



BUILDING FOR THE
FUTURE

GENERATIONS
WORK FORCE
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
EXPERIENCE
SUSTAINABILITY

IN SUPPORT OF



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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WHO

The Bridge Teen Center and The Bridge Thrift Store are sister 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations currently located in Orland Park, Illinois. See profile pages on each organization for the full scope of missions, history, and accomplishments.



WHAT

Expand the mission and reach of both organizations, opening up new opportunities to enhance our connection to students in neighboring communities through intentionally-designed program space; and to create additional sustainable revenue to support the Teen Center's free programs through a unique Thrift Store experience.



WHERE

We have secured a 4.5 acre property with a 9,000 square foot building shell at 21420 S. Harlem Ave. in Frankfort, just south of Route 30. This space positions us for future growth, places us in good proximity to Lincoln-Way schools and feeder schools, and offers a high-traffic location for retail sales.



WHEN

A phased approach has been outlined and is currently in progress. See the "Project Summary" and "Progress Report" sections for details.



WHY

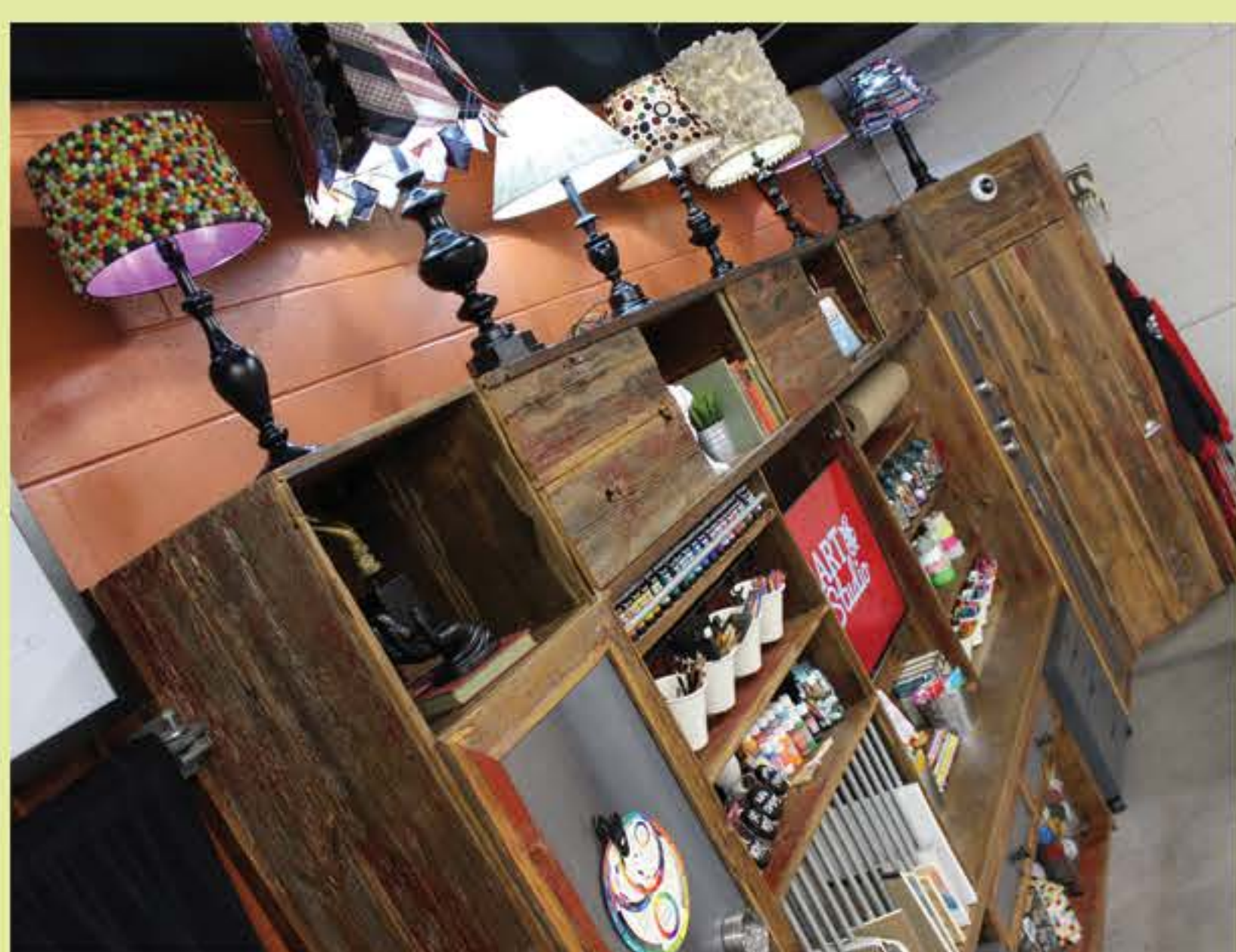
Afterschool programs offer a plethora of advantages for teens, and The Bridge has been a trendsetter in this sector since 2010. On the heels of the pandemic, students are faced with mental health challenges never before seen. Additionally, funding to support these types of programs in a suburban setting is becoming more challenging to obtain. As such, creating another sustainable revenue source is crucial to the organization's long-term health.



