

































I still remember my first experience coaching with BRIDGE. I had no idea what to expect but I was excited nonetheless. It astounded me just how much fun it was and how much I enjoyed it all. As I was leaving practice, I recalled that a player, Wes, had borrowed my lacrosse stick. As I looked around to find him, I realized he had left practice already, and I wondered if I'd ever see that stick again. I shrugged it off, thinking it was just a small cost for the experience.

That was four years ago, and now as the Executive Director, those first experiences and memories continue to motivate me today. I would not have stepped into this role if I genuinely did not believe in the power of sports, like lacrosse, to positively impact kids and create social change. Within BRIDGE, we are building a process that, ultimately, enriches entire urban communities. To get there, we've focused on building student-athletes and building high quality after-school programs.

Looking back at 2012, I realize just how fast we moved and how quickly we grew our outreach and impact. The growth we experienced was phenomenal, both on the field and off the field. I welcome you to browse our first ever annual report and see for yourself the great strides we made in our relationships, our programming and our organization.

Heading into my second year as the Executive Director, the excitement of this organization has not left me. I'm still in awe of what we can do and what we've accomplished. Our goals for 2013 are just as ambitious, and we will build an organization that invests in our youth and is held accountable by its supporters. I did manage to get my lacrosse stick back from Wes, albeit with his name carved in the side.

- David Higbee | Executive Director











Contents

Mission Statement | 4

Our Foundation | 5

South Dallas Programs | 6

West Dallas Programs | 7

SummerBounce | 8

Program Data | 9

Coaches | 10

High School Boards | 11

Staff & Board of Directors | 12

In The Office | 13

Financial Summary | 14

Going for the Goal | 18

The Future | 19

Sponsors & Partners | 20

Thank You | 21











Our Mission

We enrich nontraditional lacrosse communities by developing after-school programs and building healthy student-athletes.

Building Healthy Student-Athletes

- Routine lacrosse instruction and competition
- Self-efficacy assessment
- Healthy and active lifestyle reinforcement

Developing After-School Programs

- Strong collaborative partnerships
- High percentage of participation and retention
- Interaction with parents and community leaders

Greater Community Enrichment

- Community visibility
- Greater access to resources
- Supportive network of organizations











Our Beliefs | We have found that those who participate, volunteer, donate and support BRIDGE all share the same system of beliefs. If you believe what we do, then we invite you to join us.

We believe there are social, educational and economic needs in North Texas.

We believe successful student-athletes can positively impact their community.

We believe participation in after-school programs increases a student's ability to be successful.

We believe being active and healthy is critical to a child's development.

Our Focus | It won't be easy to address the needs of North Texas and the goals we have set for ourselves. In order to achieve our mission and make a lasting difference for boys and girls, we will focus on these elements.

Introduce lacrosse and develop skills in players of all levels.

Provide an environment focused on a healthy and active lifestyle.

Use team sports to build character, improve life skills and teach individual responsibility.

Connect various communities by providing positive opportunities for interaction.















South Dallas Programs













Since 2004, South Dallas has served as the foundation of our programs. Over the past eight have built lasting years, we relationships with these communities. In 2012, we grew immensely by adding a sixth team at a third school and increasing our summer outreach programs by 35 percent. In total, we reached 474 boys and girls in South Dallas for the year. Whether competing in a local tournament or playing in a parking lot, we love South Dallas lacrosse. We look forward to strengthening each of our six programs in 2013.











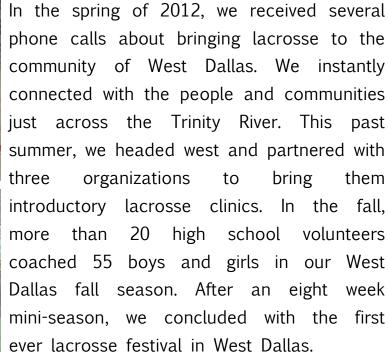






























One of our most exciting programs is the partnership we have with MetroLacrosse from Boston. For the past three years, we've been given the opportunity to send a group of BRIDGE players to New England for a one-of-kind lacrosse camp experience. In 2012, we sent 16 boys and girls and two coaches to New Hampshire and Vermont. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity and we know our student-athletes love the adventure and friendships they form at camp. We look forward to returning in 2013.



