



1345 North Lewis, Tulsa Oklahoma 74110 | 918.592.3333 | www.thebridgesfound.org

Fall 2008

Your Donations Play a Vital Role in the Ongoing Programs at Bridges

## Donors: Bridges is Depending on You.

Even with federal and state funding provided to Bridges each year, a gap of over \$300,000 exists each year that must be filled by the generous support of individuals, families, foundations and companies throughout our community. Your donation to Bridges makes a difference in the lives of your neighbors with disabilities. When you support Bridges, you make these needed programs possible:

- **The Outsource Center** — Where people can get their start in the workforce, regardless of their ability level. Work is outsourced to our workshop where clients receive direct support.
- **Community Work Crews** — Where clients team up with a job coach to provide a variety of services to area businesses.
- **Individual Placements** — Where an individual can truly integrate into the community with the help of an Employment Training Specialist.
- **Life Skills Training**—Where any client can receive free lessons on virtually any life-topic, including budgeting, cooking, taking care of a home, accessing public services (library, buses, etc.), maintaining healthy relationships, etc.

As people with disabilities are connected with businesses that need their abilities, your community becomes stronger. *A donation to Bridges is an investment with immediate returns!*



*Show Your Support for Bridges Today..*

1. With a donation made today, either securely online or with the enclosed envelope.
2. With a monthly gift charged to your credit card.
3. With a gift in your will.
4. By Volunteering.

**Donate**



## Your Donations AT WORK

*"I'm the only person in my family that has a job doing what I LOVE."*

The Individual Placement Program at Bridges has recently placed clients all around the Tulsa metro area. New job sites include the Crowne Plaza (Tulsa), PetSmart (Owasso), We B Trees (Tulsa), InDevX (Skiatook), and Oklahoma Discount Tile (Tulsa), where one very happy young man is working.

Sheldon came to Bridges as a referral from DRS and told us that he had a passion for masonry. With a few phone calls by his Employment Training Specialist, Sheldon

was on his way to an interview with Oklahoma Discount Tile.

Sheldon has been working for over two months and is ecstatic. He works 25 hours each week preparing and cleaning tiles before they are laid, and occasionally he gets to lay the tiles himself. He is making a good wage, and as he says, "I'm the only one in my family doing what I love."

We are thrilled for Sheldon and his new career!



*Sheldon cuts and cleans tiles to prepare them for installation.*



*Jeff Summers accepts appliance donations from Clay Jackson, the Maytag Repairman.*

## Clients Discover Their Abilities in New Living Skills Kitchen

The Maytag Repairman paid a special visit to Tulsa this summer, and made time to stop by Bridges with an amazing delivery of new appliances for the Living Skills Training Kitchen. A refrigerator, free-standing range, microwave, washer and dryer were donated by the Tulsa Division of Whirlpool who recently began manufacturing products for the Maytag line.

Since the opening of the Living Skills Kitchen, dozens of clients have participated in classes designed to increase their ability to safely function in a kitchen. The Bridges Staff has been particularly excited about the classes because each new class brings new dishes to sample! Participants have made 1:1:1 Peanut Butter Cookies (recipe below), Easy-Cheesy Chicken Enchiladas, and Brisket Chili, which was a big hit at the United Way Chili Cook-Off! The Living Skills Teacher, Dawn Harig, chooses recipes that will be easy for clients to remember and that will expand their ability to help themselves at home and at work. With each lesson, clients learn about germs, fire safety and nutrition. Clients are now concentrating on holiday foods so that they can contribute to their families' holiday meals.



*Amanda, Dustin, Dawn Harig and Twilane prepare a fresh batch of peanut butter cookies.*

*To support the Living Skills program, or any other program at Bridges, please use the enclosed envelope. Your support is desperately needed and greatly appreciated!*

### The Living Skills Kitchen Recipes

*Always easy...always good!*

#### 1:1:1 Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 Cup Peanut Butter
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1 Egg

Mix ingredients together and roll into walnut-size balls. Drop onto cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Optional: Top each cookie with a chocolate kiss after baking.



### The Maytag Repairman Brought the Major Appliances... Will You Help Us With the Small Appliances?

—PLEASE JOIN US—

**Thursday, December 4th, 10:00-2:00**

to stock our training kitchen with appliances, dishes, and all the supplies needed for our clients to learn to be self-sufficient in their homes.

Can't make it? You can bring a gift before the shower and place it under the tree for one of our clients to open on the 4th!

This is a great opportunity for your work or church group to come together for a project that will change a life forever!

**LOOK FOR OUR REGISTRY AT TARGET UNDER "BRIDGES FOUNDATION"**



### Three Businesses Partner with Bridges to Open Positions for Clients in the Community Work Crew Program.

*Thank You to Our Newest Business Partners—  
Our Clients LOVE Their New Jobs!*

**Central Tube & Bar**—This new location is a manufacturing shop that supplies parts to IC, Proform, and several other companies. Four Bridges clients, along with a job coach, are assisting on four machines. Jene Harmon at Central has been extremely supportive in setting high goals and expectations for our crew. Our thanks go out to him and all the guys at Central!

**JoCo Assembly** —Joe Kurek doesn't know what he did before he found Bridges to help with his employment needs. Bridges provides a crew of three workers and a job coach to help with light janitorial duties as well as assisting with the assembly of bus windows.

**Pepsi** —The Pepsi Plant in West Tulsa partnered with The Bridges Foundation in August of 2008. One job coach and three clients work in the plant each day sorting soda by type, condition and date. Once sorted, the soda either goes back into stock or is crushed and disposed of.



