



20

GRASSROOTS BY DESIGN.
IMPACT BY INTENTION.

25



ABOUT THE BRIDGE BUILDER COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY. ACCESS. OPPORTUNITY.



The Bridge Builder Collective is a **grassroots, community-driven nonprofit organization** committed to expanding access to education, mentorship, workforce exposure, and opportunity for students and families.

Every program we operate exists because **families asked for it.**
We listen first. Then we build.

WHY GRASSROOTS MATTERS

Grassroots does not mean small.

It means **responsive, accountable, and rooted**.

- Programs shaped by direct parent and student feedback
- Lean operations that prioritize impact over overhead
- Decisions made locally, not abstractly
- Accountability grounded in real relationships

Our size allows us to remain flexible, relational, and deeply connected to the communities we serve.



SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

DR. MARVIN LOTT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



In 2025, we continued our commitment to college access through the **Dr. Marvin Lott Scholarship Program.**

2025 Impact

- 3 scholarships awarded
- 5 total active scholars
- \$2,500 annual award per student

This program is designed to support **persistence**, not just access, pairing financial support with guidance and accountability.





BRIDGE FORWARD

COLLEGE FUNDING & FAMILY EDUCATION HUB

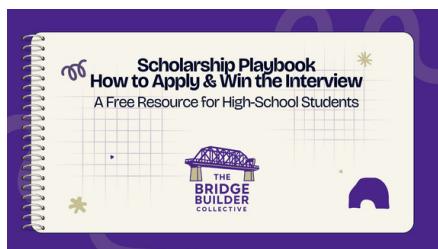
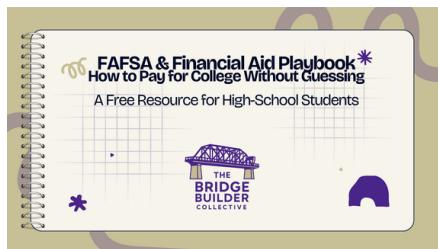
Bridge Forward was created directly in response to **parent requests** for clarity around college funding.

2025 Resources Created

- Scholarship Playbook: How to Apply & Win the Interview
- FAFSA & Financial Aid Playbook: How to Pay for College Without Guessing
- Tennessee HOPE & Tennessee Promise: Affordable College & Career Pathways

 **QR codes in this booklet link directly to each video**, allowing families and partners to explore resources at their own pace.

You can also visit www.bridgebuildercollective.org/bridge-forward to watch the videos and learn more.



STEM & WORKFORCE EXPOSURE



In 2025, we hosted a **free, two-day STEM camp** serving **120 students** ages 8–18.

Partners & Sponsors

- Best Buy
- The Bethlehem Center
- TVFCU
- TVA
- Shaw Industries

🎥 **Scan the QR code** to watch the STEM Camp recap video and see hands-on learning in action.





BRIDGE TO OPPORTUNITY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Bridge to Opportunity removes short-term financial barriers that delay employment, helping individuals move into jobs quickly and sustainably.

What We Do

- Partner with the **American Job Center** to identify eligible individuals
- Provide **microgrants** for job-related needs (fees, certifications, uniforms, tools, transportation)
- Deploy support quickly with a **goal of job placement within 30 days**

Why It Matters

- Small, targeted support unlocks immediate employment
- Faster placement leads to faster income stability

Economic Impact

- **40 placements = \$1.2M-\$1.6M in annual local economic impact**





ANNUAL BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Supporting Students. Strengthening Communities.

Each year, The Bridge Builder Collective hosts an Annual Backpack Giveaway to ensure students begin the school year with the supplies they need to feel prepared, confident, and supported.

2025 Impact

- Distributed **250 backpacks** filled with school supplies
- Held in partnership with the **City of Chattanooga**
- Hosted at the **Carver Community Center**
- Served families directly within the community



This effort helps reduce financial strain for families while setting students up for a strong start to the school year.

Continuing the Tradition

This year, we will continue the backpack giveaway **within a neighborhood setting**, maintaining the community-centered approach that has made the initiative successful. In addition, we are expanding our reach by providing **an additional 250 backpacks** to families in need in **Bradley County**.

What This Means

- **500 total backpacks** distributed
- Expanded reach across **multiple communities**
- Doubled impact while preserving a personal, neighborhood-based model

The Annual Backpack Giveaway reflects our belief that meeting basic needs is a critical first step in supporting long-term student success.

MENTORSHIP THAT MEASURES

THE NAVIGATORS MENTORING PROGRAM

(formerly Omega Lamplighters)

In 2025, our mentoring program evolved to better reflect the needs of students and families.

Formerly known as **Omega Lamplighters**, the program was intentionally restructured and rebranded as **The Navigators Mentoring Program** to strengthen outcomes, formalize structure, and improve communication based on direct parent and student feedback.

