



BridgeBuilders

2022 Annual Report



Letter from the President Jonathan Fechner

As BridgeBuilders begins our 27th year of ministry, I can't help but think about how the Lord has brought our mission to fruition. As with many organizations working in urban contexts, Martin Luther King, Jr. serves as an inspiration for our work, particularly Dr. King's dream.

In BridgeBuilders' founding, we also had a dream. We used to dream that we'd see our city come together in Bonton to learn about our differences and grow together. We now experience this every day through our volunteers and residents partnering together to serve our neighborhood. We used to dream about educational investment, safe environments, and enrichment opportunities for our kids. We now experience this every day through our BridgeBuilders Kids and Teen Programs and Crossover Athletics. We used to dream about preemptive programs that would allow our adult neighbors to get ahead of life's problems. We now have a driver's license program with the South Dallas Driving Academy, a client-choice food pantry serving over 400 individuals twice a month, and an expansive vocational pathway program partnership with Dallas College. We used to dream about about an active local church body growing out of BridgeBuilders with a pastor from the community. We now have Brandon Rowe faithfully leading bible studies and participating in community outreach to plant a church later this year.

What used to be a dream is now fruition. We are literally seeing the Lord answer decades of prayer every day through our work. I hope you are encouraged by this report as much as I am, but now is not the time to stop our work. We have more to accomplish for God's glory, His Kingdom, and our neighbors.

Let's Go!
Jonathan Fechner

New BridgeBuilders



Sais Daniel
Director of Community

Brandon Rowe
Community Associate

Joshua Lockett
Student Coordinator

Maya Sapp
Teen Coordinator

Porcha Ensley
Director of Youth

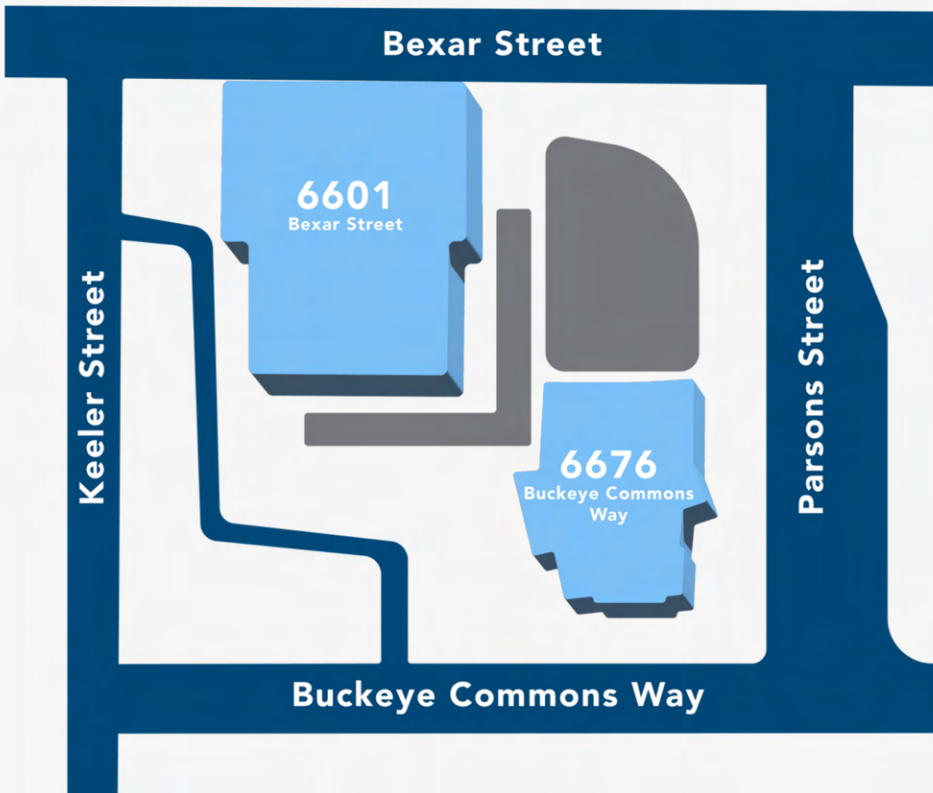
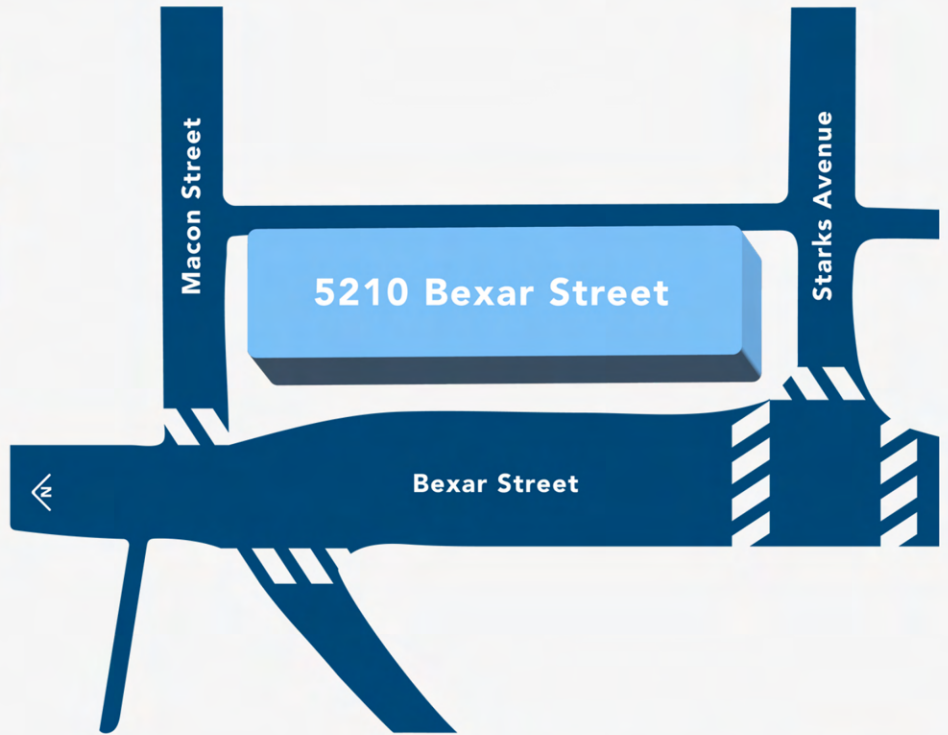
We welcomed five new staff members in 2022 to build out our programs and serve the community of South Dallas. Sais now leads our community-focused efforts, with Brandon supporting her team. Porcha heads our youth programming, and Josh and Maya faithfully serve both BridgeBuilders kids and teens. Though we operate on different teams, our mission is united in the Spirit and in service to South Dallas.