HOW

We are actively seeking cash and in-kind investments to support this high-impact opportunity. We currently have a number of commitments in place, however, the generous support of the community will be crucial to reach our goal. Please see the "contact info" page and let's talk about how you and/or your company can help!

ABOUT THE BRIDGE



The Bridge Teen Center is an innovative 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides FREE holistically-designed afterschool programs for students in 7th-12th grade. Our programs are unique in that they are offered exclusively for teens, are designed around the interests and needs of teens in the suburbs, are facilitated almost exclusively by adult volunteers from the community, and are offered to students **free of charge**.

Our free programs are divided into five different “buckets” which include: Everyday Life, Educational Support, Mind/Body, Community Connections and Expressive Arts. From trade-focused programs to culinary demos to art programs and job readiness training, 350+ programs are offered annually.

We are a place for students not just to BE, but to BECOME.

In our changed world, teens face many challenges – including mental health, suicidal tendencies, self-deception as a result of social media, anxiety, and more. We proactively address these issues by providing a positive, supportive, and safe environment where teens can **CONNECT** with peers and positive adult mentors, **ENGAGE** in life changing programs and events, and be **EMPOWERED** to challenge themselves to grow in ways they never dreamt possible.

Our programs have been recognized at the local, state, and national level by many well-known organizations over the years, including the Afterschool Alliance, Illinois Afterschool Network, US Conference of Mayors, John Maxwell, and more. Over the last 13+ years, The Bridge has emerged as a national trendsetter in teen afterschool programming and is contacted for guidance from groups and organizations all over the country on a regular basis.

BY THE NUMBERS



91%

% of donations invested directly in students.

12,500+

unique/different students served since 2010.

128

different local communities served since 2010.

350+

different free programs each year.

\$0

charged in fees to the families we serve.

500-800

new student members each year.



150-200

Transactions Per Day

1,100,000+

Transactions Since 2016

\$50,000+

Average Monthly Revenue

\$2,800,000+

Donated Since 2016

600+

Student Volunteers Per Year



Pictured above are just two of the hundreds of community volunteer groups who serve at the Thrift Store (Panduit and Target shown here).

REDEFINING THRIFT



The Bridge Thrift Store is not your typical charitable resale shop.

Founded in 2016, our brand has been built around quality, cleanliness, organization, and stylish merchandising. Not only is the store known for high quality merchandise at great prices, but as evidenced by the reviews shared here, it is known for exceptional guest services and a commitment to supporting local teens and families.

From the moment you walk in, it is evident that this is not like other stores in its category. Department store style sections feature clean and organized merchandise. Unique and unexpected additions include a 360 degree jewelry counter in the heart of the store, an award-winning "Antiques & Cool Junk" section, and creative signage that rivals the largest national retailers. **It is a store our students are proud to be part of.**

Not only does the store generate significant revenue and feet on the street, but it provides **meaningful opportunities for suburban teens.** From short-term community service opportunities to group service projects to participating in the innovative "Thriftastic" job readiness program, valuable skills are being shared with young people that will be carried with them throughout life. The store is amazing, but it can be argued that the impact on the community is even more impressive.

The Bridge Thrift Store is seeking a second location in the Frankfort area. The purpose of this expansion is to increase sustainable revenue for The Bridge Teen Center, provide more convenient service and job readiness programming for students in the Lincoln-Way area, and to provide a destination for individuals looking to give their gently used merchandise to a **LOCAL cause that supports LOCAL families** (instead of national organizations with unknown beneficiaries).

STORE FEEDBACK



2021, 2022, 2023

BEST THRIFT STORE
BEST ANTIQUES
BEST BOUTIQUE

2020 WINNER
BEST THRIFT STORE

SOUTHWEST
CHOICE
AWARDS
PRESENTED BY 22ND CENTURY MEDIA

Reviews ★★★★★

**“Not your typical
Thrift Store...”**

**“...this place is so clean
and organized.”**

**“...a treasure of a
thrift store...”**

**“...the store always
blows my mind.”**

**“...wonderful nice
inviting people
work there...”**

“Such a cute store!”