Summer Bounce Camp







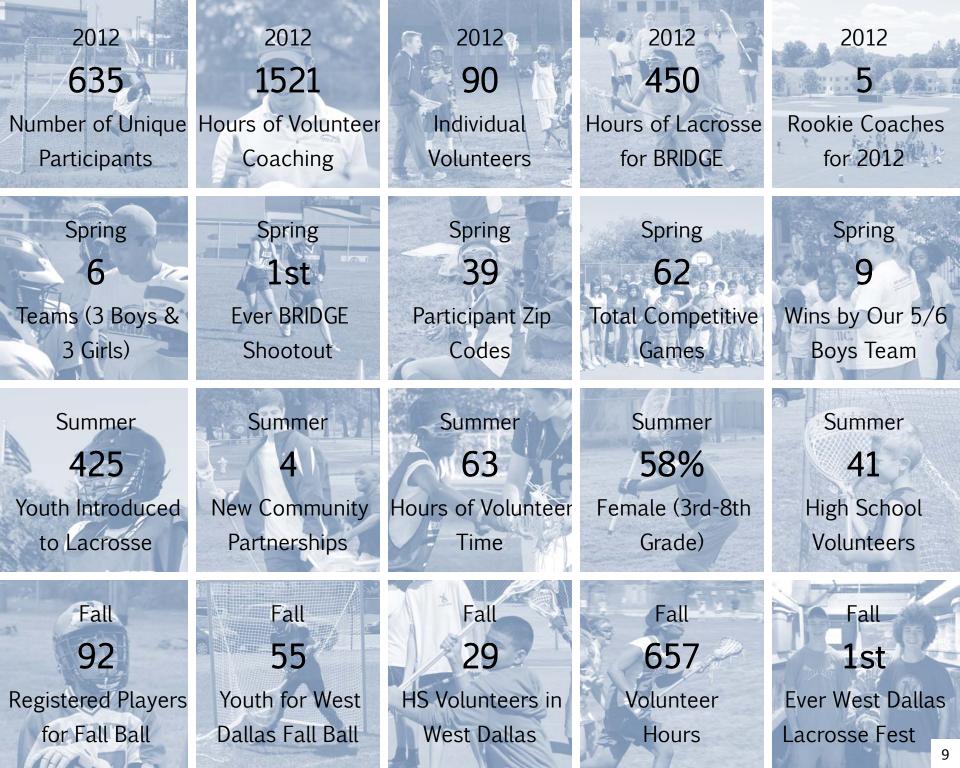
















Our Coaches

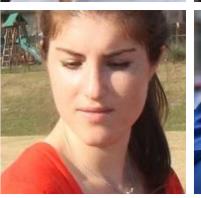




















Without a doubt the backbone of our organization is the dedicated coaching staff that volunteers to coach our student-athletes. We are truly grateful to have such motivated and talented coaches be a part of BRIDGE. Their experience and commitment to youth development goes beyond winning on the field and extends to how are student -athletes succeed in their own community. In 2012, we had the largest number of coaches in our history volunteering for BRIDGE. We look forward to their return for the new year and new season.









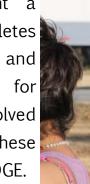






One of our greatest resources is the young men and women who volunteer their time for BRIDGE. High school volunteers logged more than 700 hours of coaching, most of which came from the members of our Junior Board, Leadership Board and West Dallas Board. These boards represent a community of hard-working student-athletes willing to back to kids and give communities. We are so very thankful for their energy and willingness to be involved in our efforts. For 2013, we expect these boards to do more great things for BRIDGE.

















Staff

Laura Weinman

Program

Director



David Higbee

Executive

Director



Board of Directors



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Dennis Winston | Dallas County Juvenile

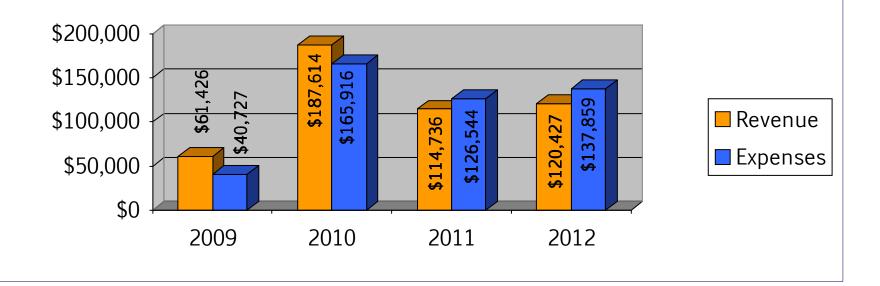
Marna Wohlfeld | BRIDGE Lacrosse





Our success is tied to the generosity of the North Texas lacrosse family. Over the past four years, BRIDGE has been able to build an organization of impact with the help of more than 75 percent individual and private donors and supporters. As we look back, we want to ensure that we are held accountable to those that invest in youth development and social good.

