



## Bridge Disability Ministries

# 2012 Annual Report

### The Bitter with the Sweet, by Jack Staudt, Executive Director

#### Our Mission

Because Bridge Disability Ministries honors the God-given dignity of persons with disabilities, we build relationships to alleviate isolation and enrich our churches and communities.



**B**ridge has been dealing with the economic crisis over the past 4 years. We continued trusting in our generous God, who had provided financial reserves. We knew there could come a time when hard choices would be made – and it did. 2011 was a particularly bad year for Foundation support, the lowest in my 7 years here. We made some bitter choices, cutting staff positions and hours in preparing the 2012 budget, and again as we crafted the plan for 2013. Moreover, the cautiousness we encountered in churches during this time led us to believe 2013 would be a very difficult year for all of our programs.

**Now for the sweet:** Our 2012 year end fundraising efforts, led by Marcia Barker, had the best outcome in 5 years. Foundations returned with more support in the last week of December than all of 2011. Increased personal giving, good Auction returns, higher support for mobility, and continued growth in Guardianship netted a surprising year end. The savings that resulted from renegotiating our lease in a smaller space allowed us the lowest deficit year since the recession. Looking back we see that we did more of everything with less staff hours, resulting in reduced cost. The success of the individual ministry Visioning Teams was essential for us to accomplish and realize our goals. Much of our sweet success is due to the growing experience level of our staff and their positive attitude, which resulted in an exceptional year of service to those we are blessed to serve.

**In Spiritual Care** much of this success, along with our increasing Social Networking effort, is due to Linda Martin, our Programs Administrator. We continued to come alongside people in need of comfort and reassurance of God's love and presence in their lives. The Sunday Celebration program started the year with challenges as supporting churches faced difficult times. Despite this, churches are still our best source of committed volunteers, hosting dinners, a picnic, the Wacky Wheelay's field day, a Rock n' Roll dance and a Christmas Celebration. Our Roots & Wings monthly support group meetings continue to fill a very important need for people living with physical disabilities – the need to be heard.

**In Guardianship**, under the direction of Patty Croteau, our CPG Agency Supervisor, and Gordon Ellison-Oslin CPG, we complied with all new regulations and standards of the Washington State Guardianship Board. We could not have done this without Lynn Shomber's effective Payee Management and Administrative support, and the successful implementation of our new Case Management Internship program. Our Guardian team filed timely reports to the Superior Court, thanks to the pro-bono support of several generous attorneys. All of the above and more made it possible to grow our Private Pay Case Management Services, which netted real income, and a list of potential new clients.

**Our Meyer Mobility Center** team, under the leadership of Gerry Barney, grew over 30% in distribution of free mobility items. Since Bob Meyer established the new Center location after our 2007 relocation, this team has produced an amazing 300% increase in the number of durable medical goods offered. The total volume of equipment that moved through their hands in 2012 would equate to nearly \$1.5 million in retail value. Bridge shared the donated equipment with several other charities that take equipment to disadvantaged communities around the world. Beyond these accomplishments, a new partnership with the Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP) provided a "Hub Scrub" device that automates the equipment wash and sanitize process.

**2012 was a year of both bitter and sweet.** The sweet successes at year end give us a new feeling of hope as we aggressively work toward a balanced budget, which now appears truly possible in this New Year. We could not consider this without the blessings of Prayers, and gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure offered by our generous supporters. **Thank you.**

