



**Lake Worth West Resident
Planning Group, Inc.**

ANNUAL REPORT

**FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

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LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc. (LWWRPG) has provided continual service to our community for 27 years! LWWRPG completed a change to new administrative offices and staff re-organization this past year, but we didn't miss a beat in providing prenatal and positive parenting education, kindergarten readiness skills, college and career preparation for struggling high school students, women's wellness activities, and basic needs distributions. The staff were heroes continuing virtual services as needed, then resuming in-person services to support more than 2,500 residents last year.

This fiscal year was remarkable busy. Navigation services continued to assist low-income residents with completing Medicaid and/or SNAP applications, rental assistance, car seat safety education, VPK and school registrations, transportation services requests and referrals to healthcare and essential social services. Distribution of donated food and supplies to our families continued throughout the year, thanks to our dedicated staff, partners and volunteers. We continued using Zoom, Google Meet and other social media platforms as an alternative way to provide services to families with transportation issues and posted activity schedules and our incredible events on our Facebook page in English and Spanish.

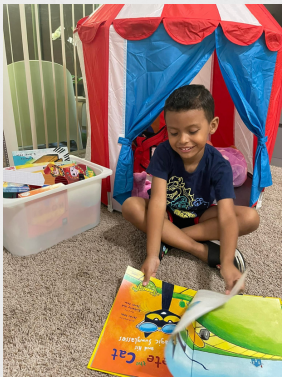
None of this would be possible without our primary funders and partners. Bridges at Lake Worth West and Parent Child Plus continue to be our two main programs funded by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County (CSC). United Way of Palm Beach County renewed support for the College Prep Program for the tenth year. We continued our partnership with Palm Beach County, Office of Community Revitalization. The "Little House" administrative office will be demolished soon, but there is hope according to the County of getting a new facility for LWWRPG/Bridges programs. We also thank other continuing partners such as Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Publix Super Market Charities, Early Learning Coalition, Palm Beach County Food Bank, Safe Kids, Palm Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church and Palm Springs Public Library for their unconditional support.

LWWRPG successfully achieved the 2022 Accreditation for Excellence in Nonprofit Management from Nonprofits First. We are ready to reopen the Afterschool program for elementary school students, "Brilliant Minds", offering homework, reading assistance and STEAM activities focused on science. As you will read in the following pages, our devoted staff worked intensely to serve the needs of Lake Worth West residents, young and old. We are proud of our achievements and look forward to implementing new initiatives in the coming year.

HIGHLIGHTS DURING THE PAST YEAR



- 2,500 individual children, youth, and adults received services
- 70 young mothers and their families received Bridges at Lake Worth West services, resources and referrals for the 12th year.
- 194 parents and their young children learned early reading readiness skills through Parent Child Plus home-based literacy education
- 22 parents learned how to help their kindergarten children to read during the 2022 Summer Reading Loss Program.
- The College Prep Program served 51 high school students. 100% of our seniors students graduated and went on to post-secondary education options.
- The Women Helping Women project was held, and included Yoga, Zumba and Let's Get Cooking classes.
- INVEST in others financial literacy project successfully helped 50 women learn new skills.



- COFI (Community Organizing and Family Issues) a Community Engagement Training was offered to parents in the community, and it was completed by 18 of our members/ambassadors who successfully graduated.
- The Parent Engagement and Leadership Program/Ambassadors Group is growing, many of our members have become community leaders; they support the staff facilitating workshops and parent/child activities and also planning and organizing community events.
- LWW in collaboration with OCR was able to distribute food to more than 500 families in the monthly food distribution event.



