

MISSION STATEMENT

Bridges Foundation offers opportunities to anyone seeking to deepen their relationship with God and God's people through ongoing formation grounded in the experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Everyday Life. The Foundation members assist individuals in spiritual growth so they can transform themselves and their world.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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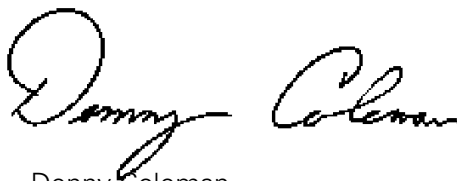
Letter from the President

A lot of work has been done this year by the committees and I want to thank them for their dedication to the Bridges program and their willingness to labor in the kingdom.

We have two individuals who will be leaving the board but will stay active on the committees as consultants. The first is *Pat Carter*. Pat has been a Prayer Companion at the Lwanga Center since its reopening. She has been a member of the Board since 2003. For two of those years, Pat was the President and introduced us to the Ignatian way of running a meeting. Pat led the board through a lot of hard decisions during her tenure and I know the Board appreciates her leadership. Pat has been the presenter in the Mentoring Program for 3 years and will continue in that capacity. Pat has also improved that program by adding a peer supervision. So thanks Pat for all you do and will continue to do.

Joan Casey, CSJ joined the Board in 2003 also. Joan has been involved in Bridges II from its inception and was the Coordinator for 3 years. She has been a member of the Program and Maintenance Committee for 6 years. Joan is also a prayer companion and gives her time to 2 sites. Joan thanks for your commitment and your dedication to our program.

A lot of changes have taken place in the past and it looks like the future is not going to be any different. Our present executive director has given notice of her resignation effective next year. And with the amount of work the executive director does, that transition will be challenging and difficult. So, the Bridges Foundation continues to change and grow and is definitely following our mission statement. *Kudos to you all!*



Denny Coleman
President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An Executive Committee has been formed that includes the president, chairpersons of each committee, the vice-president and the executive director. This committee meets to discuss the projects of each committee to ensure that work is not being duplicated and to facilitate open communication among the various committees.

BRIDGES I PROGRAM

Over the past years, Bridges I has had 40 – 50 retreatants per year. But this year Bridges I has only 24 retreatants. Our prayer companions have taken this situation and turned it into a positive by becoming creative with how they present the Exercises and the short presentations each week. There are two individuals who are making the Exercises

one-on-one. At one site all of the prayer companions show up even if they don't have a retreatant. For the short presentations, one of the prayer companions is assigned the topic but all the prayer companions join in which gives the presentation more of a community feel. At another site, the presentations are more general and not so closely aligned with the topics contained in the Exercises. So, I congratulate the prayer companions for thinking outside the box and making a positive from what seemed a negative.

BRIDGES II PROGRAM

Bridges II has 19 participants. We are at the halfway point in the Bridges II program. This year Hsin-hsin Huang and Paul Coutinho, S.J. joined Marian Love and Jack Callahan, S.J. as presenters in this program. Also new this year,

is the addition of small groups which meet about 2 weeks after the Bridges II large group meeting. Small groups were added this year because the 2007-2008 attendees indicated they needed more processing time than just one meeting a month after being in Bridges I which meets every week. These small groups also help attendees be more faithful to praying each day and the sharing helps to encourage attendees to continue to try and put God at the center of their life.

PRAYER COMPANIONS TRAINING PROGRAM

The primary goal of a prayer companion in the Bridges I program is to help individuals grow in a personal relationship with God using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Prayer Companions Training program helps attendees to process the invitation to become a prayer companion; teaches the art of listening

and mirroring that can be used in a one-on one setting; talks about boundaries, triangles and self-disclosure, and other topics of interest to the attendees. The presenter is Madeleine Lane, SSND, and MA.L.M.F.T. Director of the Family Center in St. Louis and guest lecturers are invited periodically throughout the year. Because of changes in their lives, some of those who were going to attend this program decided not to attend this year so the program started out with only 3 people. The instructor and attendees came to a mutual decision to not continue meeting with so few people and they were encouraged to return to Bridges II to continue to learn about the Exercises.

