Fisher, BT Executive Director Andrea J. Fonte Weaver, and Sandy’s wife, Dorothy Kraemer.
The “Bridges” Program Curricula

Dr. Ernest Gonzales, PhD, and his team at Boston University conducted a research study on the Bridges program. Here are some exciting findings:

77% of participating youth experienced a positive change in attitudes toward aging and older adults. Take a look at an example on the right!

Adult volunteers were asked to rate the following statements on a scale of 1-5. 1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree:

- When I think about Bridges, it has improved my life 4.29
- Participating in Bridges was cognitively stimulating 4.47
- I have enlarged my circle of friends...through Bridges 4.41
- Volunteering with Bridges made me feel useful 4.29
- I am meeting a need in the community through volunteering 4.25
- Bridges was the highlight of my week 4.12
- I plan to volunteer again with Bridges or in schools 4.18

“...This program, and these kids, saved my life.”

Volunteer, Bridges: Growing Together

New trainings were made possible by:

Photo courtesy of the Newburyport News (to see other news articles featuring Bridges Together, please visit BridgesTogether.org/Press)

Bridges Together staff trained and supported...

13 new Bridges programs &
14 repeat programs

These 27 Bridges communities engaged...

532 adults aged 60+ with 2,188 students in PreK through 12th Grade, bringing total numbers since 1991 to about 16,000.

This student’s picture of an ‘old person’ before and then after participating in the Bridges program. Notice how the student changes his focus from the older adult’s cane in the “before” picture to how the older adults ‘were nice to us’ in the “after” picture!
New this year, BT convened representatives from at least five entities in a community to learn about the nuts and bolts of IG programming via webinars and on-site trainings. Then, based on the interests and needs of the members, each designed and implemented its own initiative. Check out the examples below:

- **Ashland**: Pollinator Garden & Oral History Project
- **Barnstable**: Boston Post Cane Award Tea
- **South Hadley**: Veterans’ Breakfast
- **West Boylston**: Middle and High School Greeter Program

In addition, Bridges Together trained Boston Encore Gen2Gen partners.

“People are still talking about this event and how special it was! We couldn’t have done it without Bridges Together’s guidance and support. Your team is doing great things to make our communities better!”

Madeline Noonan
Director, Barnstable Senior Center
What a Banner Year: Highlights from 2016-2017

Bridges Together was featured in...
• Dr. Bill Thomas’ blog, ChangingAging
• Fugitive Stories, a local storytelling event
• Local newspapers and cable shows (see BridgesTogether.org/Press)
• Presentations at the following conferences:
  – Generations United Global IG Conference
  – American Society on Aging
  – National Council for the Social Studies
  – Massachusetts Councils on Aging

Bridges Together was awarded...
• Generations United Program of Distinction
• Massachusetts Councils on Aging Innovator Award
• Cummings Foundation $100K for 100 Grant

Other noteworthy events and achievements...
• Spring into Summer 2017: A Celebration of the Bridges Program’s 25th Birthday and the 5th Anniversary of Bridges Together Inc.
• Adopted a Financial Sustainability Plan, developed by Impact Catalyst
• Andrea graduated from the MetroWest Leadership Academy
• Ella H., a graduate of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and former Bridges participant, was awarded an MIT AgeLab OMEGA scholarship

Photos from BT’s Spring into Summer Celebration:
Bridges Program’s 25th Birthday & the 5th Anniversary of Bridges Together Inc.

PHOTO 1: Former board chair Chris Hammer walks Ruth Griesel to the podium to receive an award. Ruth was the first senior center director to implement Bridges and had the vision to help spread the program to other towns. PHOTO 2: Longtime BT supporter Dr. Ed Klugman and youngest guest Jude Lucchese. PHOTO 3: Joining the celebration, women who have been staunch supporters for 25 years: L-R Danya Harder, Jennifer Fonte and Tomasina Lucchese. PHOTO 4: BT staffers Amy Wilson Sheldon and Julie Shaw.
The People Who Help Make This All Happen…

**Board**
Michele Fisher, Board Chair
Beth Almeida, Treasurer
Lee Ann Frigulietti, Clerk
Chris Hammer, Governance Subcommittee Chair
Deb Cahill
Andrea J. Fonte Weaver

**Staff**
Andrea J. Fonte Weaver, Founder and Executive Director
Debbie Howell, Associate Director
Bonnie Day, Grant Writer
Julie Shaw, Intergenerational Facilitator
Amy Wilson Sheldon, Communications Director

