



community®
bridges

EMPOWERING
GIRLS

BUILDING LEADERS
FOR THE
COMMUNITY

FOR 20 YEARS

ANNUAL
REPORT
2017

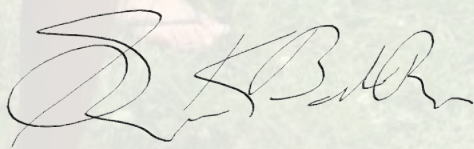


Message from the Director

When I think about the past year here at Community Bridges (CB) I think of the stories our girls have shared and the way in which each story shows that we are truly making an impact on their lives. I joined Community Bridges in June 2016 as the Executive Director, and my first year has been filled with learning from our girls and hearing their unique stories. One of my highlights from this past year was Community Bridges receiving the 2017 Nonprofit Village Making a Difference Award for the legacy we have built and will continue to build by empowering girls in our community. I believe in girl leadership. I believe in empowering diverse girls to become tomorrow's leaders. Their success is our legacy.

One girl whose success I want to share is CB alumna Rudaelle (Rudi) Elien. Rudi graduated from Montgomery Blair High School this past spring and is now attending my alma mater, Towson University. During her time in CB Rudi founded her own club, started her own small business, and advocated on behalf of local nonprofits at the Montgomery County Council. After receiving her Towson acceptance letter Rudi sent us this text: *"If it wasn't for CB I would have never even applied [to Towson]! Thank you! Also, I received the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship that I worked so hard on with both Marianne (CB High School Program Manager) and Sydne (CB College and Career Program Manager). Thank you again and again for everything!"*

Over the next few pages you will have the opportunity to see our legacy – the success of our CB girls – through their own unique stories. As we celebrate our 20th Anniversary we aim to continue to grow our programs and reach more girls in grades 4-12 in Montgomery County. As we look to our future we see that it is bright. Thank you to our incredible staff, volunteers, mentors, families, girls and supporters who have all contributed to our amazing success. With your support we will continue to empower diverse girls to become our community's future leaders. Let's work together and see what amazing stories we can help our girls write in the year ahead.



Shannon Babe-Thomas
Executive Director



Rudi and Shannon at Towson

OUR MISSION

Community Bridges empowers girls from diverse backgrounds to become exceptional students, positive leaders, and healthy young women



OUR VISION

We envision an inclusive community where each person is valued and has abundant opportunities to improve themselves and the world around them

NAGNIN'S STORY



Curling up on her bed in her dorm room at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Nagnin Aktar may look small but she is a force to be reckoned with. The freshman, who attends the university on a full-ride scholarship, is studying pre-med and business and won't let anything stand in the way of accomplishing her dreams. Nagnin was born and raised in Bangladesh, where she explains that education for girls and women is not always valued. "In Bangladesh people don't expect much from a girl" she writes. "My relatives expected that my male cousins would have their dream careers like engineer, doctor, businessman, etc., while I, as a girl, was expected to stay home, take care of the kids, and cook for the family."

Nagnin's family immigrated to the United States when she was 12 years old. She joined the Community Bridges Girls Program her freshman year of high school and by senior year had become the president of the after-school program at Springbrook High. That same year Nagnin began to research the requirements and process for achieving US citizenship. She knew that without citizenship her and her family's opportunities for success in America might be limited. In February of 2016 Nagnin passed her citizenship test, and now she is coaching her parents through the process as well.



Community Bridges works every day to give girls like Nagnin the resources and support they need to make their voices heard. Writes Nagnin, "I believe that each and every girl has her own voice, and Community Bridges helped me find mine."

CB GIRLS PROGRAM BY NUMBERS

684

Hours of after-school programming delivered by CB Girls Program specialists over FY'17

