

The image is the cover of the 'Bridges Annual Report 2016-2017'. It features a large, light gray network diagram composed of interconnected circles of various sizes. Within this network are several circular photographs. These include: a woman in a pink shirt talking to a woman in a striped shirt; a man in a white cap and pink shirt giving a thumbs up; a woman with long dark hair smiling; a group of people doing yoga outdoors at night; a man in a wheelchair being assisted by others; and several individual portraits of diverse people. In the top right corner, there is a logo consisting of a red semi-circle above the word 'Bridges' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below 'Bridges' is the text 'Annual Report 2016-2017' in a smaller, clean font.



...outside existing church culture, in our own networks  
and neighborhoods, all across America.



**Bridges is equipping leaders to transform lives in the many cultures outside the existing church. Here are two outstanding examples:**



## Manny Flores

Bridge Leader

90% of Manny Flores' community is under the poverty line. As a Bridge Leader in 'Oikos 4:45 Ministry' ([www.oikos445.org](http://www.oikos445.org)) and community liaison for North Valley Caring Services, he helps meet the needs of 60-70 people each week by providing breakfast, clothing, showering, and other services in North Hills, California. "As we meet people through our programs we're able to disciple them during a difficult time of their life." He sees Bridges as an essential part of his work. "Bridges creates an opportunity for us to be a nontraditional church. We're out here ministering to people at the level of need. As we depend on Bridges, the future of our ministry is very bright."



## Florence Annang

Bridge Leader



Kids don't like homework. Florence Annang's ministry, Thrive Learning Lab, grew out of such simple facts. She started this ministry in Northwest Pasadena in order to help kids grow, both academically and spiritually. "If they absorb something through enjoying it," she says, "it becomes etched in their memory." She leads an after school program and organizes a 5-week summer camp. Kids learn a lot about God's word. She has seen the lives of the children and their families transformed. She thanks Bridges in part for the result. "Bridges increases my capacity for ministry by providing a coach for fundraising, office assistance, and they're always just a phone call away for prayer."

**Bridges is a Christian non-profit that empowers local leaders to improve the lives of people in their communities.**

Whether our leaders are helping pregnant teenagers, feeding the hungry or assisting the elderly, Bridges helps these leaders accomplish their goals by providing

Assessment, Coaching, Training, and Support (ACTS).

With your partnership, Bridges will realize its dream of an America transformed through an ever-increasing number of local Christ-following communities working for the common good of all.





**Jim Milley** Chief Catalyst

### Statement of the movement

It has been such a privilege and encouragement to serve all our Bridge Leaders. They are networking with people inside their social circles but outside the church, sharing the message of Life along the way.

In the following pages you'll encounter Bridge Leaders who are serving God in many different networks. There's Manny, who works with struggling folks in his neighborhood. And Florence, who does after-school programming with kids in her community. You'll even read about Bruce, who literally saved someone's life up on California's Mount Wilson (see the back page!)

What Bruce, Manny, and Florence do represents the work of all our Bridge Leaders. They connect with others in their social network and bring them into contact with the living God through food, water, wellness, diapers, housing, friendship, hope, and comfort.

From local congregations to distant presbyteries and owners of housing properties, there are lots of new opportunities on our horizon. People are asking for Bridges to help train more local leaders who can change lives, make disciples and facilitate newly Christ-following communities.

I hope this annual report will get you even more excited about what God is doing through all of us serving and networking together.



Like Comment

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There are a lot of people around us who are looking to connect... we're going to them.

- Cat Moore, Bridge Leader

### We are building:

- Bridges to people outside existing churches
- New, creative ways of "being church"
- **HOPE** for the future of church in the USA

### Research Proves that Bridges Works!

#### Within 1 year of joining

- Most new Leaders have more friendships with "unchurched" people.
- Many Leaders start forming discipleship groups

#### Within 2 years of joining

- Most Leaders are discipling people from outside church culture

**Bridge Leaders are currently:**  
influencing .... 4,200 people  
befriending ..... 886 people  
meeting  
regularly with... 337 people

## Bridges' Board Members

Our Board carefully reviews financials, visits sites, and oversees the Executive Director to ensure that all the projects and funds are utilized effectively to equip Leaders to transform lives in the many cultures outside the existing church. Bridges actively sees to it that your generous donations are wisely spent to create an ever-increasing number of local Christ-following disciples and communities working for the common good.