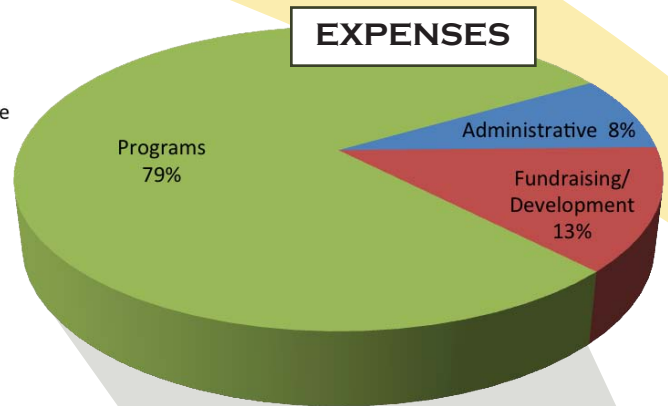
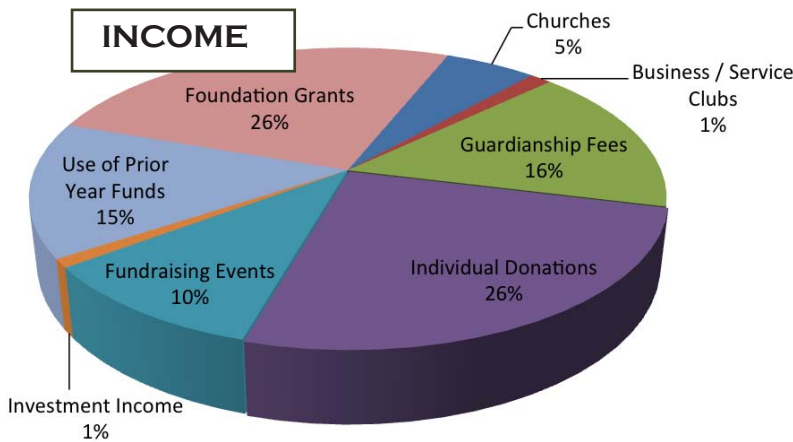
# 2012 Financial Summary

## INCOME

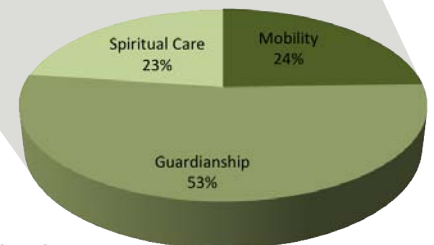
Individual Donations	\$143,954
Churches	\$31,073
Foundation Grants	\$144,879
Businesses/Service Clubs	\$7,372
Fundraising Events	\$58,002
Guardianship Fees	\$89,281
Investment Income	\$5,215
Use of Prior Funds Balance	<u>\$82,077</u>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$561,853</b>

## EXPENSES

Administrative	\$44,948
Fundraising/Development	\$73,041
Programs	
Mobility	\$108,747
Guardianship	\$233,916
Spiritual Care	<u>\$101,201</u>
Total Programs Expense	\$443,864
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$561,853</b>



**PROGRAM EXPENSE DETAIL**



## 2012 FINANCIAL NOTES:

1. Use of Prior Year Funds decreased from 38% in 2011 to 15% in 2012 due largely to a significant increase in Foundation Grants and decreased operation expenses for salary and rent.
2. Fundraising expenses dropped 2% due to a reduction in hours for Exec. Director
3. Spiritual Care portion of program expense dropped 4% due to reduction in hours of Spiritual Care Director.
4. Bridge Ministries began accounting for Durable Medical Equipment on-hand inventory value which is reflected in our year end Balance Sheet.
5. Bridge Ministries began writing off Uncompensated Care Receivables for our Guardianship program which is reflected in our year end Balance Sheet.

## Board of Directors

**Daniel Coppin**, Board Chair/Treasurer  
**Frank Wallace**, Board Vice-Chair  
**Dr. Ursula Wright**, Secretary  
**Tom Wagner**, Member at Large  
**Patrick Hicks**, Member at Large

**Bridge Disability Ministries**  
 12356 Northup Way, Ste. 103  
 Bellevue, WA 98005-1956  
 office (425) 885-1006  
 mobility (425) 885-1008  
 bridge@bridgemin.org

## Staff

**Jack Staudt**, Executive Director  
**Rev. Dr. David Emery**, Chaplain, Spiritual Care  
**Linda Martin**, Spiritual Care Programs and Volunteer Administrator  
**Marcia Barker**, Development Officer  
**Mallory MacDonald**, Development Assistant  
**Doug Dennie**, Bookkeeper

**Patty Croteau, CPG**, Guardianship Agency Supervisor  
**Gordon Ellison-Oslin, CPG**, Guardianship Specialist  
**Lynn Shomber**, Guardianship Administrator  
**Caroline Horrigan**, Guardianship Intern  
**Susan Dougherty-Guild**, Guardianship Intern  
**Gerry Barney**, Mobility Manager



# Bridge's Great Reward

Memorable Stories ~ Remarkable People

## The Smile

Hearing a caseworker say, "I have never seen him smile that big and never for this long," as we watch hope light up the face of a teenage boy, left paraplegic from an accident, as he zips around our parking lot in a new sport chair to replace his dilapidated old wheelchair, seeing himself and his future with greater possibilities.