**Additional Office Support**
Eric Saunders, Accountant
Marily Gonzalez, Intern

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The Revenue Needed to Help Unite Generations….  
Bridges Together Revenue and Support Year Ended June 30, 2017

Foundation & Corporate $216,837
Special Events $20,336
Program Service Fees & Other $6,544
Individuals $111,487

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Celebrating the $100K for 100 grant from the Cummings Foundation: Marily, Michele, Amy, Andrea, Debbie, LeeAnn, Julie, Chris & Beth

Former board chair, Chris Hammer, toasts Bridges Together with Andrea at the Spring into Summer Celebration
And… a HUGE thank you to our supporters! Your generosity fuels Bridges Together’s impact!

AARP Massachusetts
Mary Lou Abbott
Ad-Vantage Inc.
Amy Almeida
Beth Almeida
Scott Almeida
Gina Angelone
Anonymous
Jane Audrey-Neuhauser
Beacon Communities
Between the Lines
Poetry
Mary Bergstrom
BOSE
Boston Red Sox
Maria Bowen
Richard Brewer
Kit Caldicott
Dr. Lenny & Nancy Carapezza
Christ Alive Bible Study
Clementi Family Charitable Trust
Lisa Coe
Stephanie Cohen
Anne Crowell
The Cummings Foundation
Dance History Alive!
Julia Davis
DCU for Kids
Devi DeLuca
Michelle DeMoor
Vikki Denaro
SantaJean Desantis
Patty Devaney
Isidoro DiBiase
Maureen Dolan
Dorchester Brewing Co.
Nancy Drourr
Drumlin Farms
Helen du Toit
Duck Soup
Durham’s Tracklements & Smokery
The Elgius Homes Company
Michele Fisher
Laura & Ven Fonte
Matthew Fonte & Claire O’Brien
Jon & Nick Fonte
Lee Ann Frigulietti
Roxy Fuller
Barbara Gariepy
Gemayel Family Foundation
Generations United
Jerry Goldberg
Ernest Gonzales
Ruth Griesel
Peter Gumaskas
Photography
Chris & Carol Hammer
Danya Harder
Home Depot
Hounds Barbershop
HouseWorks
Melleha Hovey
Debbie Howell
Sanem Inan-Bilgin
Liz Ingersoll
Intergeneration Foundation
Michael Kaplan
Frank Kelly
Ann Kirk
Jeff Klinger
Edgar Klugman
Steven Kokinos
Dorothy & Sandy Kraemer
Nayfee Krugler
Lasell College
Beth & James Lavelle
Learning Express
Jim & Tomasina Lucchese
Frank & Ursula Lyons
Dottie MacKeen
Esther Mann
Marie McAndrew-Taylor
Massachusetts Councils on Aging
Maureen McKeown
Susan McNulty
Middlesex Savings Bank
Lisa Moison
Janet Monahan
Barbara Morin
Morrill Group
Susan Murphy
Bob & Sarah Nardella
Nardella & Taylor
New England Aquarium
Fran Noon
Mary O’Loughlin
Anita O’Mahony
Michael & Sue Ogar
Susan Ogar Photography
Lisa Oliphant
Margaret Pemberton-Harty
Carole Pendleton
John Petrin
Lou Petrovic
Nina Piazza
Gail Pinkham
Susan & Norman Posner
Jeffrey Rankin
Vidya Reddy
Bob Reed
RE/MAX
Cathy Rich
Roche Bros.
Elaine Roy
Patti Russo
Salem Five Bank
Myrna Saltman
Tina Scott
Julie Shaw
Shaw’s
Elaine & Paul Shibley
David Shorr
Carolyn Slack
Ellen Smith
Karen Smith
Social Impact Investors
Starbucks
Sudbury Craft Beer
The Sudbury Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council
Tails by the Wayside
TD Bank
Dianne Tenney
Mark Tripp
Tuscan Designs
Tufts Health Plan Foundation
Marge Van Houten
Bob & Alice Vannerson
Rosemary Verri
Village Bank
Frank Vitale
The Wayside Inn
Andrea & Herb Weaver
Wild Birds Unlimited
Amy Wilson Sheldon

Stay Connected with Bridges Together and the Intergenerational Movement

Facebook.com/BridgesTogether
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LinkedIn.com/company/bridges-together-inc-

We loved this donation envelope that arrived with a check!