HIGHLIGHTS DURING THE PAST YEAR

- The BRIDGES Ambassadors planned and coordinated their first community event in the month of September to celebrate the culture and Hispanic Heritage. It was a fun, informative and very successful event.
- Virtual English Café continued on Tuesdays in collaboration with Palm Springs Public Library.
- In collaboration with PBSO and Harmony in the Streets, LWW provided free Summer Camp to 53 elementary school children.
- 150 children/youth received backpacks and school supplies at a drive-through event.
- We started a Father's Initiative program by putting together a soccer team who will be playing against other soccer teams in the near future.
- We provided food to over 3000 individuals through our monthly food distribution.
- Proudly employed one College Prep graduate as a receptionist during the summertime to support full-time staff while performing clerical duties.
- We opened new offices at 2411 10th Avenue North, Lake Worth, for program and administrative staff.



COLLEGE PREPARATION ACADEMY

2021-2022 Report

United Way of Palm Beach County and Publix Super Markets Charities for supporting this program.

LWWRPG's 2021-2022 College Prep Program had another outstanding year, despite remote programming for most of the year. Fifty-two (52) 9th to 12th grade students enrolled (Goal: 50). Demographic data indicate, 96% of students (50) were Hispanic and 4% (2) were Haitian; 100% resided in families with incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. By gender, 79% of students selected female and 21% male, an increase in male students from previous years. By age, 69% (36) were ages 14-17 and 31% were 18+. Sixty-five percent resided in zip code 33461 with the remaining 35% in zip codes 33413, 15, 24, 54, 60, and 63, an indication that this specialized program is valuable to students in other county areas.

The College Prep Program, in its 10th year with United Way funding, continued to provide in-depth college prep training, tutoring, social-emotional learning, assistance, and valuable insight and exposure to colleges/universities and careers and financial aid for students and families. Program Coordinator, Ms. Joyel Glaze Loiz, M.S. expertly led the program with certified teacher, Maria Armayor, BA, and Assistant Teacher, Whitney Petit-bien. Significant challenges included increased need for technology, more college/career exam fees, and maintaining on-going momentum of students. However, the program has thrived.

Despite meeting virtually most of the year, LWWRPG was able to continue College Prep services with all our students by providing whole group, small group, and individual virtual sessions during the year. Additionally, upon returning to our face-to-face College Prep sessions in September, parental and student interest in our program grew and with that our 2022-2023 enrollment has grown. Students accessed test preparation for Florida assessments, AP, ACT/SAT and college readiness assessments using the Khan Academy online. College-bound seniors and parents found assistance available through partnerships with Florida College Access Network Financial Aid with Scholarship Assist, and TRIO EOC of Palm Beach State College. Partnering organizations and experts made presentations on topics of interest to the students.

Academic tutoring and homework assistance in reading, math and other subjects was offered. However, we found more intensive tutoring is needed. We also maintained exposure to college opportunities for LWW's low-income youth with eight different schools making virtual presentations. One in-person tour of FAU occurred, and 25 students attended a NACAC's National College Fair in Miami. An in-person college tour at Palm Beach State with an overview of PBSC offerings and TRIO Support was held with 53 students and parents attending.

During the 2022 summer months, we began a program innovation, forming the "Rising Seniors" group (Class of 2023); 19 students were provided an overview of what to expect from the FAFSA (federal financial aid) application process. During this workshop, students were provided with a list of documentation and evidence that will be needed to complete the FAFSA, explained the differences between a Pell grant, loans, types of loans, and work study, and provided resources to prepare for creation of the FSA ID, the EFC number meaning, and how to avoid the verification process. The group was also assisted with test prep and registrations, college and career planning, career exploration, college/career research. Staff provided application assistance to begin scholarship process, compose résumés, and begin composition of essays.



OUTCOMES:

THE COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM MET OR EXCEEDED ITS GOALS. 100% OF STUDENTS INCREASED COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION SKILLS (GOAL 80%). 100% OF 16 SENIORS GRADUATED WITH A STANDARD DIPLOMA (GOAL 90%). 100% OF GRADUATING SENIORS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY, CAREER PROGRAMS, OTHER POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS, OR ARE EMPLOYED. THE COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM IS A REMARKABLE SUCCESS!