*Willie W. loves his new job at Central Tube & Bar!*

### Thank You!

Volunteers from Williams, Union Public Schools & Bank of Oklahoma gave hours of their time and efforts to make the 2008 Day of Caring a wonderful day for all!

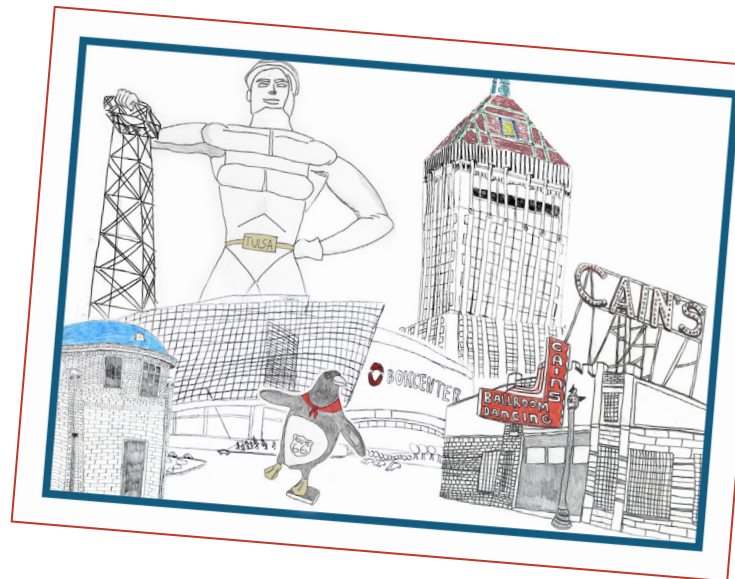


## 2008 Cards Include "Tulsa Time" Design

It's that time of year again! Christmas and Hanukkah cards are flying off our shelves! If you haven't ordered your cards yet, no problem! Cards will be sold throughout the holiday season.

The 2008 designs include one very special card which features some of Tulsa's most recognizable landmarks, including the new BOK center. One very talented client worked tirelessly on each drawing before they were compiled into one terrific card. The cards come blank inside, although you can have your own greeting printed for a small fee.

The Tulsa card can be ordered along with all of our holiday designs by calling 592-3333 or online at [www.thebridgesfound.org](http://www.thebridgesfound.org).



*100% of sales from the "Tulsa Time" Greeting Card and other holiday designs will support the vocational programs at Bridges.*

### SAVE PAPER—SAVE FUNDS!

### Sign Up to Receive Bridge Builders by E-mail

Go to [www.thebridgesfound.org](http://www.thebridgesfound.org) and sign up for our e-mail list. We will send the newsletter to you via e-mail instead of in print.



***Www.thebridgesfound.org***

Bridge Builders is a newsletter of The Bridges Foundation in Tulsa, Oklahoma. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, or if you prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please call 918-592-3333 or e-mail Meredith McDaris at [mmcdaris@thebridgesfound.org](mailto:mmcdaris@thebridgesfound.org)

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# What a Year!

from Jeff Summers, Executive Director

Dear Bridge Builders,

2008 has been a landmark year for The Bridges Foundation! After our Grand Re-Opening of the newly renovated building in January, we have gained many new community partners, established three new community job sites, and established two new programs which will begin early in 2009. The Living Skills Kitchen was opened in grand fashion with a visit from Clay Jackson (the Maytag Repairman) on July 28, 2008. Whirlpool Corporation graciously donated new appliances which made the expansion possible for a wonderful and much needed program.

It is my hope as 2009 approaches that The Bridges Foundation and Tulsa as a community continue to grow by setting lofty goals and striving hard to reach them. No matter what side you're on, this year's U.S.

presidential election is a powerful reminder of the advances we've made in becoming a more inclusive society. By building an inclusive culture, we establish a comfortable and open workplace where every individual can feel free to express his or her ideas, and in doing so, collaborate with others to grow our business. When we connect with the community, we reinforce our reputation as a corporate citizen pitching in to advance the common good.

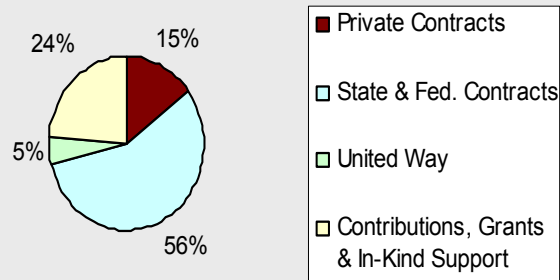
*"By building an inclusive culture, we establish a comfortable, open workplace, where every individual can feel free to express his or her ideas..."*

Our heartfelt "Thanks" to our employees, volunteers, donors and sponsors. Without you, we could never have met the huge milestones of 2008!

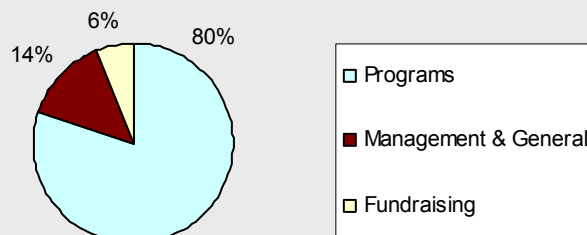
## Financial Report

July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008

### Revenues (\$1,431,345)



### Expenses (\$1,299,401)



\*\* Due to our new newsletter format, individual donors will be recognized in our Annual Report.

### Member Agency

