



Impact Report 2026

Thank you for your incredible support!



Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ Overview

2026 marked the 18th year of the Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ. This much-anticipated, free, family-friendly festival draws thousands of BBQ and live music fans from across the Chicago region, all to raise funds for Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program. And you, as a valued sponsor, helped make it all possible!

Glorious weather, a stellar line-up of four live bands, delicious food from four vendors, and ample libations provided by Two Brothers Brewing boosted attendance and helped create the perfect opportunity to showcase your brand and community commitment.

What started as a small neighborhood event has grown into the largest amateur BBQ competition in the state of Illinois. We continued to grow and evolve the event by adding several new elements. A partnership with Go Green Glen Ellyn made this year's event more environmentally friendly by replacing single-use plastic cups with recyclable aluminum versions and the competition plates and serving ware with compostable alternatives.

Bridge Communities' Associates Board introduced a new kind of competition and added to the fun by running a Corn Hole Tournament. A Signature Raffle featuring a premium Monument-brand gas grill, plus everything you'd need to throw a first-rate BBQ party, generated even more excitement.

To reinforce the purpose behind the BBQ, Bridge gifted every attendee upon entry with a fan including a QR code to our website. Entrants demonstrated enthusiastic support for the BBQ and Bridge's mission by generously contributing to a free will donation.

Piglet Playland delivered on the family fun theme with a giant slide, a myriad of activities, live entertainment from Mary Macaroni, and more. The area was full of laughter, energy, and joy and helped draw hundreds of young families to the BBQ.



2026 Financial Results

Thanks to you and our many generous participants, net proceeds were \$49,094. New elements like the Corn Hole Tournament, Signature Raffle, and free will donation added to the top line. Funds raised will help provide housing and programming for Bridge families in the coming year.

Your sponsorship also enabled Bridge to promote our mission – and your brand – to an estimated 2,000 attendees, competitors, and volunteers. The more sponsor dollars we have the more funds go directly to the bottom line. Your sponsorship was key to maximizing net income and our ability to impact the lives of the resilient families Bridge serves.

We hope you will continue your support of this unique, community-wide event in 2027 and beyond.

2026 Results:

Revenue: \$71,215

Expense: \$22,121

Net: \$49,094



BBQ Marketing

Your brand was promoted via a four-month long email and social media campaign reaching thousands of your current and potential customers. That's in addition to all the day-of marketing, including lots of eye-catching signage, multiple onstage announcements, and the opportunity to interact directly with attendees via a booth. Moreover, 6,000+ of our digital 2026 annual report recipients will see your company thanked as a cherished supporter of Bridge Communities and the brave families we have the honor of helping.

Social Media:

Your logo was shared on Bridge's Facebook page, with more than 3,900 followers, our Instagram with more than 1,700 followers, and our LinkedIn with more than 1,500 followers. On the BBQ's Facebook page, your company received even more attention with over 3,500 followers. In the months leading up to the BBQ, the BBQ Facebook page had a reach of over 23,000 and generated 73,000+ views!

E-mail Campaign:

Your company was thanked and your logo was prominently shared in a series of 8 emails that went out to 5,000+ people.

Website:

Your company's logo was also shared on our website and was seen by our website users through over 5,000 page visits!



Thank you!

Thank you again for supporting Bridge Communities through your sponsorship of the Glen Ellyn Backyard BBQ. You are helping to provide homes and hope to 100+ DuPage families this year through Bridge's unique and proven service model.

Sponsorships sell out fast for this highly popular event. **Won't you please join us and commit now to sponsoring next year's Backyard BBQ on September 11th.**





Connecting families facing homelessness to
a better future since 1988

Mission:

The mission of Bridge Communities is to partner with families and their children, providing stable housing and transformational support so they are empowered to overcome homelessness and thrive for generations to come.



Vision:

We envision a community where every family has a secure home and is thriving.



Values:

Our core values—Partnership, Hope, Integrity, Respect, and Empowerment—guide everything we do and reflect the commitment of everyone involved in Bridge Communities.

