

BRIDGES TO BELONGING



2015-16 IMPACT REPORT

www.bridgestobelonging.ca

A Message From Our Executive Director and Board Chair

To all of our families, donors, supporters, volunteers, and our team –

Thank you for making 2015-16 such an amazing year for our organization!

We began the year as Facile Waterloo Region, a small organization serving about 25 individuals and families in a month, and we've ended the year as Bridges to Belonging, a small organization undergoing incredible growth, more than doubling our team and tripling the individuals and families served.

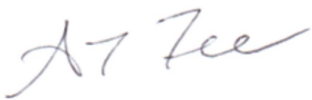
Meanwhile, in the background we've been setting the foundation for this growth, including:

- Renewing the Steering Committee/Board of Directors that guides our work;
- Developing a new Strategic Plan and adopting a new name, mission, and vision, which will benefit our work for years to come;
- Planning for new projects to be launched, including We Belong Waterloo Region, and our upcoming Creative Housing Program.

All that we have accomplished this year, we have accomplished together. All of it has been possible because of you: our families, donors, supporters, volunteers, and our amazing team. It's because of you that more people are living great lives in the community, and more people are inspired to create a community where everyone belongs, where everyone values meaningful relationships, honours choices and dreams, and celebrates the uniqueness of each person.

We have a lot of work to do this year and in years to come, but we are confident we can do it with your continued support.

Yours in inclusion,



Amy Fee
Board Chair



Cameron Dearlove
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

Bridges to Belonging supports you to build on your unique abilities, to create the life you want in the community.



We see Waterloo Region as a community where everyone belongs – where we value meaningful relationships, honour choices and dreams, and celebrate the uniqueness of each person.



Through Person-Directed Planning and Independent Facilitation, we support individuals to build on their unique abilities and create the life they want in the community.



Our Independent Facilitators (IFs) work with each individual to make decisions and develop a plan for the life they want to lead.



Once the individual has planned how they envision their life, their IF will help to facilitate that plan and connect the individual to supports and resources in the community that will help them achieve their vision.

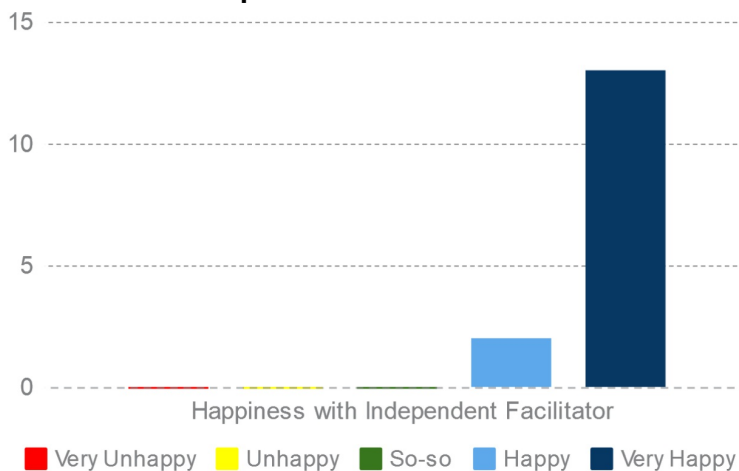


In a Participant Feedback Survey...



of participants reported that they were happy or very happy with their Independent Facilitator

How Happy are You with Your Independent Facilitator?



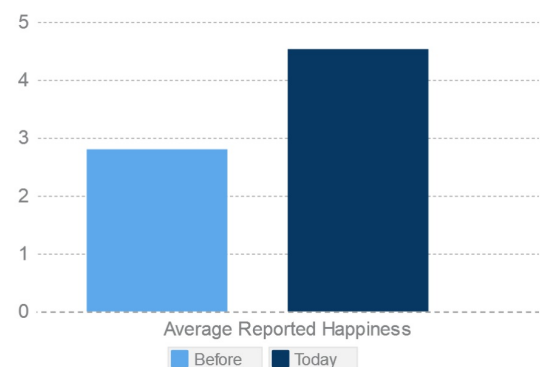
"[My facilitator] helps me to see my community for what it could be for myself, realize...my own potential."

Anonymous



Increase in reported personal happiness

Level of Personal Happiness (Home, Work, Friends, and Community) before Bridges to Belonging vs. Today



2.8

Before Bridges to Belonging

4.53

Today

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Inclusion Film Series

The Waterloo Region Inclusion Film Series screens films that will inspire, model, or challenge our thinking about what inclusion means. It is a chance for the community to come together and enjoy a film while considering what it means to be included.



At each showing we invite partners and guest speakers connected to each film, asking them to share their stories and speak about the work they do to make Waterloo Region, Canada, and the world a more inclusive place.

Our film series will continue on through 2016-2017.

On the House

On May 26, 2016, we partnered with Extend-A-Family and Autism Services Waterloo Region to host On the House: A free evening out for caregivers of loved ones with disabilities.

With the help of Proof Kitchen and Lounge and Knox Waterloo Presbyterian Church, we treated 20 caregivers to a delicious dinner and an evening to themselves while we looked after their loved ones. Thanks to our partners for helping us make this event a great success!

