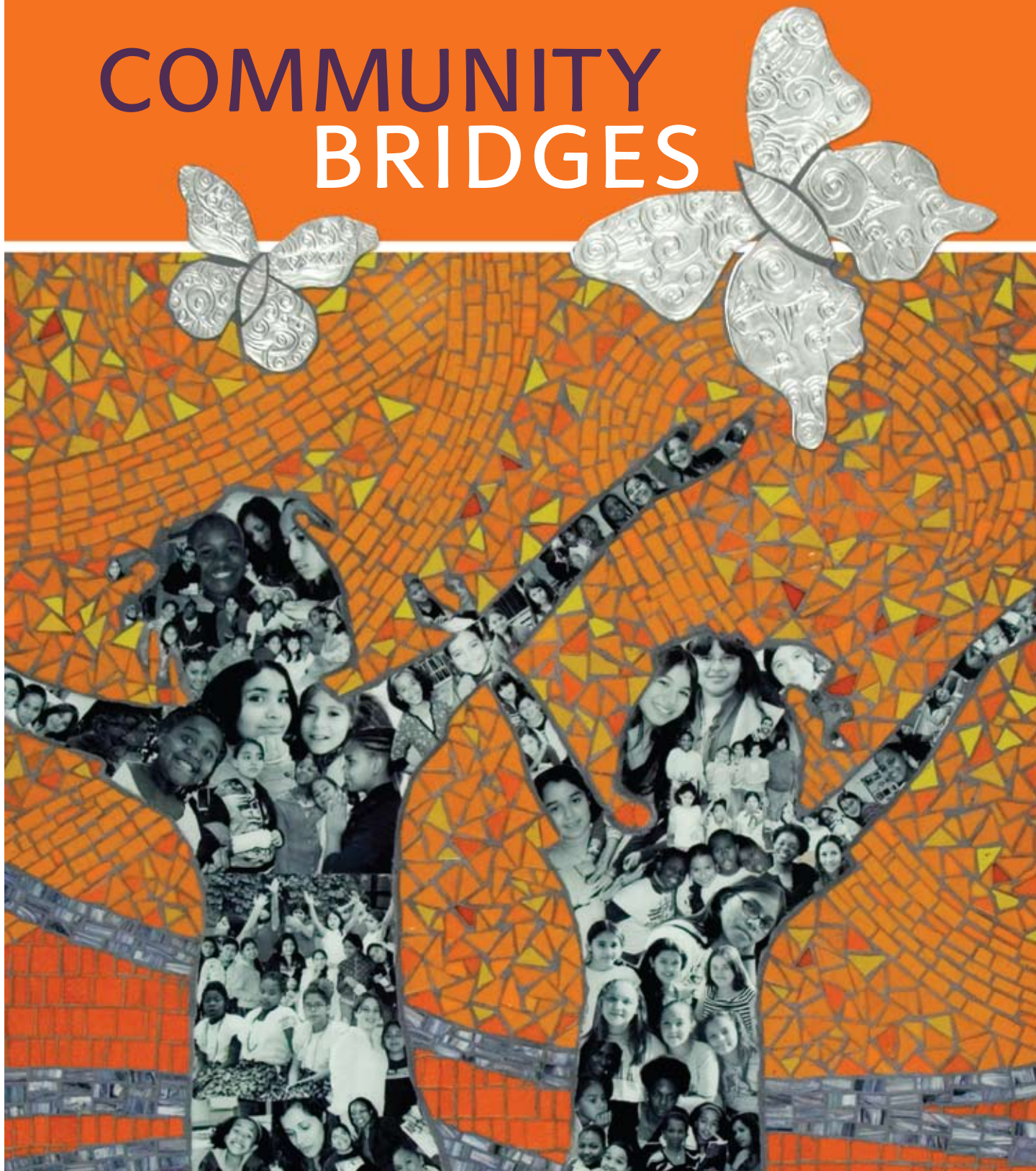


# COMMUNITY BRIDGES



ANNUAL REPORT 2008 | July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008

Empowering Girls. Building Leaders for the Community.



# Our Mission

Community Bridges empowers diverse girls to become excellent students, positive leaders, and healthy young women.

## Programs

*Jump Start Girls! ¡Adelante Niñas!* is a program that helps elementary and middle school girls recognize their tremendous potential. Jump Start focuses on team-building, critical thinking, the arts, health and prevention, outdoor discovery, and community action to develop the girls' self-confidence and self-expression.

