



# Serving DuPage County



**B**ridge Communities is a dynamic, holistic, grassroots non-profit organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless families through meaningful partnerships with community-based agencies and individuals. The program of housing, mentoring and empowering families focuses on moving them towards a goal of permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

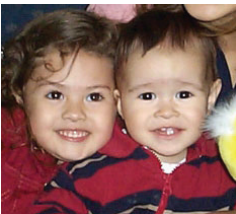
The problems Bridge Communities addresses are homelessness, underemployment, unemployment, skill deficiencies, lack of education, parenting issues and debt management. The objectives of the Bridge program are:

- Secure an improved employment status therefore increase earned income
- Reduce debt and improve credit rating
- Teach client's how to better utilize resources through life-skills mentoring
- Improve the client's and their children's educational opportunities
- Secure permanent housing upon completion of the Program



The goal of the two-year Program is to increase life skills and earning power to enable families to achieve self sufficiency, sustain permanent housing, and to break the cycle of poverty within the family unit.

Bridge Communities has helped nearly 456 families achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing. Comprehensive surveys show that 90 - 95% of families develop the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain permanent, stable housing and employment, stabilize or decreased their debt and improve their education level.



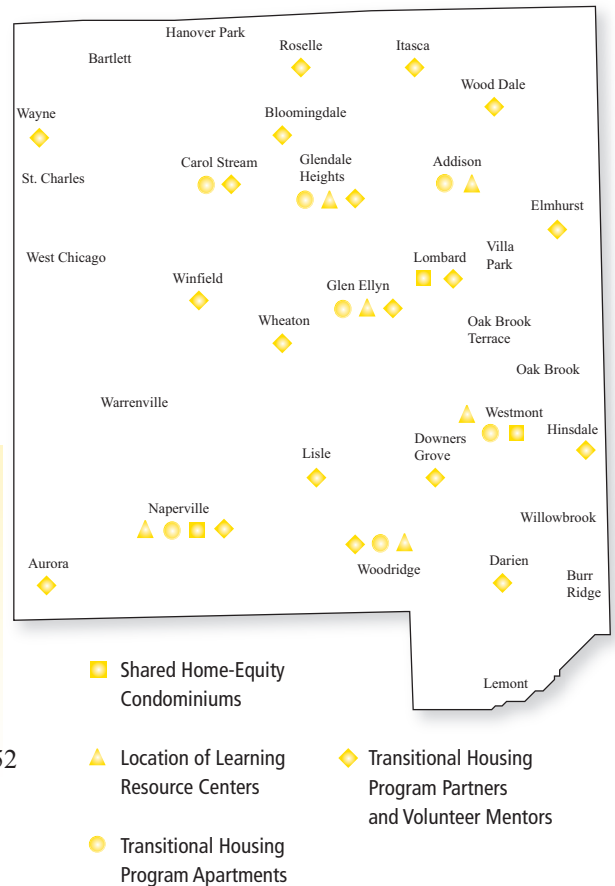
*In 2010, Bridge Communities served:*

- Number of families served, 101 (103 adults, 159 children)
- Number of families to receive employment counseling, 51
- Number of families enrolled in college courses, 33
- Number of students to receive tutoring, 52
- Number of families that graduated, 31



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Bridge Communities has a diversified strategy for resource development. Operating revenues are split between Program Partner fees, rental income, and fundraising efforts. Program Partners from faith-based and community groups help underwrite the cost of the housing and services. Fundraising efforts are diverse and well-rounded. Early in the history of the organization the decision was made to limit government funding for program needs. This philosophy has benefited the organization as it has challenged us to pursue more community-based funding sources.