



Impact Report

2025-26

OUR MISSION

We support & empower children, teens & their families grieving a death.



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Dear Friends,

You've done it again. **Your generosity, dedication & compassion** allowed our compassionate team of staff, facilitators, & volunteers to ensure that **501 youth across the Lowcountry did not grieve alone.**

This year was marked by remarkable growth and meaningful milestones. In response to the increasing demand for our school-based Sand Dollar Club offering, we added the new position of School Services Coordinator, bringing Miracle Mozzee to our team. Then to further fuel our growth, we expanded our full-time staff to five with the addition of Dana Vincent as our Development Manager. And in honor of all of our dedicated volunteers, we were delighted to award Kelsey Davis, the Christopher Wells Volunteer Service Award. In addition, **we expanded our presence in Dorchester County**, hosted the **largest number of campers for Shannon's Hope Camp** and partnered with 47 schools. We are humbled by the nearly 5,000 hours of volunteer support representing \$179,000 of investment in the families we serve. And while the numbers capture our growing scale, **your impact is reflected through stories of growth & resilience** like the Kumar Sisters. I hope you'll take a moment to read their story to hear first-hand about **your deep & lasting impact.**

Meanwhile, the Board of Directors along with staff leadership and invaluable input & feedback from the entire Bridges of Hope community, completed an important new round of strategic planning. As a result, our **2026-2031 Strategic Plan** will chart our course as we continue to meet the needs of children & teens who are grieving by **further strengthening our school-based services and preparing for our next phase of expansion.**

So, thank you for being the **heart of the Bridges of Hope community.** We are grateful for your partnership, and look forward with gratitude & excitement to all that **we'll accomplish together.**

With hope,



Jonathan Wright
Executive Director



STEPPING STONES

what we do

Stepping Stones is a multi-faceted, year-round grief support program for families grieving a death. Member families receive compassionate care & support, year-round, through five core services:



Workshops for families to share a meal, enhance coping skills, connect with peer families, & have fun. Held 6-8 times per year on weeknights & Saturdays.



Reflective gatherings where children, families, and the broader community honor loved ones through simple acts like lighting candles & potting plants. Ceremonies take place in November & April.



A school-based grief support group that fosters peer connections and empowers students to navigate the ebbs & flows of their grief in the midst of daily life. This 9-week workshop series is offered at elementary, middle, & high schools each fall & spring.



An overnight camp for youth to explore and express their grief through age-appropriate workshops in a peaceful beach-front setting in community with peers, & caring volunteers, who "get it." Held each October and March on Seabrook Island.



Hope, Hooves & Healing is a specialty experience offered in collaboration with Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding where the connection between humans & horses leads the way to personal growth & self-discovery.

TOGETHER THROUGH GRIEF

The Kumar Sisters

When Akira, 10, and Mayna, 8, first walked into Sand Dollar Club at Drayton Hall Elementary School, they had already experienced more change than many children face in a lifetime. After moving across the country from their childhood home, changing schools, and adjusting to a new chapter of life, they were met with the unimaginable loss of their father, Milan, in April 2025.



Akira, Mayna & Aneesha (mom)

Grieving his death while trying to find stability in so many other changes felt overwhelming. Thankfully, they did not have to navigate their grief alone.



"I thought if I lost someone I loved, I would only have one emotion, but it turns out to be many. I feel sad, anxious, mad, upset, and fearful at different times. The mask represents all the change in feelings."

- Akira

The sisters were referred to Bridges of Hope by their school counselor, Mrs. Tammi Spivey, one of Bridges of Hope's long-standing school partners. Since 2018, Mrs. Spivey has partnered with Bridges to bring a school-based grief support group, directly to students on campus. Nearly 100 grieving children at DHES have found a safe place to share their stories, connect with peers who understand, and learn healthy ways to cope with loss. Akira and Mayna are just two of the many children whose lives have been transformed through this enduring partnership.

As part of their Sand Dollar Club experience, Akira and Mayna each created a grief mask (left), using art to express feelings that can be difficult to say aloud. Their masks were later featured in the Program Museum at our Hope Takes Flight fundraiser.

Her words beautifully capture one of the most important lessons children learn at Bridges—that grief isn't just one feeling. It changes, grows, and comes in waves, and every emotion is okay.



What began with Sand Dollar Club quickly grew into a deeper connection. The sisters attended Shannon's Hope Camp, participated in Hope Blossoms, and regularly attended our family workshops, creating a circle of support that surrounded not only the girls but their entire family. Throughout our programs, Akira and Mayna found meaningful ways to stay connected to their dad.