*LUNA (Luchando Unidas con Nuestras Amigas)* serves 6th–9th-grade recent immigrant, Latina girls through weekly meetings during and after school. LUNA assists the girls in transitioning into their new communities, while celebrating their unique identities, preserving their cultural traditions, and embracing their bilingualism.

*Dream Catchers Mentoring Program* serves 8th-grade girls, through weekly dinner meetings with their mentors. Through field trips, group discussions, and art activities, Dream Catchers focuses on addressing girls' academic, career, and personal goals as they transition into high school.

*Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp* offers all the girls in our programs a week of daytime activities and a one-night sleepover. For most of our girls, this is their first camp experience. The camp provides engaging summer programming, encouraging the girls to develop self-reliance, responsibility, teamwork, and environmental and community stewardship.

## Community Bridges Receives New Recognition for Its Work!



Chosen for inclusion in the 2008–2009 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington, one of only 69 organizations selected from 230 candidates.



Awarded the Standards for Excellence Certification by the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations. Certification is bestowed only to the best-managed and responsibly governed nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated compliance with 55 specific Standards for Excellence based on honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability.

## Program Accomplishments

Community Bridges experienced many accomplishments this year.

**More than 216** girls were served through our four programs, a 10% increase over last year.

We increased the number of schools in which we work from seven to nine, including one school in which **90%** of students qualify for Free and Reduced Meals, the federal measure of poverty.

**More than 150** women and girls attended the Women, Power, World conference, co-hosted with Centro Familia, to address political empowerment, economic power, and feminine health.

**Twelve** girls won a competition, funded by the Clark Charitable Trust, for new laptop computers to assist them with their educational and personal goals.

### Our programs achieved the following outcomes:

**23%** of parents increased interaction with staff and school personnel through our programs.

**18%** of girls met with mentors/tutors to improve grades.

**69%** of girls increased their aspirations to further their education.

**69%** of girls improved their communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution skills.

**72%** of girls gained leadership skills by completing community action projects.

**44%** of girls assumed leadership in their schools and communities.



### Program leaders also witnessed the following changes:

**88%** of elementary girls demonstrated a desire to continue their schooling, so that they can achieve their goals. They also have a greater understanding of the multifaceted impact that premature sexual activity would have on their lives, and they demonstrated effective conflict resolution techniques, which improve their ability to advocate for themselves and others.

**90%** of girls in our LUNA program demonstrated a greater capacity to advocate for themselves in their academic, personal, and social lives; **80%** of girls left negative relationships/situations in which they had been sexually active; **95%** expressed that the LUNA program is a big motivator for them to stay in school and to be successful.

### Plans for Ongoing Work and Expansion

Community Bridges was granted funding for two new positions that will enable us to serve a total of **300** girls next year, an increase of **36%**. This increase is based on our strategic plan to expand to schools within the Red Zone of Montgomery County. In addition, Community Bridges is implementing plans to strengthen our programs and infrastructure to ensure that we have the capacity to respond to this new growth.

# Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2008, with Comparative Totals for 2007

## REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

	2008 Unrestricted	2008 Temporarily Restricted	2008 Total	2007 Total
Contributions	158,442	27,000	185,442	284,833
Contract revenue	153,770	—	153,770	167,807
Interest	155	—	155	4
In-kind	13,163	—	13,163	300
Events	47,161	—	47,161	—
Miscellaneous	587	—	587	—
Net assets released from restrictions through satisfaction of program requirements	72,000	(72,000)	—	—
<b>Total Revenue and Other Support</b>	<b>\$445,278</b>	<b>(\$45,000)</b>	<b>\$400,278</b>	<b>\$452,944</b>

## EXPENSES

Program services	321,048	—	321,048	240,817
Management and general	79,518	—	79,518	78,597
Fundraising	23,740	—	23,740	21,285
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$424,306</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$424,306</b>	<b>\$340,699</b>
Net increase in net assets	20,972	(45,000)	(24,028)	112,245
Net assets beginning of year	111,154	87,000	198,154	85,909
End of year	\$132,126	\$42,000	\$174,126	\$198,154