239

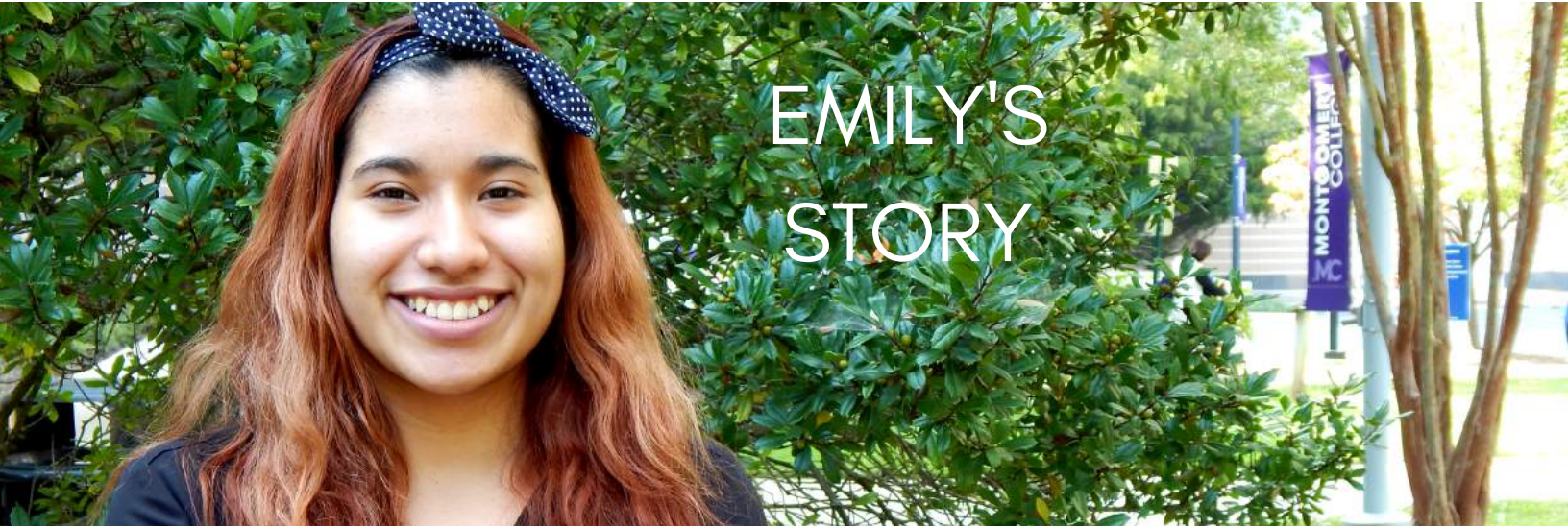
Girls enrolled in Community Bridges' Girls Program in FY'17

84

Percentage of girls in CB Girls Program who showed an increase in grit (sustained interest in a goal) over the course of FY'17

9

Schools served by Community Bridges' after-school Girls Program in 2016-2017



EMILY'S STORY

Today, Emily Garcia is a student at Montgomery College, where she is pursuing a Studio Art major in the College's School of Art & Design. But just 6 months ago going to college seemed like a dream that might never come true.

Growing up, Emily struggled on and off with juvenile arthritis. Complications from the condition required her to take a significant amount of time off school, setting her back academically and requiring her to repeat her freshman year of high school. Throughout the 2016-2017 school year Emily's family was evicted from their home multiple times and she, her mother, and her two sisters spent the majority of the year homeless. In addition, Emily found out in early 2017 that she would be required to graduate at the end of the spring - a full year earlier than she had expected.



"I was behind in nearly everything," Emily writes. "When I felt overwhelmed and discouraged Community Bridges stepped in. They helped me finish my applications on time, complete FAFSA, prepare my portfolio, and get a paid internship. More than that though, Community Bridges cared about and believed in me, and because of them I believed in myself."



Community Bridges prepares girls like Emily for their futures. Our College and Career Planning Program helps to ensure that every girl's story can include success in college, career, and beyond.

CB COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING PROGRAM BY NUMBERS

100

Percentage of high school seniors who graduated in Spring 2017 and enrolled to attend college

82

Percentage of CB high school girls who showed an increase in scholastic competence over FY'17

65

Juniors and seniors who received individualized College & Career counseling during FY'17

15

College tours and college/career workshops offered over the 2016-2017 program year

KEYLA AND ALICIA'S STORY



CB mentor/mentee pair Alicia Escoto and Keyla Aguilar Ramos are on a journey to challenge each other, grow together, and have as much fun as possible along the way. The pair, who began their mentoring relationship in 2016, credit each other with the success they've found in their academic, professional, and personal lives. Says Keyla, "The number one thing I've gotten out of our relationship is to never stop pushing yourself." A junior at Montgomery Blair HS, Keyla is taking this lesson to heart by challenging herself to reach new academic goals in her AP English, AP Spanish, and Honors Pre-Calc classes. "If I didn't have Alicia to tell me to 'go for it' then I would have never [pushed myself]."

"I'm really excited to see how much further [Keyla] can grow" says Alicia. "I've told her there are no limits to what she can do and achieve." A mentor with the CB Mentoring Program since 2011, Alicia knows a thing or two about what makes a good mentoring relationship. From attending football games and going out to lunch to having one-on-one homework time and college readiness discussions, Alicia and Keyla support and learn from for each other every day. "One thing I've learned from Keyla is you have to be resilient" says Alicia. "Her courage really inspires me." The pair plans to continue their mentoring relationship throughout the remainder of Keyla's high school experience and for many years to come.