Financial Summary



Our Commitment



In 2012, we began to really dig into our financials and budget. What we have learned, and will continue to strive for in 2013, is the importance of financial transparency and accountability. We believe giving monetarily isn't just about feeling good, but also an investment for social change.

Using Guidestar.com, a site that allows nonprofits to share financial information, we have built a profile that allows our supporters and friends access to organizational and program information. We are committed to using Guidestar.com as a permanent tool for transparency.

Lastly, our annual report will be another tool that ensures our supporters receive a detailed look at what BRIDGE is doing.







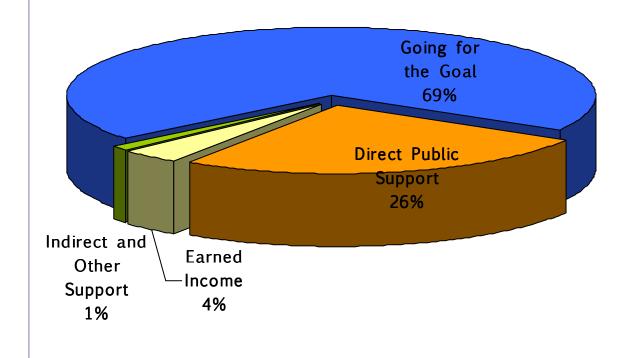








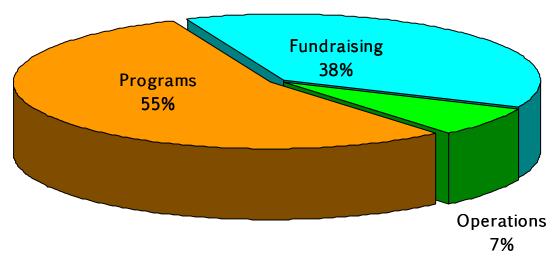
Revenue for 2012



Direct Public Support	\$31,337
Indirect Public Support	\$282
Earned Revenue	\$4,379
Other	\$1,475
Going for the Goal	\$82,952

Expenses 2012





Spring Program	\$32,676	
SummerBounce Costs	\$9,052	
Summer Programs	\$15,239	
Fall Programs	\$18,605	
Fundraising	\$51,876	
Operations	\$10,411	











Our third annual Going for the Goal was a huge success. And this year we had a special guest. In 2012, the Dallas Stars Foundation and BRIDGE entered into a partnership and joining us was Stars General Manager Joe Nieuwendyk.

In addition, three of our favorite BRIDGE players joined us on stage to talk about their experiences playing lacrosse and being a part of BRIDGE. Gabe, Megan and Meagan did an outstanding job.

We raised \$83,000 for our organization to continue to work and make an impact in South and West Dallas neighborhoods. The generosity of the lacrosse community is amazing, and we are thrilled to be a part of the family.

GOING FOR THE GOAL 2012 DINNER AND AUCTION

























The future is bright for us. For 2013, we will continue to build bridges in West Dallas. In South Dallas we will strengthen programs with emphasis empowerment on and education. We look forward to a growing new relationship with the University of North Texas to help us measure impact, and our budding partnership with the Dallas After School Network. We will stay accountable to our many financial supporters and donors. And, finally, we will engage our supporters to further our long-term goals of building student-athletes for community enrichment.













Thank you to our sponsors.





Thank you to our organizational partners.











A Very Special Thank You to These Friends of BRIDGE Lacrosse

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Drue Carney	Randall & Ola Fojtasek	Susan Kaminski

A Very Special Thank You to These Friends of BRIDGE Lacrosse

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Patrick Mulligan	Barry Smink	
Kathy Jane Murphy	Scott Smith	
Stephen Nawalaniec	Randy Smoot	
Joe & Tina Nieuwendyk	Al & Leslie Sorrels	