**Tom King (Chair)** Tom works for Tesla Motors and has been working on solar projects for many years.



**Karen Berns** Karen is a retired pastor who joined Bridges to continue her commitment to helping people experience God's presence and live for God's mission.



**Gaithri Fernando** Gaithri is a distinguished professor of psychology at Cal State LA. She led the development of our Assessment Surveys for measuring Bridge Leader growth and effectiveness over time.



**Mike Gibney** Mike has worked as a Business Strategy and Organization Transformation consultant for the past 19 years and is currently serving as the Financial Oversight Member of the Bridges Board.



**Greg Jones** Greg is a licensed attorney with 32 years of experience handling probate, civil litigation, family law, trusts & estates and real property. Jones & Ayotte Attorneys at Law in Pasadena, CA.



**Jim Milley** Jim is the Founder, Executive Director and Chief Catalyst of Bridges. "We don't plant churches first. We don't plant worship services first. We plant ourselves first."



**Eric Newman** Eric served on four continents opening new markets, training management and providing consulting services for international publishing companies.



**Beth Teran** Besides her work as a Physical Therapist and mother of three, Beth is a Bridge Leader and hosts a Support Group.

Bridges knows that 3 out of 4 Christian leaders, under the stress of leading change across America, do not finish well. That's why Bridges goes the extra mile to provide multiple supports for each Bridge Leader. One on one Coaching, frequent Training Events, Annual Assessments, and Monthly Support Groups help each Bridge Leader to maximize their strengths and leverage their skills to help others and transform communities.

## Reverend Walter Contreras

A graduate of the Fuller Theological Seminary, Reverend Contreras has been a leader in Southern California's evangelical Latino community for over 30 years. His impressive contributions include being Vice President of the Western Region of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition among numerous other community services. In his short time with Bridges, he found the time to help accomplish an important goal: a Spanish Language version of Bridges called "Puentes," which has provided new connections, great and small, for the community outreach we strive to nurture.



### Here are a few stories from Puentes' first year:

**Bridge Leader Josiel** is helping a young homeless man to get on his feet and find friendship and connection with God.

**Bridge Leader Nora** is connecting an unemployed guitarist with music teaching opportunities in her faith community.

**Bridge Leader Argel** is networking with undocumented families in their struggle for rights and residency.

**Bridge Leader Jessica** is discipling an under-served, over-burdened adolescent girl in her social circle.



## Bridges' Dreams for 2018 and beyond

- **Train and Support** 62 new Bridge Leaders on all 62 low income properties owned by Humangood. Humangood has made the invitation. The door is open. Cost: \$250,000.
- **Launch** and multiply Spanish Speaking Bridge Leaders and Support Groups. Cost: \$30,000 for each group.
- **Hire** an Advancement Director to help us develop new partnerships with new denominations and congregations. Cost: \$50,000.
- **Diversify** our leadership and staff to network into the ever increasing subgroups within the USA.
- **Expand** our reach on the East Coast with new partnerships and grants from denominations, congregations, and foundations.
- **Increase** our services to our Bridge Leaders with more admin help, better service delivery, and more results.

Rick Ridgway

Other ways to give to Bridges this coming year

RR

### In Kind Donations

Used Cars (drop off at Bob Smith Toyota)
New computers
New printers
Office Paper
Software for Live Streaming
Marketing Consultation for Bridge Leader
Fund Development Consultation
Business Plan Development
Management
HR compliance
HR hiring
Gas Cards
Food Cards
Diapers
New Ink

Jim Milley

If you can provide any of these, call Rick at 818-687-4297.

JM

For every **\$3,000** we receive above last year's giving, we can empower another Bridge Leader to impact the lives of those outside existing church culture. To send out another 50 Bridge Leaders, we need to raise **\$150,000** more this coming year.

### Latest Partnership Opportunities *monthly or one-time*

**\$500**

fully sponsors a Bridge Leader for two months

**\$200**

scholarship for a Bridge Leader to attend a training conference

**\$75**

1 month of personal coaching for a Bridge Leader

**\$50**

hospitality for a monthly Support Group Meeting

**\$25**

assessments for 1 Bridge Leader

**BridgesUS.org/give**  
**Jim@BridgesUS.org**

Contributions are solicited with the understanding that the Board of Directors of Bridges has complete control and discretion over the use of all donated funds.