## Where Everybody Knows Your Name

In our Roots & Wings Support Group for physically, but not intellectually, challenged people we see beautiful human spirits. One client, in her 60s with cerebral palsy, suffers a lot of pain, extremely limited mobility, requires the use of a walker to get around, and has difficulty communicating due to poor oral motor control. Yet we've seldom encountered a person with her patience, persistence and compassion towards others.

Involved with Bridge for 20 years, she is grateful to have a group of friends who 'get it' and who care about her. Bridge is her "community" – a place where everybody knows her name. Her family - an aging sister and brother-in-law with their own health problems - are glad she has Bridge to lean on when they are unable to be there for her.

## Memories

Recently, one of our Guardianship clients was noticed with tears in her eyes during some of the happiest moments of interactions with our Certified Professional Guardian (CPG). She asked that caregivers track these mood swings to see if they indicated a need for mental health intervention.

After a month, the pattern was clear. She only did this when she was with her Guardian. Even with her low verbal ability, we were able to find an answer for her behavior when she said, "I miss my Mom." She felt cared for by her Guardian, and this reminded her of her deceased mother. Our CPG was able to honor her feelings of grief, and also redirect her to her joyful present circumstances.

## New Hope

Another Guardianship client was hospitalized with a reaction to a psychotropic drug after 30 years on the drug. Bridge was able to make the medical decision to take him off drugs. The results were amazing. He seemed to wake up to his surroundings by laughing and engaging in actual conversations. Currently, we are just enjoying watching him blossom.

## When a Little Means A Lot

A woman in need of a tilt-in-space power wheelchair contacted us because, in spite of the fact she had insurance, she could not afford the 20% co-pay on a \$14,000 chair. It is not unusual for people with low wages and good insurance but mounting medical bills to find they are unable to afford the co-pay on expensive equipment. We were happy to help her with a donated used chair that had the features she needed and she was happy to help us with a small donation to help support our center.

## A Father's Love

The father of a 3 year old with a heart condition and awaiting open heart surgery came to our center in need of a pediatric stroller they could use to transport their daughter to doctor appointments and on family outings. We were fortunate to have recently received five new high-end pediatric strollers donated by a manufacturers' representative who was reducing his warehouse space. Without insurance and facing impossibly high medical bills, he came expecting something they could scrape by with and left with a stroller worth \$2,500 retail, at no cost, that has multiple adjustments to grow with their daughter, which they can use to take her places for several years to come. It was a joy to see someone facing so much hardship, surprised by a bit of good fortune in the midst of a time of high stress and anxiety, while they awaited the outcome of their daughter's surgery.

## R-E-L-I-E-F

A couple arrived at the Meyer Mobility Center looking for something to make the wife's wheelchair more comfortable for her. She had Stage 4 Cancer and was so weak she could not stand unaided and suffered from considerable back and pelvic pain which was made worse by spending so much time in a standard wheelchair. Bridge suggested they try a tilt-in-space chair - something they did not know existed and could never afford.

Once her husband transferred her into a tilt chair fitted with a Roho cushion, we showed him how the tilt function worked. It was a joy to see the wave of relief wash over her face and hear her describe how much better her back and hips felt, and to see the gratitude on her husband's face as he struggled to hold back tears. He was not likely to have much more time with her, but at least some of that time would be more comfortable.

## A Mother's Care

A woman with a frail, elderly mother with Alzheimer's disease came to our center to look into the possibility of a tilt-in-space wheel chair. The daughter was extraordinarily patient, gentle and caring even as she listened to her mother's hallucinations and complaints as she transferred her to the tilt chair.