**“I love this store
and everything
it stands for.”**

**“...very clean, organized
and stylish...”**

THRIFTASTIC PROGRAM



Encouraging, Affirming and Preparing for the Future...

As the job market continues to rapidly evolve, programs that equip young people for future positions are vital. The Bridge Teen Center and The Bridge Thrift Store are responding to this need in a profound way through the "Thriftastic" job readiness program.

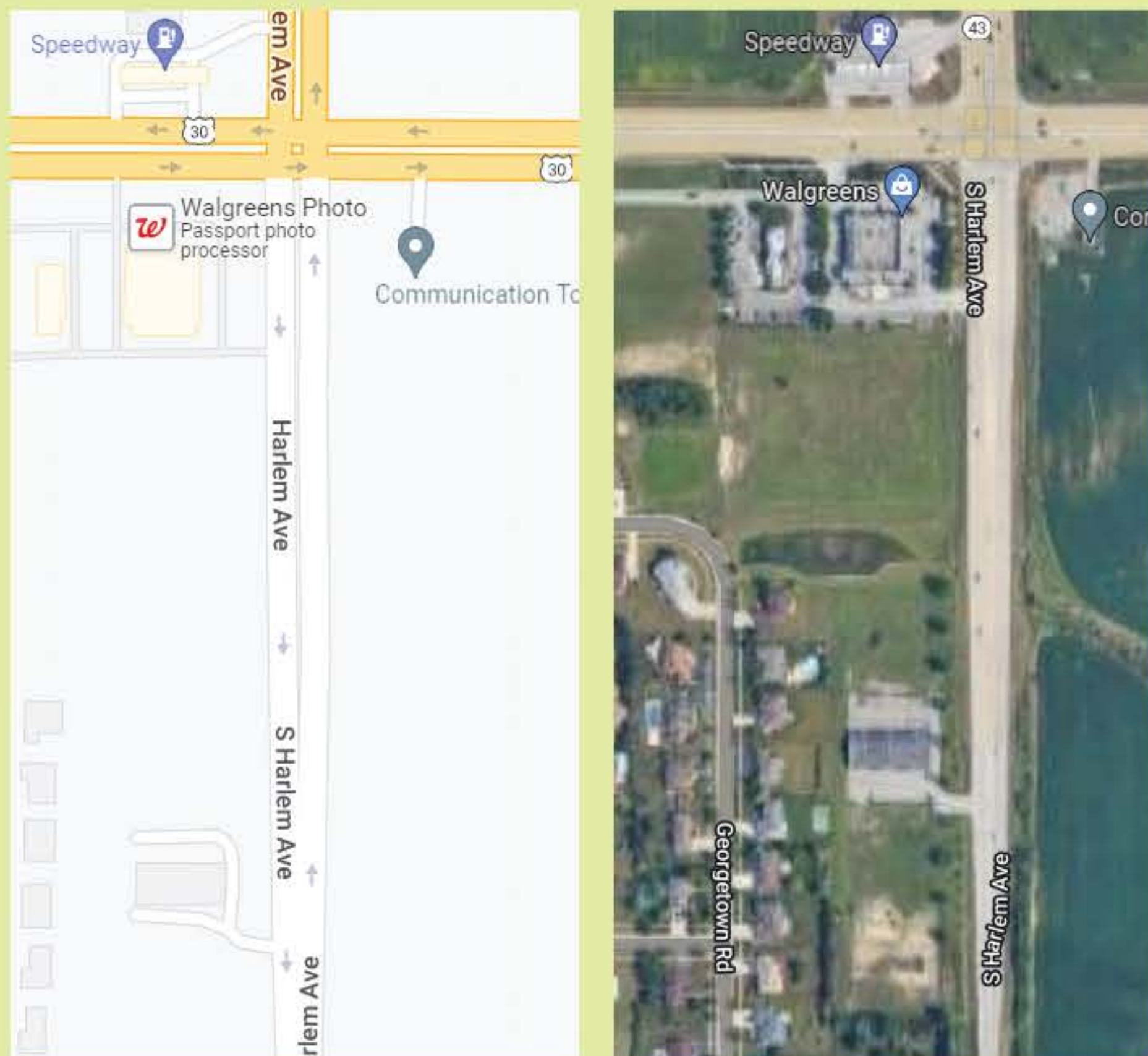


This innovative program is intentionally designed to challenge students to discover new talents, develop as leaders, and learn to function as part of a thriving team.

