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Puente Para Ninos

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Si usted o alguien que
conoce esta interesado
en servir como
voluntario
o necesita
este servicio,
por favor
llámenos:

UN PUENTE PARA NIÑOS
3265 16TH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

415. 552-2437



This program is sponsored by
Golden Gate Community Inc. and funded by
AIDS OFFICE, San Francisco Dept. of Public Health.
Design by La Raza Graphics San Francisco



**HORAS FELICES
DE APOYO
Y CARIÑO
DE SU CORAZÓN
ES UNA GRAN
AYUDA PARA
UNA FAMILIA EN
SU COMUNIDAD**



¿Que es Un Puente Para Niños?

Un Puente para Niños es una organización que existe para proveer cuidado de alta calidad para niños y familias afectadas por VIH/SIDA en la comunidad Latina.

Los Voluntarios de Un Puente Para Niños:

- demuestran compasión y un deseo de ayudar a niños.
- están entrenados por profesionales a cuidar niños que tienen necesidades especiales médicas y emocionales.
- proveen cuatro horas gratis a la semana de cuidado de niños en el lugar mas conveniente para la familia.

¿Porque Debo de Participar?

Porque con sus cuatro horas a la semana, usted puede contribuir a la fortaleza de su comunidad al asistir a una familia en gran necesidad.



“Un Puente Para Niños es bien conocido y respetado en la comunidad. El personal de voluntarios esta bien preparado, sensibles a las necesidades de la comunidad Latina.”

Maya Ulloa
Trabajadora Social
Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center,
U.C.S.F.



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4

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U.C.S.F.

We can provide...

Four hours a week of FREE
childcare to women with
HIV/AIDS, or children who
have tested positive for
HIV/AIDS.



THE BRIDGE FOR KIDS
415. 552.2437

...Call us, we will come
to you to set up your
services.

1759 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA 94117

415. 552.2437



Could You Use 4 Hours of Free Childcare Every Week?



Where You Need It

The Bridge wants to care for your children in the most supportive place available; your home, or elsewhere. We are committed to providing care for your children in the best available setting.

Safe, Caring Volunteers

The Bridge volunteers have been carefully screened and share a compassion and desire to help children. We have been specially trained by professionals to care for children, in areas including:

- Special Medical Needs
- Emotional Needs
- Children's CPR

We exist to provide quality care as our gift to the children of San Francisco.

Confidentiality

The Bridge will keep all identifying information about you and your family confidential at all times.

"The volunteers trained and supervised by The Bridge provide dependable, sensitive, non-judgemental childcare to a population too often shunned by family and community."

Wendy Kahn, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center, U.C.S.F.



415. 552.2437

Sponsored By
Golden Gate Compassionate Ministries

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THE BRIDGE, JUST AS ITS NAME IMPLIES, IS HELPING US CROSS SOME VERY CHALLENGING SITUATIONS. THIS ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS US WITH MORE THAN FREE CHILD CARE. THEY RESPOND TO OUR NEEDS IN A TRULY SINCERE AND SENSITIVE WAY. I'VE GAINED NOT ONLY THE TIME TO ACCOMPLISH MY PROJECTS BUT ALSO THE FRIENDSHIP OF SOME REALLY GREAT PEOPLE. MOST OF ALL THEY HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO KEEP GOING IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF BEING AN HIV+ SINGLE PARENT. THERE IS NO OTHER ORGANIZATION IN S.F. THAT PROVIDES THIS TYPE OF SERVICE. THEY ARE A REMARKABLE HELP.

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The Bridge For Kids has moved offices!!!

Please contact us at:



45 Franklin
Suite 303
San Francisco
California 94102

Phone: 415-522-0100



Project New Hope

EDWARD STRIBLING
WORK COORDINATOR

Affordable Housing
Employment Re-training
for HIV/AIDS People

1254 West 6th St. Suite 301
Los Angeles, California 90017-1831
Tel: 213-250-5588
Fax: 213-250-8349



Respite Childcare For Those
Living With HIV/AIDS

Kelly A. Smith
Program Director
415.522.0100
FAX 415.522.0300
Pager 415.219.4231

45 Franklin • Suite 303 • San Francisco, California 94102

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**



THE BRIDGE FOR KIDS

Respite Childcare
For Those Living With AIDS
1101 O'Farrell • San Francisco, CA 94109
415.921.1495 FAX 567.7495



Purpose Statement:

The Bridge For Kids is a non-profit organization, under the umbrella of the Golden Gate Community, Inc., which provides respite childcare to those families affected by AIDS. The volunteers of The Bridge For Kids are fully trained in all aspects of childcare, infection control, and CPR, and are dedicated to serving the needs of this population. Alongside respite childcare, The Bridge endeavors to identify the acute socio/economic concerns of families with AIDS. To this end, The Bridge assists clients in securing housing, food, shelter, and legal assistance. The Bridge is committed to expressing compassion by lending a helping hand to others in need without regard to religion, race, national origin, or sexual preference.