The chair with its Roho cushion and deep contour back was a much better solution than the folding wheelchair they were using. Over the next hour we helped fit the chair to the mother. Next we worked with the daughter until she could break the chair down and reassemble it so she was confident she could transport it in her car as needed. With the daughter's unemployment and her mother's limited available social security income, they couldn't afford a \$5,000 tilt chair with accessories, and she was grateful for Bridge's assistance in making her mother more comfortable while she waited for the end. Witnessing her kindness to her mother was a gift to the Mobility Center staff.

## A Helping Hand

A father came to our center with his small ten year old son in need of a power wheelchair. Some situations are heartrending. His son was awaiting a heart transplant and on oxygen around the clock. The chair they had broke down while the family was at the fair and the father had pushed his boy around the fairgrounds in the heavy power chair for the rest of the day. He owned his own subcontracting business but, when the general contractors who owed him money defaulted, he was bankrupt and had no success in finding work within range of the small town where they lived. With the housing crash it was financially impossible for them to sell their home and move elsewhere to look for work. We were fortunate to have a pediatric, tilt-in-space power chair that fit the young boy well and we were happy to be able to provide them with the chair at no cost.





# Bridge Disability Ministries 2012 Donor Family

Thanks to all of our supporters and volunteers, we can make a difference, together in the community to meet the needs of people living with disabilities. With your continued support, we can do more and reach more to transform lives, build more relationships and bridges.

*Because of limited space we are only able to include in this report the names of donors who contributed \$100 or more. Every effort is made to record gifts accurately. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions.*

## **Churches & Faith Organizations**

\*denotes SEC Host

\*Calvin Presbyterian  
\*Crossroads Bible  
\*Emmanuel Episcopal  
\*First Baptist of Kirkland  
First Presbyterian of Bellevue  
First Presbyterian Lydia Circle  
Grace Lutheran  
\*Highland Covenant  
\*Holy Spirit Lutheran  
Inglewood Presbyterian  
\*John Knox Presbyterian  
Kirkland Interfaith Network  
Lutheran of Christ The King  
Mary Queen of Peace  
\*Newport Covenant  
\*Newport Presbyterian  
\*Northshore Baptist  
Northlake Lutheran  
Rose Hill Presbyterian  
Sammamish Hills Lutheran  
\*St Andrew's Lutheran  
\*St Andrew Presbyterian  
\*St John Vianney Catholic  
\*Sunshine Ministries  
University Presbyterian

## **Corporate**

Boeing  
Costco  
Gartner  
Harmsen & Associates  
Inglewood Heights AFH  
Microsoft  
Odyssey Enterprises  
Regence  
Symetra  
US Bank

## **Government**

City of Kirkland  
City of Renton

## **Foundations**

Bank of America Foundation  
R B & Ruth H Dunn Charitable Foundation

The Catherine Holmes Wilkins Foundation  
The Glaser Foundation  
GE Foundation  
Jordan Fund  
Lindberg Foundation Trust  
The Byron & Alice Lockwood Foundation  
Lucky Seven Foundation  
The Norcliffe Foundation  
Puget Sound Energy Foundation  
Seattle Foundation  
Special People In Need Foundation  
Thrivent Financial For Lutherans  
WATAP

## **Other Organizations**

Porsche Club of America - Pacific Northwest  
Push International  
Sammamish Women's Giving Circle  
Seattle Children's

## **Individuals**

\*denotes board member

Dave & Sheryl Aaker  
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Eric Allison  
Charles Altier  
Sue Altizer  
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M. & Joanne Anderson  
Ray & Edith Aspiri  
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Orathai Nackviseth  
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Cynthia Nelson  
Newton & Lillian Nelson  
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Jim & Glenda Nordahl  
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Jo Windham  
Edwin & Gayle Wise  
Rick & Vicky Wolfstone  
Teresa Wood  
Ursula Wright PhD, Cpe\*



**598 Volunteers** contributed **11,444 hours**  
to Bridge programs in 2012 ...  
that's the equivalent of  
**\$249,364.76 in contributions!**