MENTORING PROGRAM

Using the book *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* the Mentoring Program presents to

prayer companions in the Bridges I Program a briefing before each part of the Exercises is scheduled, expanding possibilities for them by using the text and language of the Spiritual Exercises. This program also helps individuals to become comfortable with the book of the Exercises so that one is freed in adapting these Exercises to individual exercitants. A peer supervision section was added this year and the reaction has been enthusiastic. Jack Shannon, a prayer companion in the Bridges I program has consented to be co-presenter with Pat Carter in order to bring a male perspective to the program. This year six people are attending the Mentoring Program.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee has been hard at work asking for donations. The committee has decided to have two solicitations each year. One mailing in October and the other in April. The Development Committee's goal for this year was to bring in \$10,000. To date people have donated \$6,958.32. Tom Simon and Colleen Peters of the Finance Committee are making an extended effort to contact foundations and submit grant applications. This year we received a grant of \$2,000 from the Angela Merici Fund.

accomplishments

CREATION AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

- Formulated and disseminated "Policy for Ongoing Formation of Prayer Companions"
- Reviewed assessments for the 2007-programs and made suggestions as follows:
 - *Bridges I* Individually directing retreatants without the communal aspect;
 - *Bridges II* created and offered additional and optional Small Group monthly meetings;
 - *Mentoring/Peer Supervision* program was expanded to include both feminine and masculine approaches to spirituality and peer supervision.
- Revised 2008-2009 assessment forms
- Board Listening Session with prayer companions held

Immediate Plans for the future include:

- Collaborating with the Marketing Committee on the March Tasters and the Ignatian Community Renewal Retreat in July of 2009
- Creating an interim program between Tasters and Bridges I
- Planning a paraliturgical service at the closing ceremony of the 2008-2009 Bridges I

Miriam Wesselmann, SSND, *Chairperson*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Developed a budget with a projected deficit of \$10,000, and advised the Development Committee to set a goal of raising that amount by June 30, 2009
- Approved six applications for financial aid
- Applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from the Angela Merici Fund

- Recommended removal of Bridges I tuition verbiage to be replaced with the following verbiage: *"In order to make the program affordable, you are welcome to enroll at any level of payment that you choose, even if it is at no cost to you. The cost to the Bridges Foundation for putting one retreatant through the Bridges I program is \$882. We depend on grants and donations from our benefactors to alleviate this expense and to make it possible for all who wish to attend the retreat to do so, regardless of their ability to pay. Please pay whatever amount you can afford. A payment schedule can be arranged if you wish. If you pay more than the cost of sponsoring one retreatant, we appreciate your generosity. If you cannot give as much, we understand. One person helps another and no one is turned away due to financial circumstances."*
- Allotted \$2,000 to the Marketing Committee for the establishment of a Recruiting Coordinator;

- Purchased a one-year CD in the amount of \$10,000 and a two-year CD in the amount of \$5,000

Tom Simon, *Chairperson*

MARKETING COMMITTEE

- Twenty-five Bridges I retreatants is the lowest ever because of the downturn in the economy. In response, our marketing efforts are being intensified to a year round effort
- Changing the Bridges I brochure to a more generic brochure remaining relevant for a longer period of time
- Developed new logo
- Solicited testimonials for the website
- After studying the demographics of past retreatants and compared those to the Metro St. Louis area population trends, the committee recommended opening a new site in the afternoon in St. Charles and

will consider opening a site in Illinois next year. The Notre Dame site will close next year.

- Two Taster Sessions offered free of charge in March. Tasters give people unfamiliar with the prayer techniques employed in The Exercises a "taste" of different ways of praying.
- In conjunction with the Programming Creation and Maintenance Committee an interim program is being created to prepare participants to enter the Exercises in September. This interim program will be held from April to late summer.
- **Ignatian Community Renewal Retreat – July 24-25, 2009** This retreat is a way to reconnect past Bridges retreatants,

strengthen the connection of all members of the Ignatian Spirituality Network, and invite those who have not experienced The Exercises to consider participating.

