

bridge lacrosse

NET GAINS FOR LIFE



ANNUAL REPORT

bridgelacrosse.org

**2021
2022**



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Last year, I hit an incredible personal and professional milestone, ten years at the helm of Bridge. Looking back over the last decade, I am in awe of the growth that has been made and the people that continue to support our work and mission. The relationships built over the years have been so crucial to our many accomplishments and I thank you for the generosity along the way.

It has been an incredible journey since I first took over in 2011, and one that continues to get better. It feels almost tiresome to say that we continue to expand and add new elements to our work. And, with a complete rebound from 2020, we have added greater capacity and infrastructure to grow our mission and impact in southern Dallas. I'm especially proud of the alumni that have returned to us and have found a multitude of ways to be a part of our progress.

I hope you enjoy looking back on my tenth year and the successes that have been made with the support of so many, like you. It is my goal to continue building great relationships with our kids, families, partners and supporters, ones that will last even longer than ten years. Thank you from our Bridge Family.

DAVID HIGBEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We believe that a lacrosse stick and a healthy relationship can bring great opportunities and growth to kids.



OUR MISSION

to use the sport of lacrosse to broaden the horizons of our community's youth.



The mission of Bridge has always been rooted in opportunity. From the earliest days when our founder, Edie Lycke, could be found in and out of St. Philip's School and Community Center with extra lacrosse sticks and orange slices, to today, where many of our alumni have returned to share their experiences with the next generation. We know that opportunities are endless when stu-

dent-athletes commit to Bridge and invest their own time into our programs. What they get in return are incredibly unique experiences, many that seldom exist in the neighborhoods and schools they reside in. We always tell our kids to do the little things well, and with more than a decade of experience, we know that these little things accumulate to great outcomes for life.



WHY WE EXIST

For Bridge, we believe that the sport of lacrosse and the intentional relationships and programs we build can open new doors for youth and families. These new doors have ranged from lifelong relationships, higher-educational institutions, careers, and commitment to service and giving back.

In addition, the need for the sport of lacrosse to be more diverse and inclusive to youth of color is vital for the growth and strength of the sport. We are proud to play a role in providing equitable opportunities for the sport to develop.



OUR PROGRAMS

Beginning in the fall of 2021, we were fully prepared to return to all our pre-COVID programming, and we were astounded to see so many new faces and returning families. With safety ever present, we operated our largest fall lacrosse season, ever, and focused much of our energy on the core programs of Bridge. We were thrilled to have almost 200 participants in our fall ball season and more than 50 in our fall after-school program.

During the spring season, our most significant program, we were able to return to play with 199 participants, 33% more than our 2021 numbers and just shy of our pre-COVID 2020 season. We knew that by continuing to keep safety in mind, that we had built the trust of our families when it

came to being back on the lacrosse field.

With 11 teams, our student-athletes played a full-season of games and competed against the larger North Texas landscape.

For summer, we again were able to return to form with expanded outreach clinics, our in-house summer league and most notably, Summer Academy, our marquee overnight camp.

In total, we worked with 780 student-athletes throughout the year and accumulated more than 18,000 hours of individual programming time. Two years ago, we weren't sure when, or if, we would ever see these numbers again, and we were all thrilled to have had such a successful and impactful year.

OUR IMPACT

We know that sports and the healthy relationships that are developed on and off the field can be vital in the development of a student-athlete's outcomes. It is this reason that we have chosen to work with Hello Insight, to help us measure and quantify the impact and outcomes we hope to make for our youth.

Using pre- and post-surveys each year, we can collect valuable information on the social emotional development of our teams and student-athletes. From the survey data, we can see our student-athletes grow in their college outlook, confidence, goal setting and so much more. In addition, the collected data also tells us how student-athletes feel about Bridge. Do they feel welcome and safe? Are they challenged and cared for? The data ultimately helps guide our programs and emphasize the needs of our student-athletes each year.

We believe that social emotional intelligence plays a key role in the lifelong success of an individual, especially as many families face the social and academic gaps caused by COVID. Numerous studies show that a high level of social emotional intelligence allows for greater empathy and communication with others, greater social and personal awareness, increased leadership capacity and improved academic and career skills. Our hope is that our programs play a key piece in the personal development of all our youth.