A College Prep Successful Story



Perla lost her mother to COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 College Prep year. Prior to her mother's hospitalization and death, Perla excelled in academics taking Advance Placement, Cambridge AICE, and Dual Enrollment Course, graduating in 2022 just shy of earning her Associates of Arts degree. Perla's sister, a prior College Prep student, had graduated with honors and enrolled at FAU. Shortly after her mother's death, Perla began to withdraw, miss school, and became hopeless/depressed. Her mother was the only family she had locally; her father was absent.

The professional program (Certified Secondary Educator, a Migrant Social Worker, and a Palm Beach State College Academic Advisor), were well equipped with contacts, resources, and experiences to support Perla and her sister. College Prep is a family, not only supporting our students with academics and future planning, but we also build lasting, trusting relationships. We maintained on-going contacts, ensured Perla could continue her education via distant learning, conducted home visits and connected the sisters with resources to meet physical and emotional needs. A Palm Beach State College employee facilitated Perla's withdrawal from classes and readmission upon graduation. Perla connected with an uncle in Palm Beach County and lived there until graduation. Perla graduated as the Valedictorian of her class.

We had another scholar that really wanted to attend Florida Atlantic University. However as a first-generation student coming from a low-socioeconomic household, she did not think it was possible. Ms. Loiz encouraged her to apply. Due to high-test scores, great academic history as a Cambridge AICE and Dual Enrolled student at PBSC, she gained acceptance. Every scholarship that she was encouraged to complete, she did so. She was awarded \$10,000 from the Your Community Foundation Scholarships, and countless micro scholarships. This student graduated as the salutatorian of her graduating class! She also gained employment at Lake Worth West Bridges program, under the very same umbrella that assisted her. Now, she is a full-time first-year student at Florida Atlantic University, and a part-time employee of Lake Worth West's Bridges program.

BRIDGES AT LAKE WORTH WEST

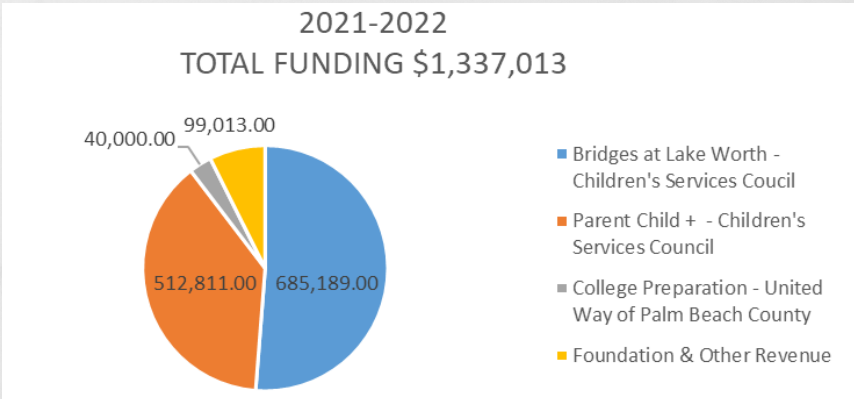


BRIDGES at Lake Worth West is one of the ten Bridges sites in Palm Beach County, created and funded by the Children’s Services Council, who have been serving young families since 2011. BRIDGES staff encourages meaningful parent-child interactions and helps strengthen families by providing enrichment activities that focus on communication, literacy, and sharing quality time. Activities are for children from 0-8 years of age.



Bridges also coordinates community capacity building workshops and activities for families that will increase self-sufficiency, health and wellness, resilience, and parenting skills or knowledge. Staff screens children with the ASQ-3, a standardized tool parents complete that assesses early child development. Children who score “at risk” and of “concern” on the ASQ-3 are referred to Home Safe. This referral was made promptly for at least 84% of screenings identified as “concern”. Experts agree that early detection of developmental problems is essential to timely and effective interventions, which left unaddressed, may worsen over time.

We had a very successful Summer Reading Program, where 22 young parents participated for 8 consecutive weeks in educational and entertained sessions. They learned strategies to support their children's reading skills at home.