Community Bridges' Mentoring Program facilitates the growth of positive relationships like Keyla and Alicia's, nurturing girls to become future leaders in our community

CB MENTORING PROGRAM BY NUMBERS

2,052

Total hours mentors and mentees spent together and/or communicating via text/email/phone during 2016-2017

38

Mentor/mentee pairs who participated in the CB Mentoring Program in FY'17

9

Events/workshops/activities hosted for mentors and mentees by the Mentoring Program in 2016-2017

6

Average hours per month mentors spent together or communicating with mentees

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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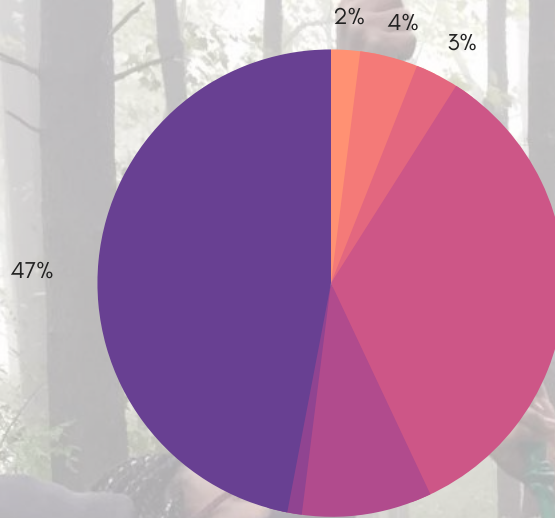
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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

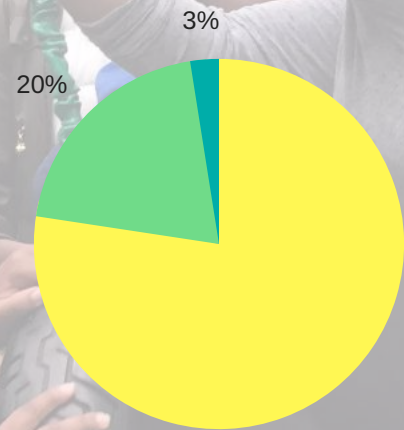
REVENUE
\$468,554



- 2% | Events + Activity Fees
- 4% | Individual Giving
- 3% | Board Giving
- 34% | Foundations/Grants
- 9% | In-Kind Donations
- 1% | Corporate Support
- 47% | Government Support

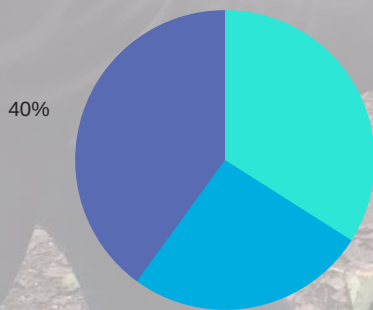
EXPENSES
\$411,606

- Program Services
- Management + General
- Fundraising



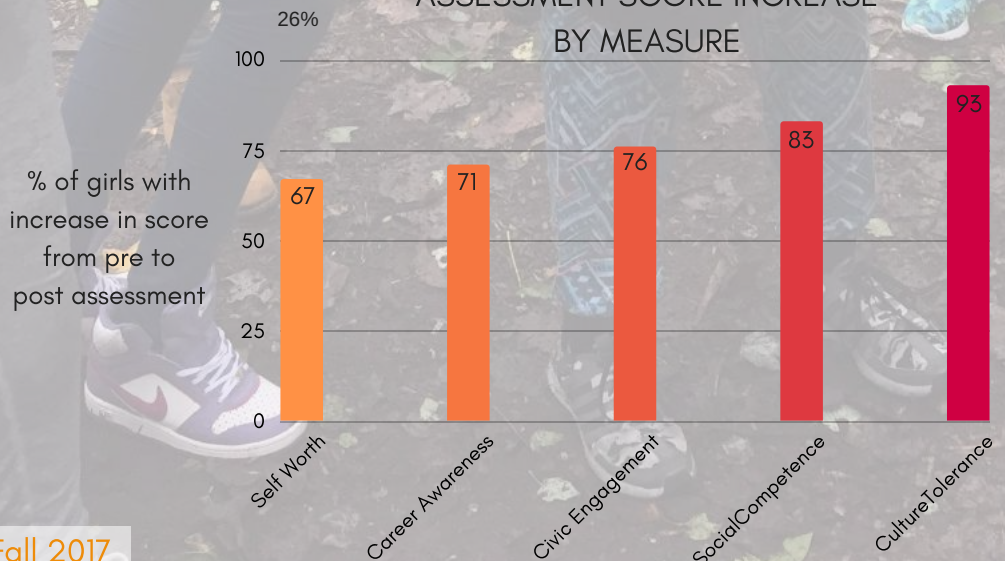
CB PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM

239 girls



- CB High School
- CB Middle School
- CB Elementary School

ASSESSMENT SCORE INCREASE BY MEASURE



THANK YOU!

On behalf of the girls and families Community Bridges has served this past year we are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support.

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\$30,000 and above

Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Montgomery County DHHS
Montgomery County Executive's Grant
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GET INVOLVED

Join Community Bridges in changing the lives of girls and families in our community. Visit www.communitybridges-md.org to learn more



VOLUNTEER

Join us in empowering the next generation of women leaders in our community. Plan, develop, and execute weekly programming while serving as a role model for our girls in grades 4-12



SPONSOR A GIRL

Make a lasting change in the life of a girl in Montgomery County. Ensure that every girl has the opportunity to grow with us into her most confident, healthy, and independent self



BECOME A MENTOR

Support and guide a high school girl through mentoring. Form a close relationship with your mentee as you help challenge and guide her to finding her own voice and achieving her goals



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