780

total student-athletes

18,795

accumulated hours of programming

81%

free & reduced lunch

45%

female student-athletes

92%

BIPOC

90%

high school participants grew in college readiness social emotional learning (78% last year)

72%

high school participants increased adult support within Bridge (44% last year)

100%

high school participants increased core social emotional learning (89% last year)

86%

middle school participants increased in sports-based social emotional learning (69% last year)

95%

middle school participants increased in core social emotional learning (65% last year)

67%

elementary-age participants grew in core social emotional learning (60% last year)

93%

program satisfaction (85% last year)



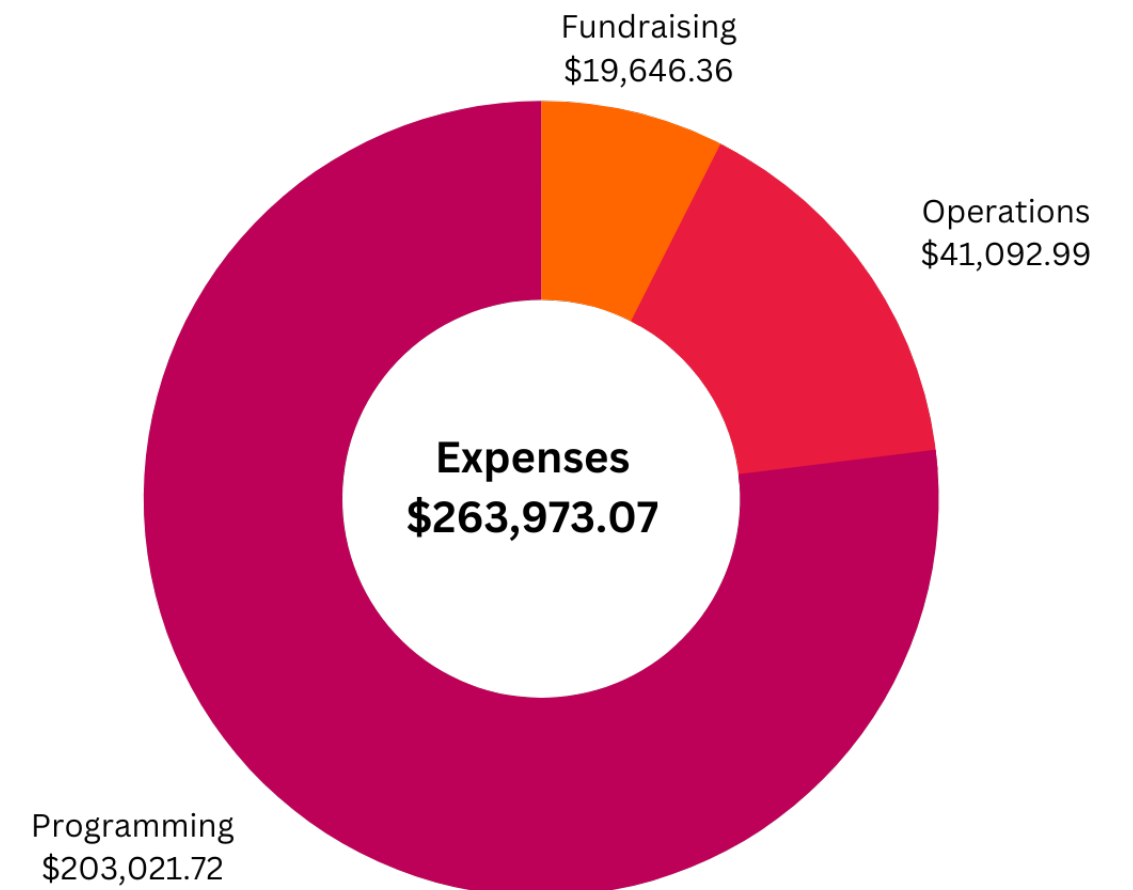
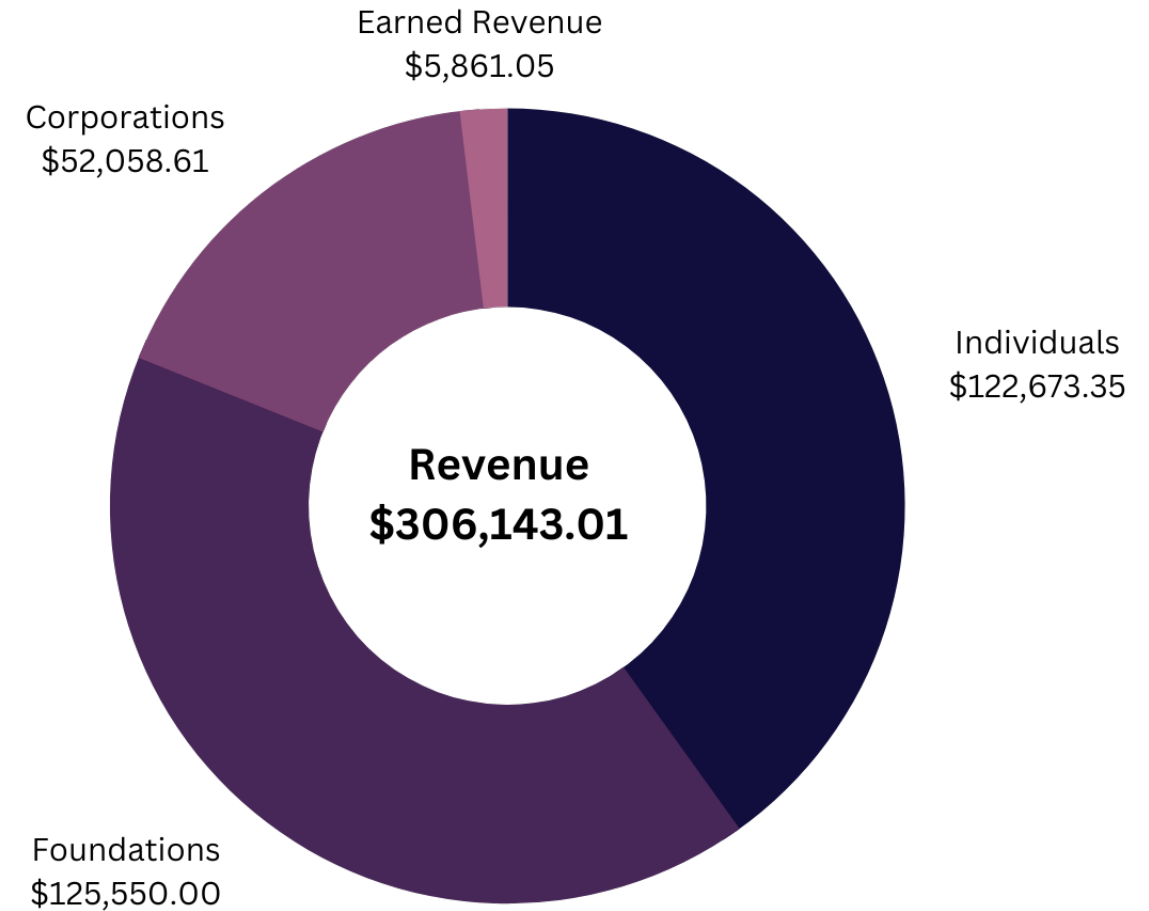