Thriftastic introduces students to the concept of serving others while gaining hard and soft skills, maintaining a committed schedule, and serving as part of a team. There are four program tiers, where students set specific goals, measure their outcomes, track benchmarks, and facilitate meaningful discussions with staff leaders.

This program provides students with an invaluable opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing (yet challenging) environment. **The Bridge is preparing students for more than just a job - we are preparing them to become hard-working, well-rounded young adults that contribute to their community.**

PROJECT SUMMARY



Location

21240 S. Harlem Avenue in Frankfort - south of Route 30 (*north of Prestwick Country Club*).

Square Footage

9,000 square feet of a building "shell".

Acreage

4.5 total acres of space.

Purchase Price

\$560,000 for the building shell and acreage, closed in November 2022.

Renovation Cost

Estimated cost is \$1.8 million, NOT INCLUDING any in-kind donations or volunteer labor.

Phase 1

Acquire building and acreage. (COMPLETED)
Obtain property tax exemption. (COMPLETED)
Apply for project approval. (COMPLETED)

Phase 2

Finalize design plans. (IN PROGRESS)
Obtain necessary building permits. (IN PROGRESS)
Completely replace roof. (COMPLETED)

Phase 3

Insulate interior ceiling and walls.
Pour remainder of concrete floor.
Stage one of interior renovations.
Landscape barrier between neighbors.

Phase 4

Final stage of interior renovations.
Parking lot reconstruction.
Outdoor signage.

Phase 5

Create green space and garden areas.
Begin plans for additional retail space.

WHAT'S NEXT: OUR VISION



Showroom style/specialty thrift store, focusing on higher-end home goods (includes furniture, decor, antiques and collectibles).



Curated retail space for unique offerings such as house plants, vintage items, and dedicated space for "pop-up" shops that feature the work of local artisans.



Second location provides more opportunity/closer proximity for current and new Lincoln-Way area students to engage in our job readiness programming.



Additional retail space for repurposing and architectural salvage inventory - further distinguishing our brand as unique in our sector.



Job Readiness & Leadership Training Center for the growing job readiness program, leadership programming, and other future-focused programming.



"Phased in" additions over time will include:

Extension of The Bridge Teen Center's gardening programming, to include a year-round educational greenhouse and space for additional STEM programs.



Outdoor green space with a meadow and quiet space to promote emotional and mental health in a welcoming and safe environment for students.



Dedicated space for small group programs and counseling. Exclusive Frankfort location programs will be integrated into the ongoing lineup at The Bridge Teen Center.



LONG-TERM IMPACT



SUSTAINABILITY

Revenue from a second Thrift Store location will provide an additional 30% of The Bridge Teen Center's operating budget, making the organization less reliant on unstable donations and event fundraising.

BUILDING FUTURES

The ability to expand our thriving "Thriftastic" Job Readiness Program means we will have the opportunity to impact many more young lives in communities surrounding Frankfort.

NEXT GENERATION

Investing in a second store location will represent a direct investment in our local teens and families - making sure our free programs and events are available to them for many more years.