Whether it was wearing his University of Texas sweatshirt, creating memory keepsakes at camp, or sharing stories about him with other children who understood grief, they learned that remembering someone you love is an important part of healing. The girls also found joy alongside their grief. Akira's favorite memory from Camp was spending time at the beach, while Mayna treasured the candlelight ceremony, where campers light a candle for those they miss.



“Bridges of Hope has given my girls strength and support” - Aneesha

Their growth wasn't just visible—it was measurable. Following their participation in Sand Dollar Club, both sisters showed improvement in their coping skills, and Akira demonstrated a significant reduction in grief-related distress based on her pre- and post-program surveys. Behind every statistic is a child learning to navigate life after loss with greater confidence and hope. Their journey to camp wasn't without hesitation. Like many parents, their mother, Aneesha, was understandably anxious about sending her daughters away overnight. After thoughtful conversations and careful planning with our Program Coordinator Claire, Aneesha decided to give the girls the opportunity. They not only had a successful first camp experience but were excited to return for camp again the following spring. That is the power of community.

At Bridges of Hope, we know healing doesn't happen in isolation. It happens when schools, families, volunteers, and caring adults come together to surround grieving children with understanding, connection, and hope.

The Kumar Sisters story reminds us that while we cannot change a child's loss, but we can change how they experience it. Akira and Mayna have strengthened their resilience in a program that supports and empowers them.



Together, we help children discover they are not alone, their feelings are normal, and hope can grow alongside grief.

PROGRAM IMPACT

by the numbers



47

Active School Sites

501

Youth Served

143

Volunteers

74

School Groups

4,955

Hrs. of Volunteer Service

We are broadening our reach and
deepening our impact

91.3% can identify healthy coping skills.

84.8% actively use those skills.

89.5% feel hopeful about the future.

Grief-related physical symptoms, including stomach aches and
headaches, decreased.

Together, we fostered hope, resilience & coping
skills, generating a reduction in the frequency of
physical manifestations of grief & stress

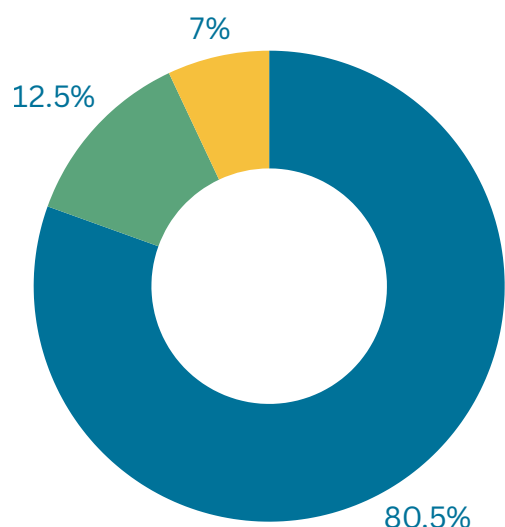
FINANCIALS

at a glance

Revenue (2025-26)

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN	\$ 39,900
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$ 111,300
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$ 29,500
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$ 94,900
EARNED INCOME	\$ 1,850
PLANNED OPERATING RESERVE INVESTMENT	\$ 282,000

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ 559,450



OPERATING EXPENSES (2025-26)

Program Expenses	\$ 450,357
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 69,932
Administrative Expenses	\$ 39,161

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 559,450



Stewarding resources to invest generously in
grieving children & families

GET INVOLVED

make a difference



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers play an essential role in helping kids connect & grow. For a fulfilling volunteer experience, learn more at www.bridgessc.org/volunteer



SPONSOR

If your company or organization is committed to giving back locally, we'd love to partner with you. Become a sponsor today by reaching out to jonathan@bridgessc.org



DONATE

Your generosity provides journals, art supplies & healthy food transforming dollars into tools of healing & growth. Invest today at www.bridgessc.org/donate



PARTNER

Partners help us expand our reach & enhance our impact. To make referrals, co-host programs, & collaborate in creative ways, connect with us at lauren@bridgesSC.org

OUR DEDICATED TEAM



Jonathan Wright
Executive Director



Lauren Clarke
Program Director



Dana Vincent
Development Manager



Claire Zurheide
Program Coordinator



Miracle Mozzee
School Coordinator

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CHILDREN'S GRIEF

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www.BridgesSC.org