OUR FINANCIALS

September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

We knew that during the pandemic there would be challenges and uncertainty around our future. Our plan was to slowly rebuild programming and our connections with those around us. What we didn't expect was the short timeline in which we rebounded almost entirely. In less than two years, our organization regained its foothold in programs, with our kids, and our capacity to continue our mission.

This last year, we grew our overall budget to an all-time high, an event we never thought possible during the worst parts of the pandemic. With the support of so many people around us, and the understanding that our programs were vital and necessary for many kids, our need to fund and maintain our key programs was met. We cannot thank our friends and donors enough for being a part of this immense funding growth. Our chapter following COVID could not have had a stronger start.





OUR ALUMNI, OUR FUTURE

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The greatest evidence of our work and impact remains with our alumni. These are young men and women who, for many, found new avenues and paths through Bridge. In their journey with us, they made lifelong relationships, learned new skills, and found new opportunities, for some even, a college lacrosse home.

But, regardless of if any of our alumni pick up a stick again, we are always proud of their commitment to Bridge and the aspirations they set for themselves. For some alumni, they've even set goals to return to Bridge and play a special role in our growth. Over the last two years, we have built out an alumni association and we continue to add alumni to our volunteer coaching ranks and staff.

We know that the future of Bridge rest in the hands of our alumni. Whether they return to volunteer, donate, or serve on our board or staff, we know their influence will be key to our success.



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