

THE BRIDGE BULLETIN

ISSUE NO 3 | JANUARY 2024



News from Ada County's Youth
and Family Resource Center



MAR - DEC 2023

54%

LE referrals

187 out of 348 youth were referred to The Bridge by law enforcement in 2023. School referrals were the next primary source (24%) followed by family and community (17%), Health & Welfare (4%) and medical personnel (1%).

58%

participation

180 of the youth and families referred to The Bridge in 2023 are in screening and/or case management with us, and 132 families chose not to participate, either by declining services or not responding to our outreach. The remaining 36 are still being contacted. We continue to improve our methods of communication and hope to increase our engagement rate in 2024.

82%

screen in

137 out of 167 caregivers assessed their youth as at-risk for possible emotional or behavioral problems in 2023. Fewer youth (57%) identified themselves as at-risk using the same tool, the Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17.

NEW PARENTING WORKSHOP

We are pleased to announce the second installment of our new parenting education workshop for parents, caregivers, and their children in collaboration with Central District Health (CDH). The workshop is a series of five weekly sessions that cover topics from the "Positive Discipline" curriculum, adolescent mental health, and vaping education.

Our first workshop launched in late October 2023 with 8 parents and 10 children attending. Parents and children were split into separate

groups with unique curricula and facilitators dedicated to each. Dinner was served and childcare was offered for the convenience of our Bridge families.

Comments from our parents ...

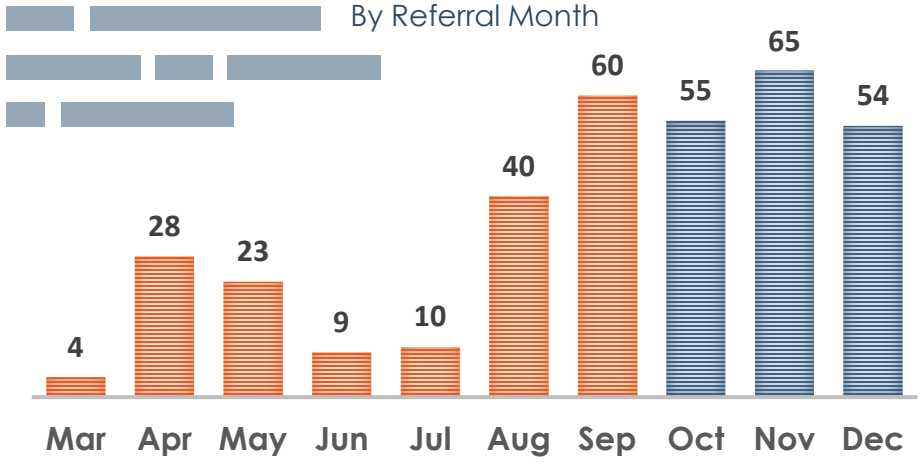
- The class was really helpful, especially learning about beliefs behind behaviors and positive ways to address them.
- It was helpful interacting with other parents and families going through similar situations. It's nice to know you're not alone.

94 youth and families received connections to community services in the last quarter of 2023:

- ✓ **Counseling** – 76 youth/families (81%)
- ✓ **Basic needs** – 28 (30%)
- ✓ **Prosocial activities** – 19 (20%)
- ✓ **Education/job support** – 11 (12%)
- ✓ **Parenting education** – 9 (10%)
- ✓ **Mentorship** – 8 (9%)
- ✓ **Respite** – 7 (7%)
- ✓ **Crisis services** – 7 (7%)

We made 237 referrals to 74 different community providers. Most youth and families were referred to multiple providers.

348 Youth Referred to The Bridge



Since The Bridge facility ribbon cutting ceremony and school starting in August, we have had a steady stream of referrals – an average of 58 per month in the final quarter of 2023.

YMCA and Tate Family Charitable Trust Team Up for Kids

The Treasure Valley YMCA has a ton of options to get youth involved in positive programs and activities but sometimes families do not have the financial ability to access these programs. A BIG thank you to the Tate Family Charitable Trust for gifting \$5,000 to the YMCA for Bridge kids! Now when we refer a youth to the Y and they cannot afford it, the cost of their class or membership can be covered and a YMCA youth coordinator will work with them to maximize the investment. We are thrilled to kick off 2024 with this new partnership.



Youth & Family Resource Center
 621 N Liberty St
 Boise, ID 83704
 208-577-4820
 TheBridge@adacounty.id.gov



www.adacounty.id.gov/TheBridge

MULTIPLE REFERRALS

We sometimes receive referrals for the same youth from multiple agencies or individuals. If the youth is new to our program, we keep both referring parties informed about the family's participation.

If it's been a few months and we receive a second referral for a youth who has completed case management with us, we will reach back out to the family to see if they need additional support. And if we receive a second referral for a youth who previously declined services, we try again! Maybe they weren't ready when we first reached out and now want to participate.