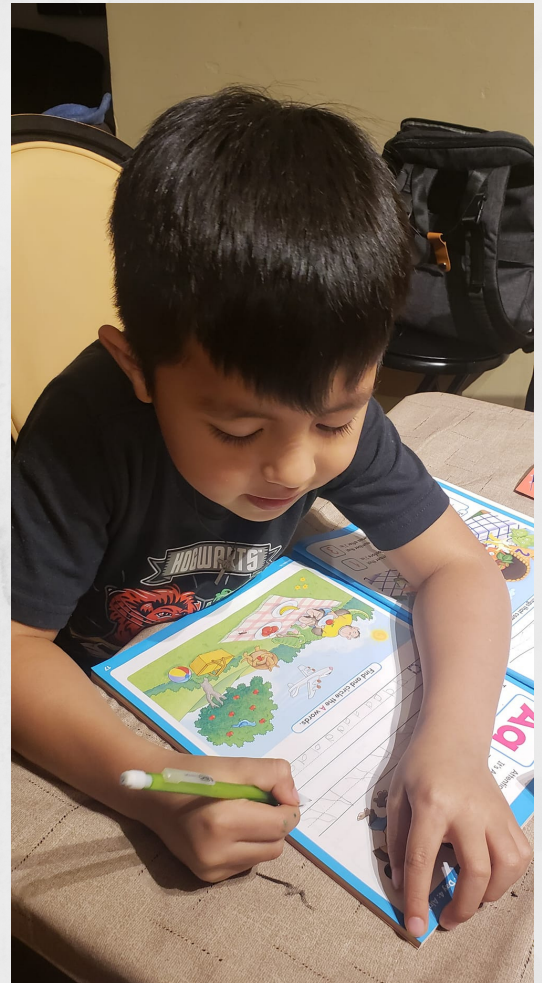


BRIDGES AT LAKE WORTH WEST

Triple P is part of BRIDGES services, a parenting program that aims to prevent behavioral, emotional and developmental problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents. BRIDGES at Lake Worth West was able to enroll 50 families in Triple P services. Surveys are conducted among parents who complete 4 Triple P sessions. 100% of parents completing the program reported satisfaction after the last Triple P session.

During the last fiscal year, BRIDGES at Lake Worth West provided education and resource navigations to approximately 300 individuals (pregnant women, mothers, babies and children). 73 new intakes were completed for families with children 0-8 living in targeted census tracts.

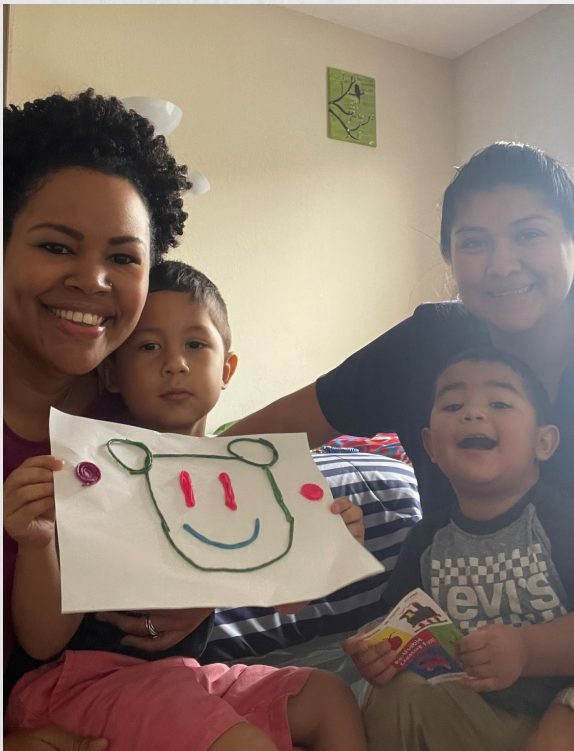
BRIDGES seeks to create neighborhood environments that cultivate healthy, safe, and strong children. The theory of change states that if enough families are reached and become engaged with the BRIDGES program, this will occur.