"The Women and Children's Services Program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has identified a definite need -- now and in the future -- for child care of children with HIV and for children whose parents have HIV. The Bridge For Kids is the only agency in San Francisco providing this specific and much needed service."

Catherine Maier

Acting Clinical Director &
Women and Children's Services Program Coordinator

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THE BRIDGE FOR KIDS

1101 O'Farrell
San Francisco, California 94109



- ☐ YES, I'm interested in learning more about training to become a Bridge volunteer.
- ☐ YES, I'm interested in learning how I can contribute in other ways to The Bridge For Kids Program.

PLEASE CALL ME AT:

[_____] _____



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PRESERVATION

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connections

bridging communities, building lives

spring 1994

If you asked me
what I came in this
world to do, I will
tell you:
**I CAME TO LIVE
OUT LOUD.**

- Emilie Zola

Work is love made
visible.

And if you cannot work
with love, but only with
distaste, it is better that
you should leave your
work and sit at the gate
of the temple and take
the alms of those who
work with joy.

For if you bake bread
with indifference, you
bake a bitter bread
that feeds but half
man's hunger. And if
you grudge the crush-
ing of the grapes, your
grudge distills a poison
in the wine. And if
you sing though as
angels and love not the
singing, you muffle
man's ears to the voices
of the day and the
voices of the night.

- Kahlil Gibran

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS, FRIENDS, AND CAREGIVERS !

It is fitting that our first issue of the BFK Caregiver Newsletter honors you! This spring we celebrate over thirty volunteers and caregivers in conjunction with National Volunteer Month in April, and San Francisco's Caregiver Day, this May 6th. Mayor Jordan has declared this special day to honor the "unsung heros" of San Francisco whose daily love and commitment has made an enormous impact on the thousands of San Franciscans who are living with AIDS and other disabling and life-threatening illnesses. On this day

we take time to recognize you, the volunteer, caregiver, friend, partner, family member, and service provider who serves with caring hands and hopeful hearts. As a volunteer among this community you join thousands of other San Franciscans who have given their energy to respond to the AIDS crisis in the Bay Area. Through frustrations, and times of sorrow and joy we remember Mother Theresa's words, " We cannot do great things, we can only do small things with great love." Each hour, phone call, and visit

is a reminder of this. We are sincerely grateful for the generosity and compassion given from each one of you. We look forward to our continuing work to grow and further the community that our families, volunteers, and staff have envisioned. Your life giving spirits continue to fuel us toward a place where each of us knows what is it to be able to say friend.



WHO WE ARE

The Bridge For Kids began informally when a group of community volunteers organized themselves to support the family of a 6-year old boy infected with AIDS at birth from a blood transfusion. The volunteers realized that his low-income family needed practical support to deal with the psychological and social ramifications of living with HIV/AIDS.

This led the volunteers to survey the needs of other families living with HIV/AIDS. We collected data from local and out-of-state agencies and individuals; our study revealed a significant need for respite care among families. With this data, we officially began The Bridge For Kids as a program of the nonprofit Golden Gate Community, Incorporated.

After four years of service to the community, we now have a volunteer pool of 31 care providers who provide free child care to 35 families annually.

Our volunteers are carefully screened and specially trained by



The Bridge For Kids

OUR MISSION

The Bridge For Kids is committed to expressing compassion to families infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Our goal is to address all aspects of respite care for the children of these families, to limit their social isolation and to provide positive support in a setting of trust and confidentiality.

professionals to care for children with special medical and emotional needs.

We offer 4 hours of free, confidential child care per week to women with HIV/AIDS and families caring for children with HIV/AIDS.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

"The Bridge, just as its name implies, is helping us cross some very challenging situations. This organization supports us with more than free child care. They respond to our needs in a truly sincere and sensitive way.

I've gained not only the time to accomplish my projects, but also the friendship of some really great people. Most of all, they have been a source of encouragement to keep going in spite of the difficulties of being an HIV+ single parent."

—San Francisco Client

"The volunteers trained and supervised by The Bridge provide dependable, sensitive, non-judgmental child care to a population too often shunned by family and community."

—Wendy Kahn, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center, U.C.S.F.

WHOM TO CONTACT

Kelly Smith
The Bridge For Kids
1101 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 921-1495
Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F

THINGS WE WISH FOR

- Volunteers to provide 4 hours per week of child care. We provide training & support.
- New toys for gifts for children during the holiday season.
- Car seats for infants & children.
- 13" television/VCR to use in training volunteers in infant & child safety.
- A photocopier for our program office.
- Macintosh-compatible laser printer.