New Territory



5210 BEXAR STREET

- Suite 103: BridgeBuilders Executive Office
- Suite 102: South Dallas Driving Academy
- Suite 105: South Dallas Community Market



6601 BEXAR STREET

- Kids Center
- Gymnasium



6676 BUCKEYE COMMONS WAY

- Teen Center
- Opportunity Center

Art makes a difference

In Fall of 2022, the “Bonton Museum of Art” was created in collaboration with the Dallas Museum of Art and BridgeBuilders. “BMA x DMA” is an exhibition of artwork from 40 students in grades K-5th celebrating the diversity, energy, and vibrancy of the Bonton neighborhood. Over the course of several visits, participants were encouraged to think about themes of community and identity with Museum educators, and how these themes can manifest through works of art.

During these visits, the students had the opportunity to engage with a working artist and Dallas native, who empowered each one’s creativity to produce a mixed media self-portrait inspired by their desire for how they want the world to perceive them. Through this exhibition, which is on display at Bonton Farms Market Cafe, we hope to spark conversation within our organizations and the community about the connecting points that art can reveal between us all.

“Bonton Farms was honored to partner with BridgeBuilders and the DMA to showcase the artistic masterpieces by some of our community students. Our customers, community members and employees have had such delightful reactions upon entering our Market Café and seeing the work done by these talented students. We look forward to many more collaborations, just like this!”

– Gabrielle “Gabe” Madison
President, Bonton Farms

BBK Program Highlight:

70% of kids in our K-5 program read 1,500 minutes from September to December!





Building a teen program

The BridgeBuilders Teen Program begins daily at 4PM and closes down at 7PM, which gives us over 12 hours every week to engage with the teens of Buckeye Commons. Bonton is rapidly changing and the community as a whole is adjusting and adapting. The youth in this community deserve a space to learn how to engage with the changing aspects of this community.

The goal of this program is to aid teens in the development of social soft skills, academic enrichment, and create a fun, safe environment for students. The BridgeBuilders Teen program gives South Dallas youth new opportunities to be affirmed and encouraged to live out their fullest dreams as they progress into adulthood.

"Teens are in a stage of growth and change in their lives, and that season calls for new structure. They need to make room for the new freedoms that come with age and we seek to bring fundamental guidance on how to use these freedoms responsibly."

– Porcha Ensley

Director of Student Services, BridgeBuilders

BBT Program Highlight:

We are currently seeing 30-40 teens daily in program attendance!





Championship mentality

Winning is one element of championship, but winning or losing with dignity and class is more important. Children should feel pride in the amazing person they are whether they win or lose, and no child should be hopeless in life. The mentality we encourage for our athletes is one that enables young men and women to persevere, find the best of themselves, and develop character alongside skill.

Crossover Athletics has grown to support 92 girls and boys in our basketball, volleyball, and Bonton Girls Run programs. Student athletes are supported by 9 coaches and mentors who lead teams and develop athletic abilities. We see the highs and lows of sports allowing our youth to experience life in a protected environment, where every game can lead to a safe place to feel the joy of victory and safely endure the emotions of defeat as a team. That is championship mentality.

"Mercy Street is ecstatic to partner with BridgeBuilders to introduce young people to the fundamentals of Sports and the fundamentals of our Faith. As we work together, we hope to not only create a continuum of care for the residents of Bonton, but also a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-generational movement of God's people that work together for His glory and the good of our city. To Him be the glory."