# Bridges shapes and equips leaders to befriend and to catalyze new Christ-following communities which partner



## Bridge Leaders Conference November 5, 2016

70 people attended Bridges' annual Conference. Keynote Speaker Mark Labberton of Fuller Seminary brought a powerful message of vision and encouragement. The workshops instructed attendees in everything from "How to Start a Ministry" to "Creating a 'Messy Church'" and more. This conference reflects Bridges' understanding of Leaders' rapidly changing environments and the recognition of the need for training and inspiration for those Leaders.



Like Comment

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**Mark Labberton, President of Fuller Seminary**  
[Bridge Leaders] are people with invigorated faith, humble spirit and courageous love. They are living to make Jesus visible to their neighbors.



**Beth Teran, Bridge Leader from Sierra Madre**  
I'm still digesting such meat!! Exactly what I needed. Exactly!!!



**Doug Stevens, Pastor**  
Just wanted to let you know how impressed I am with this conference and grateful for your efforts to focus the church on the necessary but unconventional ways of taking our essential mission seriously.



Number of Bridge Leaders					
Service	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Assessment	25	40	67	78	190
Coaching	18	35	55	48	35
Training	27	106	61	150	106
Support Groups	29	40	49	57	115
Support Accounts	9	13	20	27	26

**"I knew discipling needed to be part of my life but I just felt unskilled and unprepared and uncomfortable—not knowing how to go about it. Bridges has helped me figure out how to make discipling a part of my life." - Lou Federmann, Bridge Leader from Huntington Beach**







and serve people outside existing church culture  
 or with existing churches.



"I love Bridges' framework, support coaches, training opportunities and the variety of missionaries they are representing that are out there doing our Lord's work. The harvest field is all around us." - Bre Goss, mission worker



## Training Events

### Bridges "Training To Go" June 17, 2017

Bridges supporters spent a day "on the road" visiting four different Bridge Leaders in action. Everyone on this experimental field trip got a first hand look at what Bridge Leaders are doing to connect with, serve, and disciple people in their communities and social networks.

### Bridges Training Sessions - August–October 2016

A half dozen people, each from 3 different congregations, committed to 6-week training sessions where they learned what Bridges does, how they can do it too, and why it is so important.

Like Comment

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**Charles Taylor Kerchner, Research Professor**  
 I learned a lot, especially that my life is too busy to form the kinds of relationships needed to be a disciple of Christ; changes are needed.

## We Invest in Bridge Leaders



\$250 per month  
 fully supports a  
 Bridge Leader  
 with Assessment,  
 Coaching, Training,  
 and Support

**Assessment** - Assessments measure meaningful aspects of leadership and help leaders develop holistically in the midst of ever-changing ministry.

**Coaching** - Our experienced Coaches are gifted in coming alongside Bridge Leaders on a monthly basis to maximize the work they're already doing with God.

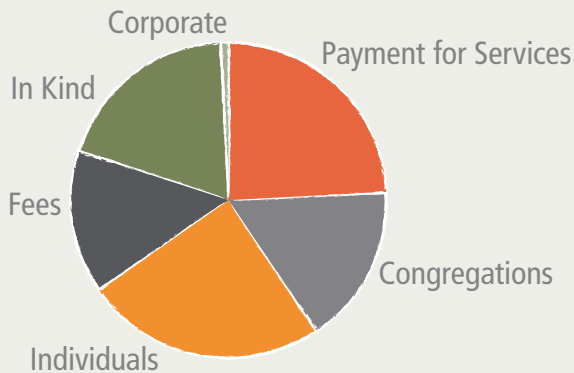
**Training** - A few times per year we offer focused, practical trainings for individuals, small groups and congregations around the 6 Missional Skills.

**Support Groups** - Monthly cohorts gather to learn together, pray for each other and encourage each other around texts and case studies that are relevant to their ministry work.

**Support as Fiscal Sponsor** - We provide the administrative and legal infrastructure for Bridge Leaders who want to raise funds, which frees up their time and energy for ministry work.

