



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to foster relationships with individuals desiring to move out of poverty by providing tools, support, education, and connections to community resources.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

It is incredibly encouraging to see the expansion of our programs in the community! Each workshop allows us to connect with individuals struggling with poverty and walk alongside them as they work toward self-sufficiency. With each new workshop, we have learned a little bit about the personal stories of our participants providing further insight into barriers faced and strengthening our drive to help. Feedback from program participants and Facilitators has led us to begin revising our curriculum to better suit the needs of the individuals that face poverty every day.

After evaluating our programs in 2017, our Board of Directors voted for us to work diligently toward our mission by focusing our resources on **Getting Ahead**, **R Rules**, and **Staying Ahead**. This necessitated the elimination of our **Summer Enrichment Program** and **Housing Help Program**. The Children's Summer Theatre Group will continue in 2018 with the sponsorship by the Plainwell Arts Council. We are grateful that they have stepped up to continue this great program.

In 2017, we gained several new Board Members: Heather Swanson (Secretary), Sharon Ritchie (Treasurer), Bruce Ruhl, and Elaine Weaver. Visit our website at www.bridgesofhopealleghencounty.org to learn more about these new additions!

As we begin a new year, we celebrate the promotion of our Administrative Assistant, Jenifer Mitchell, to the position of Executive Director. Jenifer has been our Administrative Assistant since March 2016, working tirelessly to enhance our programs. We look forward to her leadership as our Executive Director.

We would appreciate your assistance in helping us serve more individuals in need. To find out how you can help, contact us at info@bridgesofhopealleghencounty.org or 269-204-6041.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Hill".

Gail Hill, Board President

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We obtained a **Social Work intern** from Spring Arbor University who assisted with intake for our program participants, aided in the grant-writing process, and worked with volunteers during events in the community.
- We gained a new **Treasurer** with great attention to detail.
- We offered three **Getting Ahead** workshops and an **R Rules** workshop to help guide participating individuals along the path to stability.
- We offered ten **Staying Ahead** activities to ensure continued encouragement as participants continue working toward their goals.
- We offered one **Bridges out of Poverty** workshop to educate the community about poverty and the limitations individuals face while struggling to rise above it.
- We hosted a volunteer event to express our appreciation for all of the wonderful volunteers that help to make our work possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail Hill, President
Donna Gorton, Vice-President
Sharon Ritchie, Treasurer
Heather Swanson, Secretary
Karen Koehn, Member-at-Large
Robert Benson, Member-at-Large
Richard Adams, Member-at-Large
Bruce Ruhl, Member-at-Large
Elaine Weaver, Member-at-Large

TESTIMONIALS

What did participants find most helpful about the workshops?

R Rules

Learning to set a goal and reach a goal step by step.

Learning how to manage my money.

Getting Ahead

Learning the different ways to better myself financially and learning other experiences in life.

Knowing that there is help out there and making new friends.

When asked how the workshops helped them make positive changes:

R Rules

Planning stuff out more.

Seeing my future picture.

Getting Ahead

I've learned better ways to manage my issues financially and emotionally.

Overall, participants felt:

R Rules

I gained foothold in life.

It's been very encouraging and helpful learning about different ways to get ahead in life.



2017 Pony Plop winner (Stacy Levine) with our President (Gail Hill)



Lily – the pony that plopped

SPECIAL THANKS

We are truly fortunate to have had more than 50 wonderful volunteers that complete a variety of tasks ranging from meal preparation and transportation to mentoring and serving on our Board of Directors. This includes our amazing Facilitators who give so much of themselves to help our clients build a better future – Charlie Wynne, Evy Houser, and Mardi Noorman! Bridges of Hope offers a heart-felt thanks to each of our volunteers!

We would also like to express our gratitude for funding received for 2017. This includes the Allegan County Community Foundation's Legacy Grant and TAG Grant, the Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation Grant, the United Methodist Church's Kalamazoo District Ministry Grant and Unified Fund Grant, and a Perrigo Company Foundation Grant. Additionally, we received numerous donations from various individuals, businesses, churches, and groups in Allegan County.