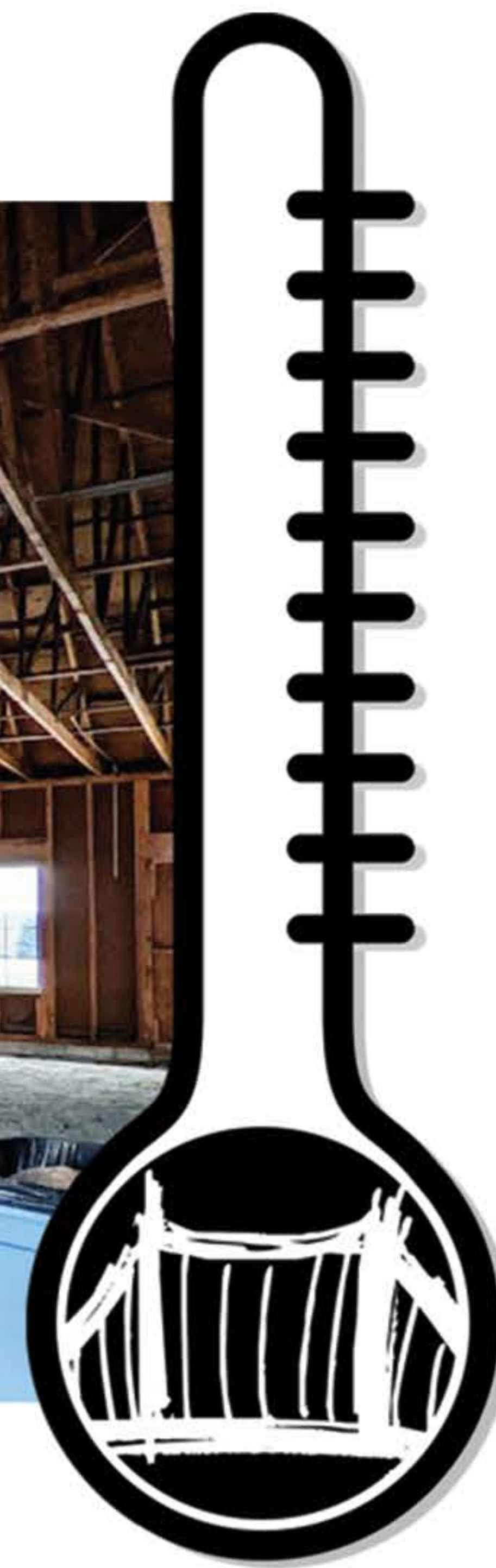
OPPORTUNITIES

Additional space that provides amenities that our existing Orland Park facility cannot offer. A second location will open up new opportunities for thousands of local teens - not only through expanded job readiness programming but through a broader base of outdoor programs that focus on STEM and gardening in the future.

RALLYING COMMUNITY

The Bridge is built on the support of the local community in virtually every way. A second store location will allow us to expand opportunities for community members, local clubs, churches and other groups to serve locally in support of teens and families in their own backyard.

PROGRESS REPORT



COMPLETED

The building and property were purchased in November of 2022 for a total of \$560,000.

- ▶ **\$385,000 raised through 8 different supporters.**
- ▶ **Balance was financed through Providence Bank.**

NEXT STEPS

Funding, in-kind support, and volunteers will be sought to complete the build-out. Our general contractor, Michuda Construction, is estimating a total cost (assuming no in-kind or volunteer support) at \$1.8-\$2 million. Progress toward that goal includes:

- ▶ **\$400,000 has been allocated by the Board of Directors of The Bridge Teen Center.**
- ▶ **Richards Building Supply and local volunteers stepped up to complete the urgent re-roofing project (originally budgeted for \$115,000).**
- ▶ **Providence Bank is on board to finance the portion that may be necessary.**
- ▶ **Conversations are underway with multiple trades for discounted or donated materials and labor.**

THANK YOU

for *investing* in the future
of The Bridge Teen Center!

SPECIFIC NEEDS

MATERIALS:

Roofing
Concrete
Electrical Supplies
HVAC
Windows
Doors/Frames
Flashing & Sheet Metal
Interior & Exterior Paint
Trees and Shrubs
Trash Enclosure & Entry Gates
Exterior Brick Paint
Dryfall Interior Ceiling Paint
Interior Paint

LABOR:

Roofing
Concrete Installation
Concrete Floor Sealing
Interior & Exterior Painting
Landscaping Installation

LABOR & MATERIALS:

Spray Insulation
Masonry
Plumbing
Asphalt Parking Lot
Sprinkler System

UNDERWRITING:

Naming opportunities are available for our new Job Readiness & Leadership Training Center space.

Additional monetary investments (of all sizes) are needed for items we are unable to get donated.

THANKS TO THOSE ALREADY INVOLVED:



CONTACT INFO



CURRENT LOCATION:

15555 S. 71st Ct. (Teen Center)
15605 S. 71st Ct. (Thrift Store)
Orland Park, IL 60462



EMAIL:

priscilla@thebridgeteencenter.org
rob@bridgethrift.org



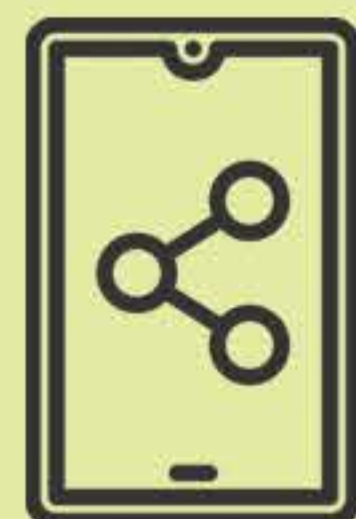
MAIN PHONE:

708.532.0500



ORGANIZATION WEBSITE:

thebridgeteencenter.org
bridgethrift.org



SOCIAL MEDIA:

fb.com/bridgethrift
fb.com/thebridgetc
INSTAGRAM: BridgeThrift
INSTAGRAM: TheBridgeTC