# Bridges Financial Report

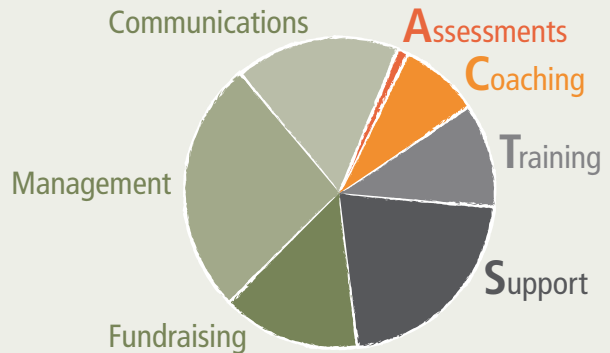
## Income



### Total Income: \$311,984

Payment for Services	\$75,405	24%
Congregations	\$51,303	16%
Individuals	\$77,600	25%
Fees	\$45,944	15%
In Kind	\$59,992	19%
Corporate	\$1,740	1%

## Expenses



### Total Expenses: \$287,296

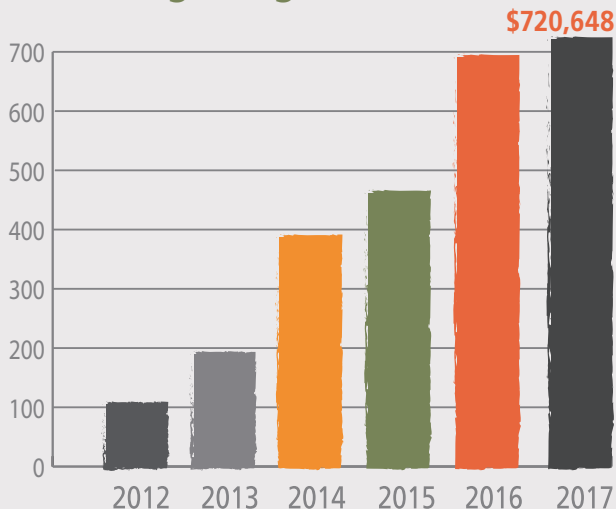
Assessments	\$3,478	1%
Coaching	\$24,068	8%
Training	\$31,139	11%
Support	\$61,928	22%
Fundraising	\$41,810	15%
Management	\$76,156	27%
Communications	\$48,717	17%

"Fundraising through Bridges has been absolutely critical to realizing God's vision for my ministry."

- Kyle Joachim, Bridge Leader

**In Kind Donations are up 176%** from 2016: more and more people are supporting us not just with money but with their time, energy and resources.

## Fiscal-Year Income Grand Total (including Bridge Leader income)



**Together, 27 Bridge Leaders raised \$454,608 in addition to the Bridges income shown above.**

"Finances leveled off this year because we focused our energy and resources on adjusting to all the amazing growth we have been seeing. Now, with healthy funding and our updated infrastructure, Bridges is ready to soar!"

- Mike Gibney, Financial Board Member



## Bridges' Annual Dinner

April 2, 2017



"A Night in the Light" - at Brookside Country Club in Pasadena was a HUGE success! Comedian Ron Pearson hosted the event, which gathered 260 people and raised \$30,000 for the Bridges' mission. 125 people also joined the event via Churchy's livestream and the attendees loved it: "Such a blast" "Really fun evening" "So many congrats - what a win!"



### Bridge Leaders' Accomplishments

2016-2017



**Rex McDaniel** - Opened "Otter Storytime Telling Hour" at a bar in Pasadena. Encourages people to share their stories.



**Cissy Brady-Rodgers** - Led a series on mindful eating. Helps women thrive.



**Rick Ridgway** - Continues to build relationships among science-fiction fans and entertainment professionals.



**Allison LaBianca** - Seeks unconventional spaces for people to connect to God through practicing 'Holy' Yoga.



**Rodrigo de la Sotta** - Created a number of retreats to help people connect with God.

Like Comment



*Churchy's Rob Wiltsey  
livestreams  
our Annual Dinner*

## Bridges' Accomplishments 2016-2017

- 226 people disciplined from outside churches
- 59 discipleship groups / 42 leader training groups
- 12 monthly groups for Bridge Leaders
- Trained 50+ Bridge Leaders at National Conference at Encino Presbyterian Church
- Added 17 new Bridge Leaders
- Social Media Upgrade! We increased our web presence, joined Instagram, updated our web page and even livestreamed an event