2025 Impact

- 24 students mentored
- Students represented multiple schools across the region
- 100% positive parent feedback from post-program surveys

What Changed

- Clear program structure and expectations
- Increased focus on measurable outcomes
- Stronger parent communication and engagement
- Alignment with student voice and family needs



The Navigators Mentoring Program reflects our commitment to growth, accountability, and continuous improvement, while honoring the legacy of the program that came before it.

WHO WE SERVE: MENTORING COHORTS SNAPSHOT			
	2024 Cohort	2025 Cohort	2026 Cohort
# of Participants	11	24	34
Schools & Counties Served	8 Schools / Hamilton County CSAS, Howard High, Tyner Academy, CCA, Chattanooga Prep, CSLA, Hunter Middle, STEM School of Chattanooga	12 Schools / Hamilton County CSAS, East Hamilton High, Boyd Buchanan, Central High, Howard Connect Academy, Normal Park, CSLA, Chattanooga Christian, East Hamilton Middle, STEM School of Chattanooga, Brown Middle, Tyner Academy	12 Schools / 10 - Hamilton County & 2 - Bradley County CSAS, Central High, Red Bank, East Hamilton, Tyner, Cleveland High, Bradley Central, Normal Park, Ooltewah, CSLA, Notre Dame, Boyd Buchanan
% of Participants Receiving Financial Support	58%	50%	70%
Average Household Income	\$40K	\$49K	\$54K
Mentees from Homes with One Primary Caregiver	Not Recorded	50%	66%
Average GPA	Not Recorded	2.75	2.55



WOMEN WHO BUILD



Honoring Leadership. Celebrating Impact.

The Women Who Build Honors recognizes women who are making powerful, often unseen contributions in their communities. These are women who lead with heart, consistency, and service — building people, programs, and progress every day.

Women Who Build was created to intentionally pause and spotlight the work that too often goes unrecognized, while affirming that community change is sustained by those who show up quietly, persistently, and with purpose.



Pictured (left to right): Dr. Lakesha Thompson (Honoree), Lorean Mays (Honoree), Napiera Alexander (Host), Brittney Officer (Honoree), and Angela Malone (Honoree).



PREVIOUS & CURRENT PARTNERS

Our work is made possible through the support and collaboration of partners who believe in access, opportunity, and community-driven impact. We are grateful for the organizations who have invested their time, resources, and trust in this work.





FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

2025 ACTUAL SPENDING

Responsible. Transparent. Impact-Driven.

The Bridge Builder Collective takes the responsibility of stewarding donations and contributions seriously. Every dollar entrusted to our organization is reviewed with intention and deployed in alignment with our mission and community priorities.

We are a **founder-led organization** with **no full-time or part-time staff**. All planning, programming, and operations are carried out by our founders, allowing us to maintain a lean structure and direct the majority of resources toward **programming** and direct **community impact**.

Financial decisions are guided by three core principles:

- **Program-first investment** — prioritizing initiatives that directly serve students, families, and job seekers
- **Efficiency and accountability** — minimizing overhead and unnecessary expenses
- **Responsiveness to community needs** — investing in programs that reflect real feedback and measurable outcomes

This approach allows us to maximize impact, remain fiscally responsible, and honor the trust placed in us by donors, partners, and the communities we serve.

↑ **\$37.1K**

Total 2025 Budget

↑ **\$17K**

Mentoring

↑ **\$5K**

Geek Squad Academy

↑ **\$3.1K**

Scholarships

↑ **\$2.5K**

Back-to-School Support

↑ **\$2.5K**

Workforce Development

↑ **\$2.5K**

Fundraising Activities

↑ **\$1.8K**

Insurance & Compliance

↑ **\$1K**

Marketing & Outreach

↑ **\$1.7K**

Administrative Expenses



Choose Your Level of Impact

The Bridge Builder Collective offers multiple ways to invest in students, families, and communities. Supporters may choose to give to the organization as a whole, sponsor a specific program, or directly support an individual student or family.

All sponsorship levels are tied to real costs and measurable outcomes.

Organization-Wide Sponsorship

Support the Full Mission

Organization-wide sponsorships provide the flexibility needed to sustain operations, respond to community needs, and strengthen programs across education, mentorship, workforce development, and family support.

Legacy Builder — \$25,000+

- Supports the full mission of The Bridge Builder Collective
- Featured recognition across programs, annual report, and digital platforms
- Invitation to an annual impact briefing
- Opportunity to underwrite a program, cohort, or initiative

Cornerstone Builder — \$15,000

- Recognition across major initiatives
- Featured acknowledgment in the annual report
- Website recognition

Community Builder — \$7,500

- Annual report recognition
- Website listing

Friend of the Collective — \$1,000

- Annual report acknowledgment

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SPONSORSHIP & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Sponsor a Student

One Student. One Year. Real Impact.

Some supporters want to know exactly who and what they are supporting. Sponsoring a student creates a direct, personal connection to impact.