PARENTCHILD PLUS PROGRAM



Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group offers ParentChild Plus (PC Plus) in our assigned service area of West Palm Beach through partnership with the Children’s Services Council of PBC. It is a home-based literacy education program for parents and their young children. Led by Coordinator, Blanca Cartagena, five (6) Early Learning Specialists visit families at home (in-person or virtually) to promote verbal interaction, parent-child bonding, and school readiness skills for children between the ages of two and four years old. The program focuses on making sure children enter school ready to succeed because their parents have the knowledge and resources to build school readiness where it starts... at home.



PARENTCHILD PLUS PROGRAM



The 2021-2022 Fiscal Year was successful, despite the continued pandemic. PC Plus maintained a case load of 79 active clients all year. There were 58 cases closed as 55 parents successfully completed the program; 3 dropped out due to scheduling conflicts and other reasons. During this period, 58 new families were enrolled in the program. Early Learning Specialists were able to complete 5,433 virtual or in-person sessions per family. Families received 913 books and 907 toys donated by the program. Timeliness of recording activities was 99% and timeliness of recording assessments was 100%. Program staff was able to attend virtual outreach activities at BRIDGES at Lake Worth West, West Palm Beach Library and West Palm Beach Convention Center.



Staff continued doing outreach and encouraging person-to-person sharing between the families in the program. Early Learning Specialists delivered toys and books plus other developmental materials to families to ensure the proper functioning of PC Plus sessions. We included PC Plus families in food distribution events and provided the families with \$10,000 in El Bodegon Supermarket and Walmart gift cards for food. Various staff training workshops and Zoom meetings continued.



ORGANIZATIONAL FUTURE PLANS

In the coming year, Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc. will continue to provide the BRIDGES at Lake Worth West and ParentChild Plus programs. We will also continue serving adults, school-aged children, youth, teens, and pregnant women as funding allows.

Our exciting plans include:

- Working with the County on plans for the new Lake Worth West Community Center.
- Purchasing a new, larger storage unit for non-perishable food and basic need supplies.
- Implementing a new cloud-based data management system.
- Finding new resources to enhance the new after-school programs for elementary school students.
- Enhancing the College Prep Program partnering with United Way and other funders.
- Expanding the ParentChild Plus Program to be able to serve more children in Palm Beach County.
- Continuing the Women's Club and Women's wellness programs.
- Training parents to become Community Leaders and LWWRPG Ambassadors
- Celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas by distributing food and toys to our families.
- Resume community engagement events with partners.
- Hold an annual fundraising event, in-person or virtually, to benefit our literacy programs.
- Secure a commercial licensed driver for the 24-passenger bus to improve access to LWWRPG services.
- Secure new funders and grantors and continue ongoing funding partnerships.
- Continue the implementation of effective non-profit management practices and adhere to prescribed standards of excellence to achieve Non-Profit First's Agency Certification of Excellence!

STAFF MEMBERS

Saidy Garzon	Chief Executive Officer
Zoila Wahli	Executive Assistant
Milind Chokshi	Chief Financial Officer/Accountant
Randee Lefkow	Grant Consultant
Jennie Carter	Bridges Site Director
Hilda Wudkiewicz	Bridges Parent Educator
Veronica Callejas	Bridges Child Development Specialist
Mirian Santana	Bridges Navigator
Fanny Valeriano	Bridges Child Watch
Maricarmen Donet	Bridges Outreach Coordinator
Blanca Cartagena	ParentChild Plus Site Director
Arexy Bravo	Early Learning Specialist
Andrea Croes	Early Learning Specialist
Luciola Figueroa	Early Learning Specialist
Patricia Valldeperas	Early Learning Specialist
Jennifer Cruz	Early Learning Specialist
Joyel Glaze Loiz	College Prep Program Coordinator
Maria Armayor	College Prep Teacher
Whitney Petit-bein	College Prep Assistant Teacher

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice-President
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Treasurer
Richard Llerena