The Bridge For Kids is a project of the Golden Gate Community, Inc., a nonprofit organization. The following figures are for The Bridge For Kids Project only. Financial figures from auditors:

Total revenue	\$110,580
Program services expenses	\$82,366
Management and general expenses	\$14,107
Fundraising expenses	\$14,107
Total expenses	\$110,580

CAMP BRIDGE 1993

"Our mission is to offer respite to kids for happiness, fun and love within a safe and structured environment..."
-Camp Bridge Staff

One of the most pressing needs of families facing HIV/AIDS is the need for respite childcare during the summer months. Affordable and appropriate care is difficult to find for any family, but these clients are also facing deep medical and psycho-social challenges. In response to this need, The Bridge for Kids/Un Puente para Niños sponsored its first-ever summer day camp in the summer of 1993. Originally planned for 15-20 kids, the camp proved to be an incredible success with over 25 children attending on most camp days. The overwhelming community support of Camp Bridge, the appreciation of our client families, and most of all the enjoyment of the campers themselves allow us to deem Camp Bridge an unqualified success.

Camp Bridge was held two days a week, from 9-5:00 pm at Grace Fellowship Church in the Mission District of San Francisco. All campers were provided with free transportation to and from camp every day, as well as lunch and two snacks. In addition, each child was given a Camp Bridge t-shirt (worn every camp day), and a neon cap (worn on special outings). Camp staff were also each given a Camp Bridge t-shirt. A typical camp day started with guided free time while everyone arrived, and then a morning session of singing, games, and a snack. Then, if a special outing were planned, bag lunches were prepared and everyone piled into vans, with a tired crew arriving back at Grace Fellowship late afternoon. If no outing were planned, the campers would play games and have lunch in nearby Dolores Park, then have craft activities or a special guest back at Grace Fellowship. Many times at the end of the day the campers would work on their journals, remembering their day by writing or coloring, and finally everyone would be taken home again. Outings during the summer included Marine World/Africa USA, The Exploratorium, San Francisco Zoo, a Giants game, and the Bay Area Discovery Museum, and tickets to each of these events and attractions were donated by the organizations. Special guests included SF Giant Rod Beck, Magic Dan the Magician, and storyteller Jim Evans.

The Camp Bridge counseling staff was composed of six college interns from Dartmouth, Wheaton, and Northwest Nazarene College. They paid their own way for the summer, and committed incredibly long hours to planning and implementing this first-ever camp. They also learned a great deal about working with children facing issues concerning HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, overcrowded living spaces, and poverty, in addition to overcoming language barriers. Staff leadership for the summer was provided by the staff of The Bridge for Kids/Un Puente para Niños, and support was provided through Ryan White CARE funds, private donations, and the Rotary Club of San Francisco.

HIV IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

To understand the scope of families and HIV and AIDS, it is necessary to understand the statistics we are currently facing. Women and children have *the highest rate of new infection* facing any population. The total number of currently diagnosed cases is not as large as the numbers experienced through the last decade, but all indicators point to women and children being the next wave of this epidemic. Specifically, in 1992 AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death in women aged 25 to 44 (childbearing age).

Approximately 18,500 children have already lost their mothers to AIDS, and the number of motherless children is expected to exceed 80,000 by the year 2000 (80% of these children are Hispanic or African-American). 86% of children who are themselves infected were born to mothers with or at risk of HIV infection, and of these cases 54% are African-American and 24% are Hispanic.¹ In San Francisco, as of March of 1994, there were 19,178 AIDS cases. 56 cases were children, and 505 cases were women (these are only cases which were actually reported and documented).² Any of these statistics, taken alone, is saddening. Taken together, they point to a segment of the population which is on the brink of disaster due to lack of accessible social services. These families are at risk as they face poverty, insufficient housing, and many other urban problems. However, the children are also facing the loss of one or both parents as well as the social stigma associated with HIV and AIDS. It can be a crushing weight for a child.

Traditional AIDS services in San Francisco have been designed for single adults, and only slowly are providers recognizing the change in needs. There are many agencies which can assist families by simply changing their service guidelines, and with appropriate advocacy and case management most families can access food, housing, benefits, and health care. However, appropriate child care is not a service which was provided to single adults, so the established agencies in San Francisco cannot address this specific need. Bridge for Kids is the only agency in San Francisco dedicated to providing respite child care for HIV/AIDS families.

¹HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 1st Quarter 1993 (DPH, AIDS Office of San Francisco)

²HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 1st Quarter 1994 (DPH, AIDS Office of San Francisco)

If Our Wishes Came True...

Families would be served as a unit. While Mom is dying, the family would receive care, and when Mom died, the services like child care, counseling, and practical support would not immediately stop.

Families would be served as a unit. While Mom needs substance abuse treatment, the residential facility would let her kids come with her. Where else can they go? She could also bring more than one child, because she often has more.

Families would be served as a unit. While Mom is receiving increasing medical attention, there is child care on-site. She will come more regularly to her appointments, and she will trust the providers more when she knows they understand her world.

Families would be served as a unit. If Mom is infected, she is not the only one affected. How to report a family of 5? If only a parent is sick, do the children get lost in the demographic shuffle?

Families would be served as a unit. When Mom is gone, the children need somewhere to go, and someone to help them find it.