# Community Bridges, Inc., Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2008, and 2007



ASSETS		
Current Assets	2008	2007
Cash and cash equivalents	115,913	92,944
Grants receivable	49,658	96,138
Prepaid expenses	6,466	3,036
Total current assets	172,037	192,118
Furniture and Equipment net of accumulated depreciation of \$34,048 in 2008 and \$28,229 in 2007	15,094	20,913
Other assets (security deposit)	2,500	2,500
Total Assets	\$189,631	\$215,531
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	2008	2007
Accounts payable	1,027	10,584
Accrued expenses	14,478	6,793
Total Current Liabilities	\$15,505	\$ 17,377
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	132,126	111,154
Temporarily restricted	42,000	87,000
Total Net Assets	\$174,126	\$198,154
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$189,631	\$215,531

## How do you stand up to a bully when you are shy?

A new participant in our middle school Jump Start Girls! ¡Adelante Niñas! program this past school year was a shy and withdrawn 12-year-old from Haiti. This sweet girl had a hard time interacting freely with the other girls and also was constantly bullied by a girl whom she considered a friend. Through her participation in our program, she became more open about herself with staff members, teachers, and girls in the program. She also learned how to be assertive in advocating for herself and her family—which empowered her to finally stand up to her bully! “I am really happy that I have a place where I feel like it’s okay to be myself,” she recently told us. We, too, are glad to know that she and the 216 other girls in our program have a place where they can be vulnerable enough to share their fears and joys, while also learning how to use their voices for good.

Ana Lopez, *Executive Director*



**1997**

Community Bridges founded by Naomi Nim and Mary Freeman.

**1998**

*Jump Start Girls! ¡Adelante Niñas!* launched at Silver Spring International and Eastern Middle Schools.

**1999**

Washington Area Women's Foundation Leadership Award.

**2000**

Daily Points of Light Award for commitment to youth.

**2001**

Three participants of *Jump Start Girls! ¡Adelante Niñas!* win school awards for outstanding academic achievement and citizenship.

**2002**

*Jump Start Girls! ¡Adelante Niñas!* begins serving girls at Rolling Terrace and Oak View Elementary Schools.

**2003**

Certificate of Recognition & Appreciation from Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan.

**2004**

Chosen for inclusion in the 2004–2005 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington

*Dream Catchers, LUNA, and Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp* programs created in response to community needs.

**2005**

Named one of "40 for a Better Future" by *Washingtonian* magazine. Citation from Chris Van Hollen, U.S. House of Representatives.

Nancy Dworkin Award for Outstanding Service to Youth, co-sponsored by Gazette Newspapers and Montgomery County Commission on Children & Youth.

Long Branch Athletic Association Community Hero Award.

**2006**

Spirit of Giving Award from the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region for outstanding work with middle school students.

**2007**

Community Bridges celebrates first decade of empowering young women.

Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett.

**2008**

Chosen for inclusion in the 2008–2009 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington

Standards for Excellence Certification through the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations

Citation from Chris Van Hollen, U.S. House of Representatives, and from Delegate Sheila Hixson, Maryland House of Delegates.

*High School Leadership & Workforce Development Program* created in response to community needs.



## Staff 2007–2008

Ana Lopez, *Executive Director*

Sherry Marshall, *Deputy Executive Director*

Judith Hurbon, *Youth Programs Director*

Jenna Fletcher, *Middle School Program Leader, Jump Start Girls! ¡Adelante Niñas!*

Heather Bradley, *LUNA Program Leader*

Crystal Adegbola, *Elementary School Program Leader, Jump Start Girls! ¡Adelante Niñas!*

Hana Kim, *Volunteer Coordinator and AmeriCorps Member*

Dena Staggs, *Communications Assistant and AmeriCorps Member*

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Program Manager

Nonprofit Montgomery!

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Attorney

U.S. Government Accountability Office

### **Alicia Deeny**

Middle School Teacher

Montgomery County Public Schools

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Director of Estimating

Donohoe Construction

### **Christine Dunathan**

Assistant Director

Friends Community School

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Assistant Secretary for Resources  
and Technology

U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services

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University Research Co., LLC/Center  
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Deputy Director

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Director of Branch Operations

Stephen James Associates

### **Barbara Valdes**

Staff Development Teacher

Montgomery County Public Schools

### **Sarah Wells**

Vice President

Women in Government

### **Community Bridges, Inc.**

620 Pershing Drive, 2nd Floor

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-585-7155

[www.communitybridges-md.org](http://www.communitybridges-md.org)

[info@communitybridges-md.org](mailto:info@communitybridges-md.org)



Cover: "Following in Her Footsteps," mosaic sculpture created by artist Carien Quiroga, assisted by 3rd-grade Jump Start girls. Photo by Gregory Staley.

Our special thanks to Social & Scientific Systems, Inc., for the graphic design of this report.