- Carlton Oby
President & CEO, Mercy Street

Crossover Program Highlight:

5 organizations collaborated to create a record high 10-team basketball season!





Community partnerships mutually transform

Launched February 15th, 2023, the South Dallas Community Market serves Bonton and Ideal residents with healthy groceries through a client-choice store! The market already serves 125 families, and at full capacity, 350 families will receive groceries each month.

This market brings access to those faced with food insecurity and transportation issues in reaching stores. The average grocery-shopping trip for many of us takes 30 minutes in the car (both ways) and another 45 minutes in-store, totaling about 1 hour and 15 minutes. For Bonton residents who rely on public transportation, merely reaching the nearest supermarket (one way) would take 1 hour and 40 minutes. What a big difference!

To bring South Dallas reliable, easy access to healthy food, a fruitful partnership was formed with Brother Bill's Helping Hand, who for 79 years have provided a grocery store among other services to West Dallas.

"We are so excited for the opening of the South Dallas Community Market and for this partnership with BridgeBuilders. We know that access to healthy food can have a huge positive impact on a community. We are confident that this market will provide much-needed resources to our neighbors in South Dallas for years to come."

– Wes Keyes

Executive Director, Brother Bill's Helping Hand





I Am A BridgeBuilder

Our name comes from the idea of building bridges between people and communities, churches, schools, officers, judges, case workers, and more. I've seen great change in Bonton in how people open up— people are willing to work with others because they begin to trust more.

As trust grows, it can help lift a burden. People gain someone to share with and pray with, and that trust comes from seeing others' genuine care for them. It gives hope to those who think nobody cares. You become like extended family, someone to go to for advice. That's what Mike Fechner became for me, and I see that happen for others.

The mindset of a bridge builder is someone that celebrates what's going on in other neighborhoods and thinks of them as friends. This work builds your relationship with other people and also with the Lord. Volunteers in South Dallas can be a part of loving this community and becoming a friend to people here. None of us can do everything, and without bridge builders, some things cannot be done.

– **Velma Mitchell**
Co-Founder, BridgeBuilders

Financials

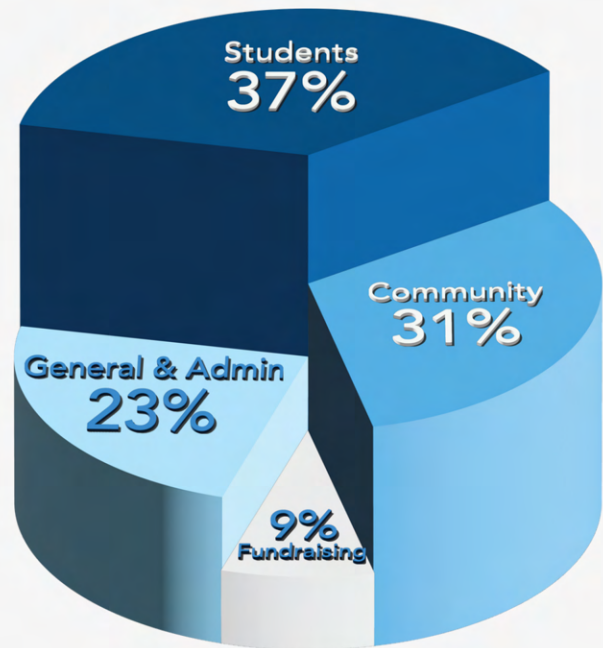
FYE June 30, 2022

Total Income = \$1,357,417

Total Expenses = \$1,154,148

- Student Services Programs - \$426,729
- Community Services Programs - \$360,814
- Fundraising - \$98,402
- General & Administrative - \$268,203

Expenses



Financial Highlight:

3% more of the BridgeBuilders budget went toward programming in 2022 than 2021!

Homes Reached

Out of 827 estimated homes, we served over 300 in 2022; about 36% of the neighborhood.



Sponsors

Corporations and Churches

- Dallas Housing Authority
- Prestonwood Baptist Church
- Injury Management Organization
- Peak American Financial
- Northwestern Mutual
- Dallas Chinese Bible Church
- Karlie's Clothes
- Edward Baumann Clothiers
- Jackson Pottery
- Marsh & McLennan Agency
- State Fair of Texas
- Texas Capital
- PepsiCo
- ASAP Personnel
- Cornwell Jackson
- Addison Law Firm

Foundations

- Byrne Family Foundation
- Hillcrest Foundation
- The Dallas Foundation
- Rees-Jones Foundation
- HighGround Advisors
- JKL Foundation
- Trucking Cares Foundation
- Dallas Pi Beta Phi Philanthropies
- The Addy Foundation
- Hoblitzelle Foundation
- Community Engagement & Opportunity Council
- The Melville Family Foundation



BridgeBuilders

Restoring Hope. Transforming Communities.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE SPACE
5210 Bexar Street, Suite 103
Dallas, TX 75215