Lastly, we would like to thank the individuals and organizations that have made in-kind donations this year, valued at over \$8000. This includes supplies donated for office and program use, office space (graciously provided, rent-free, by Clearwater Financial), meals for program participants, and much more. Meals were provided by the Plainwell Meijer, Plainwell Arby's, Plainwell Wendy's, Plainwell Pizza Hut, McDonald's of Allegan and Plainwell, Allegan's First United Methodist Church, Allegan's Blessed Sacrament Church, and countless thoughtful individuals across the county. We were also fortunate enough to receive an anonymous donation designated for the purchase of a projector for use during workshops and meetings.



2017 Plainwell Days Festival Parade



2017 Children's Summer Theatre Program



*Allegan **Getting Ahead** participants with their Facilitator (Mardi Noorman)*



*Plainwell **Getting Ahead** participant with his Facilitators (Charlie Wynne, Nicole Vyverman) and our President (Gail Hill)*

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Contact our office by phone (269-204-6041) or email (info@bridgesofhopeallegancounty.org) for current volunteer opportunities, such as:

- Becoming an Encourager
- Providing transportation
- Preparing meals for workshops
- Joining the Board of Directors
- Joining a Committee

You can also make a tax-deductible donation online (www.bridgesofhopeallegancounty.org) or by mail:

Bridges of Hope, Allegan County
108 E Grant Street
Plainwell, MI 49080

SUPPLIES WISH LIST

Bring new or gently used items to our office Tuesdays or Thursdays 9 am – 3 pm (or by appointment).

- Digital camera
- Business envelopes
- Postage stamps
- Printer paper
- 2" binders
- Binder separator tabs
- Meals for workshops
- Gift cards – Meijer, Office Max, etc.



***R Rules** participant with her Facilitator (Evy Houser) and our President (Gail Hill)*



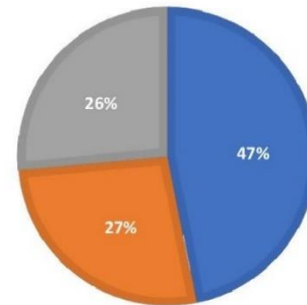
***R Rules** participants and their Facilitator (Evy Houser)*

**Bridges of Hope, Allegan County
Income & Expense**
January through December 2017

	Jan - Dec 17
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Donations	3,536.21
Fundraising	1,257.00
Gift Cards Received	380.00
Grants Awarded	16,975.65
Program Income	267.94
Total Income	<u>22,416.80</u>
Gross Profit	22,416.80
Expense	
Business Expenses	
Advertising	429.73
Banking Fees	19.99
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	79.51
Filing Fees	20.00
Fundraising Expense	951.66
Grant Application Costs	23.75
Insurance	2,433.00
Office Equipment	221.12
Postage, Mailing Service	159.21
Software	322.99
Supplies	401.39
Telephone, Telecommunications	485.21
Travel Reimbursement	58.17
Utilities	532.23
Volunteer Expense	142.64
Website	53.91
Business Expenses - Other	154.84
Total Business Expenses	6,489.35
Payroll Expense	
Payroll	6,005.54
Payroll Taxes	424.90
Total Payroll Expense	6,430.44
Program Expense	
Bridges out of Poverty Expense	233.42
Getting Ahead Expense	4,850.13
R Rules Expense	1,648.20
Staying Ahead Expense	621.80
Summer Enrichment Program ...	4,013.88
Total Program Expense	11,367.43
Total Expense	<u>24,287.22</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-1,870.42</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-1,870.42</u></u>

2017 EXPENSE SUMMARY

■ Program Expenses ■ Business Expenses ■ Payroll Expenses



**Bridges of Hope, Allegan County
Summary Balance Sheet**
As of December 31, 2017

	Dec 31, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	21,322.34
Total Current Assets	21,322.34
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>21,322.34</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabiliti...	583.23
Total Current Liabilities	583.23
Total Liabilities	583.23
Equity	20,739.11
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQU...	<u>21,322.34</u>

Sign up for our quarterly electronic newsletter and other updates: <http://eepurl.com/bSEKJ5>