Clarence Heller, *Chairperson*



2007-2008 financials

INCOME

EXPENSES

DATES OF INTEREST – 2009-2010

BRIDGES I

Tuition	\$13,881
Books	\$115
Total - Bridges I	\$13,996

BRIDGES II

Tuition	\$4,688
Books	\$524
Total - Bridges II	\$5,212

PRAYER COMPANIONS

Tuition	\$2,275
Total - Prayer Companions	\$2,275

Discernment Day	\$468
Faithsharing Retreat	\$1,260
Marketplace	\$3,368
Spirituality Retreat	
Closing Dinner	\$814
Mentoring	\$250
Total - Other Sources	\$6,160.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$27,643**

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$35,921**

Total Operating Income **\$(8,278)**

Donations **\$37,425**

Income after Fundraising **\$29,147**

CASH BALANCE 6/30/08 **\$46,664**

RESTRICTED FUNDS **\$25,299**

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS **\$21,365**

ADMINISTRATION

Annual Meeting	\$126
Board Meetings	\$234
Bank Charges	\$159
IT Expense	\$447
Office Supplies	\$409
Postage/Delivery	\$621
Printing/Reproduction	\$1,227
Director's Salary	\$5,000
Gifts	\$70
Marketing	\$734
Other	\$35
Total Administration	\$9,062

BRIDGES I

\$25.00 Discount	\$475
Food	\$12
Financial Aid	\$2,100
Rent	\$1,150
Insurance	\$438
Stipends	\$7,900
Total - Bridges I	\$12,075

BRIDGES II

Food	\$25
Books	\$864
Supplies	\$177
Financial Aid	\$450
Rent	\$826
Insurance	\$289
Stipends	\$3,100
Total - Bridges II	\$5,731

PRAYER COMPANIONS

Books	\$137
Rent	\$434
Insurance	\$149
Stipends	\$3,050
Total - Prayer Companions	\$3,770

Mentoring	\$1,200
Discernment Day	\$330
Faith Sharing Retreat	\$527
Marketplace	\$1,390
Spirituality Retreat	
Closing Dinner	\$1,055
Travel	\$781

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$35,921**

Information Sessions for Bridges I

Bridges I is a program for those who want to make the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola

Thursday, May 14; 7 to 9 p.m. (For all sites)

Tuesday, July 21

St. Charles (site and time to be determined)

Wednesday, July 29; 10 a.m.

Webster Groves Christian Church

Thursday, August 6; 7 p.m.

Assumption

Monday, August 10; 7 p.m.

St. John Bosco

Wednesday, August 12; 7 p.m.

St. Charles Lwanga Center

St. Louis University

If you are an alumni or staff of St. Louis University and would like to attend there, please call the Office of Campus Ministry at 314-977-2425.

Bridges I Dates of Interest

August 23, 2009

Last Day to submit Bridges I applications

Week of September 6

Interviews at each site

Week of September 13

Opening Meeting at each site

Week of September 27

First Regular Meeting at each site

Please contact **Cheryl Rauschenbach**

at cher.rauschenbach@gmail.com or 636-225-8433 for information on any of the programs listed above.

Tasters: A Taste of the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola

Tuesday, March 10; 6 to 9 p.m.

*Our Lady of Sorrows
5020 Rhodes Avenue
St. Louis MO 63109*

Friday, March 13; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*Blessed Teresa of Calcutta
1050 Smith Avenue
Ferguson MO 63135*

Bridges II

Bridges II is a program for those who have made the Spiritual Exercises and want to deepen that experience. Bridges II large group meets once a month and has a small group option for a second meeting during the month.

Saturday, September 12; 8:45 a.m.

First Meeting

Prayer Companions Training Program

For those who would like to become a prayer companion in the Bridges I program or for ongoing formation.

Saturday, September 12; 10 a.m.

First Meeting

Mentoring Program

The Mentoring Program is designed to help guides understand and experience the dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises through the use of reading, reflection, input, and the sharing of the wisdom of prayer companions.

Saturday, September 26; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

First Meeting

Please contact **Charlene Ricker** at crf55@charter.net or 314-479-8432 for information on any of the programs listed above.