**Board Member-Past
President**
Heath Chute



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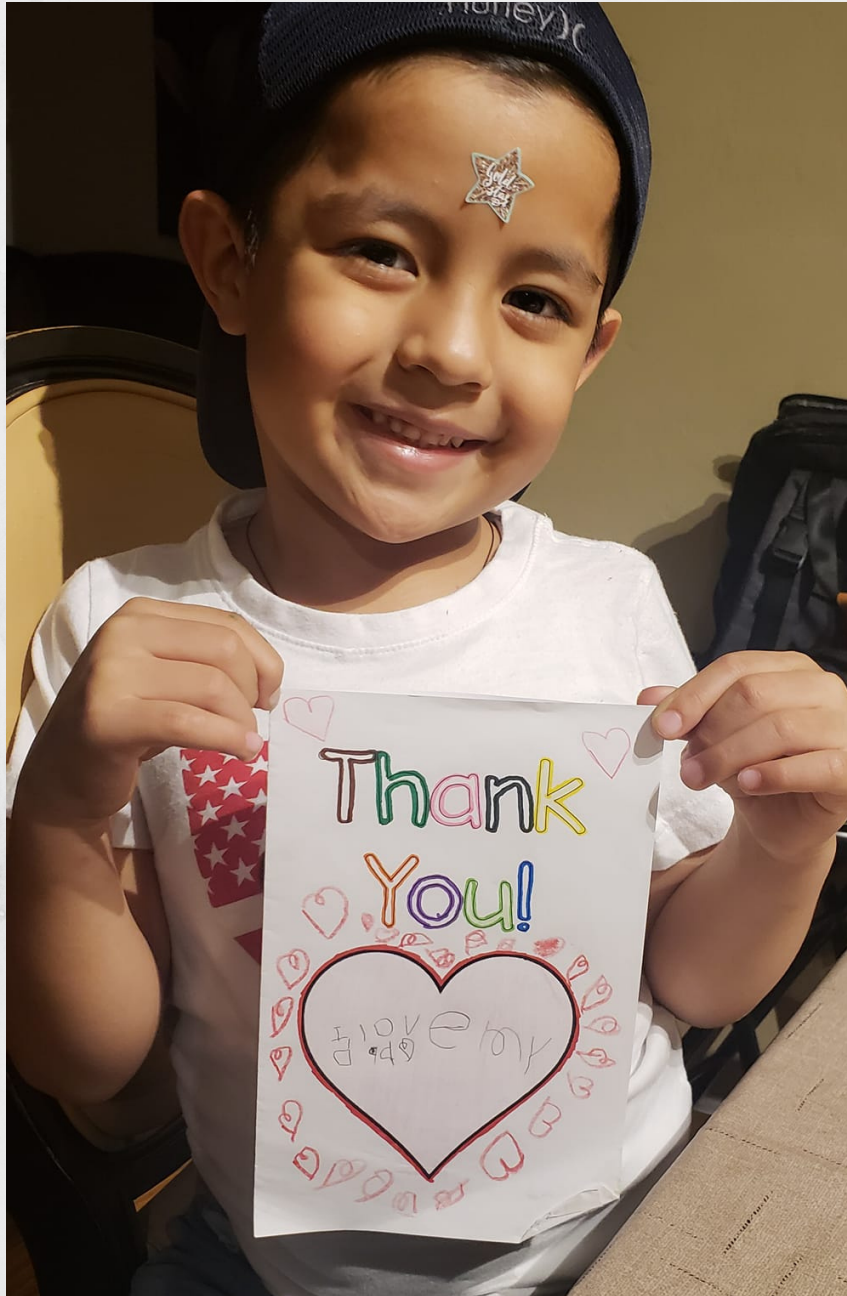
We are grateful to our funders, supporters, partners,
staff and board for bringing important and
empowering services to our community.
We look forward to a healthy, bright, and successful
year!



SUCCESSFUL EVENTS









Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc.

Lake Worth Resident Planning Group, Inc.
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