## Bridges' Donors

BNY Mellon  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
FBRG Insurance Services  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Burbank  
Geneva Presbyterian Church  
La Cañada Presbyterian  
Church  
Presbytery of San Gabriel  
Schwab Charitable  
TD Ameritrade Clearing  
Doug & Marie Abajian  
Clara Abedian  
Nancy Aceituno  
Jean Aichele  
Margie Barbour  
Sara Bauer  
Ardis Bazyn  
Bob & Cindy Beart  
Don & Karen Berns  
Alex & Janet Boggs  
Dave & Cissy Brady Rogers  
Mary Braswell  
Suzanne Bravender  
Bob & Arlene Brown  
John Bullock  
Craig & Torie Carlson  
Dennis & Evelyn Carpenter  
Mandy Cary  
Doris Coates  
Bill Craig  
Loretta Davis  
Keith Eich  
David Evans  
Lou Federmann  
Darrell & Michele Fernandez  
Rob & Ginny Fisher  
Mike & Alice Flanagan  
Manny Flores  
Nancy Foote  
Michael & Rain Gibney  
John & Jodean Giese  
James Granier  
Eleanor Grossman-Muller  
Cynthia Guenther  
Pat Guernsey  
Obed Guevara  
Kale Hailu  
Herb & Rosalie Hall  
Betsy Hall  
Rich & Ellen Haserot  
Lewis & Julia Hastings  
John & Christine Holmquist  
Joanne Horne  
Jack Irwin  
Barbara Ishida  
Frederich John

Marker & Marvelle Karahadian  
Karl Karnes  
Scott & Deena Keys  
Elmira Khadour  
Gregory Kilpatrick  
Tom & Nancy King  
Tom & Jody Klotzle  
Allison La Bianca  
David & Carolyn Lessley  
Randy & Cheryl Lovejoy  
Peter & Jan Lowe  
Luis-Enrique M  
Don Maddox  
Marilyn Manning  
Steve & Shirley Markonich  
Noelia Marti-Colon  
Jim & Debbie Milley  
Stanley & Nancy Moore  
Shirley Myers  
Eric Newman  
Tom & Debbie Ong  
Chuck & Barbara Osburn  
Frank & Jenny Pass  
Mike & Cathie Patrick  
Anna Pawlowska  
Ron & Tanya Pearson  
Greg Perkins  
Rebecca Prichard  
Kaye Prince  
Kim Rathman  
Jeffrey & Lyn Riemers  
Norman & Doreen Roadarmel  
Herbert & Anna Marie  
Rottenbacher  
Shadi & Jennifer Sanbar  
Jeanne Shaffer  
Kevin & Diane Sheldahl  
Mike & Patty Smith  
Ronald Smith  
David Suydam  
Jean Throckmorton  
Steve & Kristen Todd  
Rob & Laurie Tribken  
John Turner  
George Vamos  
Carlos & Alice Velarde  
Mike & Glenda Webster  
Bill & Janet Wells  
Charles & Lois Westphal  
Mark Williams  
Donald Williams  
Ken Winter  
Greg & Rachel Wolflick  
Pamela Wyroski  
Allan & Pat Yuen  
Norma Zuelow

## Bridge Leader and Community Donations

Abode Services  
Christ Presbyterian Church  
of Hollywood  
Claremont Presbyterian  
Church  
Cloud Source Media INC  
Community Church  
National Christian Foundation  
Indiana  
Hope Christian Fellowship  
Sierra Madre Congregational  
Church  
CSK Services INC.  
Discovery Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Granada Hills  
First Lutheran Church  
of Northridge  
First Presbyterian Church  
of San Antonio TX  
Fountain Avenue Baptist  
Church

Shah Afshar  
Kathleen & Gary Aller  
David Allsopp  
David Andersen  
Jim & Anne Anderson  
Graecia Arriaza  
Roy & Mary Ashford  
Cory Autrey  
John Babb  
Tom Bagley, Sr  
Thomas Bahls  
Margaret Baroodly

### Mary Wilson

It would be great if  
every congregation had  
10 Bridge Leaders.