3rd Annual Jazz Night

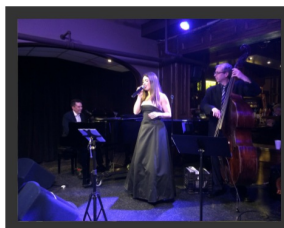
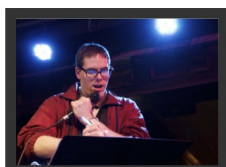
Since 2013, Bridges to Belonging has celebrated community with a night of great music, food, drinks, and a silent auction at The Jazz Room in Kitchener.

This year's performances included music and dramatic readings by our own focus people, as well as musical acts by Rebecca Binnendyk, Tim Louis, and Clark Johnston.

Thank you to all who donated, performed and attended for making this fundraiser a great success! Mark February 7, 2017 for our next Jazz Night!

2015

November 17



"Having a facilitator in our lives has made a world of difference. All of a sudden I don't have to do everything myself, I'm not the one always asking for help, and I'm discovering every day things my son can succeed at that he might not have had the opportunity to try before."

Clare Hitchens, Bridges to Belonging family member

ONGOING PROJECTS

Facilitators' Network of Waterloo Region

FNWR is a community of practice – a place where independent facilitators, parents, self-advocates, and others who do similar work can come together to share ideas, inspiration, resources, and tools to develop a culture of inclusion in our community.

Relaunched in September 2015, FNWR has had over 270 people attend its ongoing workshop series. Workshops range from roundtable discussions to guest speakers to information sessions with service providers.



Facilitator's Network of Waterloo Region



Facilitators'
Network
2015



"Cristin [my facilitator] is a special person in my life."

Evie, Bridges to Belonging Self-Advocate

"Just being with her provides a general comfort as she is someone I can openly talk to and figure out plans going forward."

Anonymous

"We sincerely appreciated meeting you today, Chaitali. Your attitude towards our son and his future development, especially supporting him to develop a personalized healthy way of cooking meals and team work with other supporters such as his social worker, job facilitator, etc. is most appreciated. Chaitali, you seem to understand a wholistic approach for our son."

Marcy, Bridges to Belonging family member

"I have been working with my Facilitator for a while. We have tried quite a few things and slowly I am starting to put some passion back into my life."

Graham, Bridges to Belonging Self-Advocate

"Bridges To Belonging is FUN!"

Anonymous

Independent Facilitation Demonstration Project

In April of 2015, Bridges to Belonging became part of a 2-year Independent Facilitation Demonstration Project funded by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

This project has allowed us to provide support to 50 people with developmental disabilities this year, helping them work toward their life goals and become more connected to their communities.

By the project's end in 2017, we aim to provide our service to 85 individuals.

FINANCIALS

Summarized Statement of Expenses and Revenues 2015-2016 Fiscal Year

Net Revenue

Government Funding	192,514
Fees	60,820
Grants	9,500
Fundraising and Donations	19,669
Other	13,407
Access Fund (100 Women Who Care)	23,050
Training Fees	2,019
Income Net of Expenses	312,431

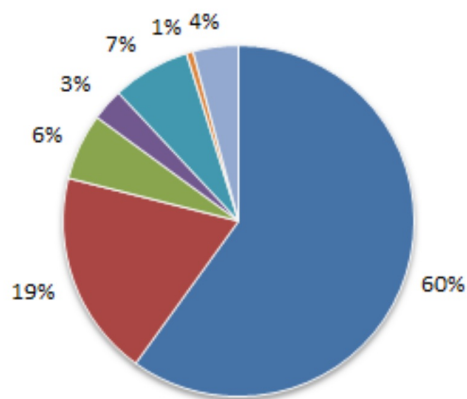
Expenses

Person-Directed Planning and Independent Facilitation	234,387
Organizational Staff Costs	49,380
Fundraising Expenses	5,206
Technology and Office Supplies	13,646
Other Programs	2,025
Total Expenses	304,645

Net Income

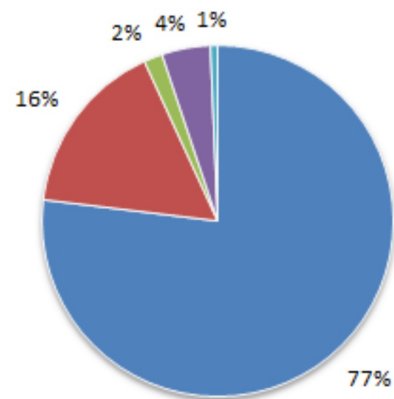
7,786

Net Revenue 2015



■ Government Funding
 ■ Fees
 ■ Fundraising and Donations
 ■ Grants
 ■ Access Fund (100 Women Who Care)
 ■ Training Fees
 ■ Other

Expenses 2015



■ Person-Directed Planning and Independent Facilitation
 ■ Organizational Staff Costs
 ■ Fundraising Expenses
 ■ Technology and Office Supplies
 ■ Other Programs

DONORS

We are incredibly grateful to the individuals, organizations, businesses, and foundations who have showed us their support.

Our thanks go to:



Kathy Collins
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McLennan Speech and Language
Simpson Financial

Kitchener and Waterloo
Community Foundation
George Cluthe Fund (KW
Community Foundation)
100 Women Who Care Waterloo
Region
(all 231 of you!)



All of our amazing Jazz Night
Auction Donors,
our Jazz Night attendees
& everyone who attended our
Inclusion Film Series!

A special and tremendous thanks
to Extend-a-Family and KidsAbility
for their generous in-kind support
of Bridges to Belonging. We
couldn't do it without you!