Mentoring Sponsorship

- **\$700** sponsors **one student for one full year**

Payment Options

- \$700 one-time gift
- **\$58 per month for 12 months**

This sponsorship supports structured mentoring sessions, curriculum, activities, parent communication, and outcome tracking.

Scholarship Sponsorship

Dr. Marvin Lott Scholarship Program

Scholarships support access to postsecondary education while encouraging persistence and long-term success.

- **\$2,500 — Funds one student scholarship**
- **\$5,000 — Funds two student scholarships**
- **\$10,000 — Funds four student scholarships**

Scholarships are paired with guidance, accountability, and ongoing encouragement.

The Navigators Mentoring Program

Mentoring is the foundation of our work and focuses on consistency, relationships, and measurable outcomes.

- **\$22,500 — Sponsors an entire mentoring cohort**
- **\$11,250 — Sponsors half a cohort**
- **\$700 — Sponsors one mentee for one year**

Support covers program structure, activities, communication, and evaluation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SPONSORSHIP & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Geek Squad Academy

STEM Camp Sponsorship Levels

Geek Squad Academy is a free, two-day STEM experience serving youth ages 8–18.

- **Title Sponsor — \$7,500**
 - Funds the entire STEM camp for approximately 200 students
- **Innovation Partner — \$5,000**
 - Supports approximately 130 students
- **STEM Champion — \$2,500**
 - Supports approximately 65 students
- **Future Builder — \$1,000**
 - Supports approximately 25 students
- **Student Sponsor — \$300**
 - Sponsors one student's full STEM experience
- **Friend of STEM — \$150**
 - Helps provide supplies and learning materials

Workforce Development

Bridge to Opportunity

Bridge to Opportunity assists individuals facing employment barriers caused by fines, including driver's license–related fines, that prevent them from working.

Microgrants are deployed in partnership with the American Job Center.

- **\$100** — Assists with one qualifying fine
- **\$500** — Assists multiple individuals
- **\$2,500** — Supports broader workforce access efforts

Impact:

Each successful placement can generate \$30,000–\$40,000 in annual earned income, reinvested into the local economy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SPONSORSHIP & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Women Who Build Honors

Recognition & Community Leadership

Women Who Build honors women leading through service, consistency, and impact.

- **Presenting Sponsor — \$5,000**
- **Empowerment Partner — \$2,500**
- **Community Supporter — \$1,000**

Support helps elevate underrecognized leadership and inspire future generations.

Annual Backpack Giveaway

Back-to-School Support

The Annual Backpack Giveaway ensures students start the school year prepared and confident.

Cost Breakdown

- **\$6,500** supports 500 backpacks with school supplies
- **\$13** provides one backpack filled with supplies

Sponsorship Levels

- **\$13** — 1 backpack
- **\$130** — 10 backpacks
- **\$650** — 50 backpacks
- **\$1,300** — 100 backpacks
- **\$3,250** — 250 backpacks
- **\$6,500** — Entire initiative (500 backpacks)

How to Get Involved

Sponsors may:

- Support one program or multiple initiatives
- Make a one-time or recurring contribution
- Customize sponsorships based on interest and impact goals

Donations can be made online at
www.bridgebuildercollective.org/donate or by mailing a
check or money order to
The Bridge Builder Collective
9515 Lee Hwy, STE B #163, Ooltewah, TN 37363.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SPONSORSHIP & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



IMPACT IN ACTION WHAT OUR WORK LOOKS LIKE IN REAL TIME





OUR IMPACT SO FAR

SNAPSHOT OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED



Our Impact So Far

A year-by-year snapshot of students and families served

*Impact reflects program participation & resources distributed since 2024

MENTORSHIP & EDUCATION

35 STUDENTS MENTORED



Through structured mentoring programs

- 2024 - 11 Students
- 2025 - 24 Students



5 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Through the Dr. Marvin Lott Scholarship Program

- 2024 - 2 Awarded
- 2025 - 3 Awarded

\$12,500 SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED

STEM & YOUTH ENRICHMENT



120 STEM CAMP PARTICIPANTS

Students attended Geek Squad Academy STEM Camp



250 BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

Students supported through back-to-school initiatives

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



25 FAMILIES SUPPORTED THROUGH HOLIDAY MEALS

100 FAMILIES SUPPORTED COMMUNITY EVENTS

Additional outreach and community support efforts

2026 PROGRAM COMMITMENTS

- 34 STUDENTS TO BE MENTORED IN 2026
- 4 STUDENTS TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2026
- 200 STEM CAMP PARTICIPANTS
- 40 FAMILIES TO BE SUPPORTED THROUGH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES
- 500 BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED
- 25 FAMILIES TO BE SUPPORTED THROUGH HOLIDAY MEALS

We are proud to be a grassroots organization doing major work. Your investment — whether in a student, a program, or the full mission — directly creates access, opportunity, and long-term impact for families in our community.

Thank you for building bridges with us.





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 [@bridgebuildercollective](https://twitter.com/bridgebuildercol)

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