Danny & C&i Barrett  
Otto Benitez  
Maria Beuchel  
Betty Bowen  
Carrie & David Brakebush  
Allen & Judy Brock  
Jerry Brown

## Our Giving is Growing!

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Donors</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>403</b>
<b>New Donors</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Gifts</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>1731</b>

Glendale Presbyterian Church  
La Crescenta Presbyterian  
Church  
National Christian Foundation  
Otten Family Trust  
Gaithersburg Presbyterian  
Church  
Neelsville Presbyterian Church  
Brown Advisory Securities  
Presbytery of San Fernando  
Robinwood INC  
San Marino Community  
Church  
Soroptimist International of  
Baldy View  
The Jewelry Source Inc.  
John & Viola Abdel Messiah  
Micheal Abdou

Catharine Browning  
Mark & Susan Buchanan  
George Buehler  
Geoff Burdick  
Roger Burkhart  
Rafeek Bushra  
Carl Byrd  
Vincent Caimano  
Brad & Kelly Calhoun  
Hal Campbell  
Edward Carey  
Ed & Shirley Carlson  
Linda Carricaburu  
Aaron Caruso  
Taylor Chamness  
Marvin Chow  
Melanie Chow  
Kevin Coit  
Bob Collins





**Julie Jones, Bridges Coach**

**In a season of thankfulness,  
I want you to know that  
coaching for Bridges is one of  
the things I am grateful for in  
my life!**



Robert Cowden  
Ryan Cowden  
Bruce & Kathryn Crawford  
Lisa Culpepper  
Patricia Cummings  
Kenneth Dallas  
Dawson David  
James Davidson  
Lee Ann Dawkins  
Patrick & Elsa Day  
Gary & Marily Demarest  
Eric Derrington  
Andy & Jennifer  
Dickinson-Reasser  
Ehab-Tawfik Monir Tawfik  
& Amal Dous  
Rena Durham  
June & Ken Durr  
Chris Duryee  
Jim & Janet Eddy  
Jan Edwards  
Tim English  
Michele Evert  
Phoenix Eyre  
Linda Faber  
Craig Farestveit  
James & Rebecca Farlow  
Larry Featherstone  
Stuart Fleishman  
David Frame  
John & Gini Frederich  
Joy Fridey  
Benjamin & Susan Fudge  
Dana Fuller  
Gilbert & Carolyn Gazanian  
Armand Gazarian  
Maurice Gelfo  
Richard & Susan Gentilucci  
Kirk & Cathy Gerbracht  
Tom Gira  
Arthur Girard  
Bill Goldmann  
Gary & Doris Gordon  
Craig & Janna Gosselin  
Charles Grace  
Marilyn Gray  
Greg & Carol Griggs  
Laura Guevara

Evelia Guevara  
Roger Gulick  
Rami J Asad & Stacy Guzman  
Beth Hakes  
Madeleine Hanna  
Bill & Peggy Hanna  
David & Dyana Hansen  
Mike Harness  
Jack Harris  
Dave Harshman  
Lina & Charles Hart  
Linda Hastings  
Gerald Herter  
Michelle Hill  
Lynn Hill  
George Hodgson  
Josh Hook  
Gary & Mary Hopkins  
Jeff Houser  
Geoff & Robin Howard  
Eugene Huang  
Taylor Hungerford  
Tim & Betty Gail Hunt  
Luke Hyder  
Andrew Imboden  
Basem Iskaros  
Michael Jew  
Amy Joachim  
Edgar Johnson  
Dean Johnson  
Carole Johnson  
Colin M Trent Johnson  
Mark Kennedy  
Renee Kermath  
Mark Khalil  
Don Kick  
Hugh & Marilyn Kilpatrick  
Scott Kinnes  
Nate & Kathy Knochel  
Melissa Knox  
Kara Kohler  
Jimilee Komolafe  
Scott & Karen Kovach  
John & Diane L&rum  
Rhonda Langham  
Jim Lanier  
James Lanier  
Susanna Law  
Kami Leonard  
Richard Lieber  
Michael Locke  
Greg Long  
Leigh Ann Looyenga  
Carrie Lovejoy  
J B Lovejoy  
Bob & Maureen Lucas  
Robert Lyon

Wendy Maccoun  
Russell Madsen  
Melissa Magnusen  
Kristina Maldarelli  
Alicia Managbanag  
Leobert Managbanag  
Cheryl Mattingly  
Sharon Maxwell  
Jeannie McCullough  
Brian McDaniel  
Mike & Jaime McGrath  
James McPherson  
Ted & Betsy Merchant  
Ken & Gail Merchant  
Ernie & Madelyn Messner  
Mike Millett  
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Molinatto  
Cammie Moncak  
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Kara Morgan  
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Mike & Marianne Murphy  
James Musick  
Deric & Ninoshka Ned  
Carolyn Neuendorffer  
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Yaw Obeng  
Cynthia Older  
Steve Olin  
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Jenise Page  
Evert Parker  
Nancy Parks  
Tyson Parsons  
John Patton  
Elizabeth Pearce  
Janice Peters  
Claire Marie Peterson  
Shannon Phipps  
Francis Pijano  
Robert Platero  
Charlie Plowman  
Andrew Polack  
Michael Porter  
John & Michelle Powers  
John Prentice  
Nathan Raab  
Matthew & Joanna Raabsmith  
Thomas Ramsey

Michael Rarela  
Walter Ray  
Matthew Redrich  
Sarah Regan  
Mandy Rehm  
Dan Riba  
James Richardson  
Laurie Riddell  
Rick Ridgway  
James Ridgway  
Christi Robinson  
Jeremiah & Angela Rumball  
Sharon Saraceno  
Peter & Carol Schaller  
Edmund Schantz  
Denise Schleckser  
Tedd Shimp  
Andrew Silk

**Evelyn Carpenter**

**Bridges has many  
committed and talented  
people involved.**

EC

Susan Smith  
Charlotte Spencer  
Russ & Jennifer Stanton  
Debra Stone  
Dana Sustin  
Teresa Sutherland  
Loralee Swaner  
Jon & Beth Teran  
Phil Teran  
Clifford Thomas  
Scott Unger  
Jeannette Vagnozzi  
Renay & John VanBrunst  
Anna Vassy  
Robert Vassy  
Adam Visokey  
Doug & Joyce Wachsmuth  
James Wammack  
Nick & Whitney Warnes  
Ed Washatka  
Bruce Watkins  
Charles Weaver  
Murray Whiteman  
John Wierman  
Kenneth Wilson  
Ralph & Judy Winter  
Sylvia Woodall  
Donald Woodard  
Amelia Woznicki  
Charles Wright  
Emad & Nancy Yanni  
Scott & Karen Young  
Andrea Zabel

Could you or someone you know be the next Bridge Leader to join Bridges? Every person has talents that can help and inspire their community. Some are small, some can literally save a life, and all have the power to change lives by befriending and serving people outside existing church culture.



One outstanding example is Bruce, an 83-year-old grandfather and a Bridge Leader. The local news reported a life-saving event for an injured 27-year-old hiker who fell down a 30-foot slope on a seldom-used hiking trail in the San Gabriel

Mountains. Bruce happened to be on this trail because the one he had planned to take was closed. Bruce saw the hiker lying on his back. He had lost one shoe. Bruce made his way down to help. He had been carrying an emergency satellite call device for the last ten years. On this day he pressed it for the first time. The two men waited for help to arrive. Bruce spent the next four hours reassuring and listening to his new friend, Adam. God had brought just the right person to be with this 27 year old. Adam happened to be African American and gay. He seemed disoriented after his fall. Bruce, at 83, had life experiences that seemed just right for this moment. Bruce just happened to have the experience of pastoring an African-American congregation and marching with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Bruce just happened to have met weekly for a year in a private home with a group of gay men who had faced rejection and insults. Some had been violently attacked. Their negative experience with families and churches contrasted with their positive experience with Jesus. Bruce just happened to have counseled



Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team

June 12 · 🌐

Kudos to Bruce! By hiking prepared, he was able to help someone in need.

### 85-Year-Old Hiker Leads Rescue Crews to Injured 29-Year-Old on Sierra Madre Trail

An 85-year-old hiker was able to use a GPS-tracking device to lead rescue officials to a younger hiker who had been injured near Jones Peak in the hills...

KTLA.COM | BY KTLA 5 NEWS

individuals who were disoriented in one way or another. Bruce just happened to be on the mountain that day in the exact spot that Adam fell. Bruce just happened to have his device to call for emergency personnel.

Although the news reporters heralded across the country that an 83-year-old man had saved the life of a 27-year-old hiker, could it be that they had missed the real story? Perhaps God had both Bruce and Adam in exactly the place they needed to be that day.

Could it be that God has prepared you for something that is about to happen even today?

We believe that everyone has something valuable to offer and that God has placed you where you are today, with your unique lifetime experiences for a reason. Our Mission is to provide the very best support to leaders seeking to change lives, start new ministries and facilitate newly Christ-following Communities.

