



## Welcome to 2025!

We had a great 2024, check out all of the great things that happened to end the year. As we reflect on the success of this year, we are looking forward to 2025- a year of improvement, recovery, and growth!



Visit our Website

### Website Launch

Bridgeway is proud to unveil its brand new website, fully redesigned and made with accessibility in mind! You will be able to find events we participate in, information and resources about our services, check out some great photos of our staff and consumers, and more! The new website can be found at: [www.bway.org](http://www.bway.org)



### YES (Youth Empowerment Services) Grant Extension

“As many of you are aware, the funding for YES System of Care was scheduled to end December 31st, 2024. On September 2nd, YES System of Care was invited to participate in a 3 year grant extension with a 20 day turn around on submission. I am so excited to share that because of the impact of this group the past 4+ years, The Illinois Children Healthcare Foundation found it important to continue investing in our efforts in the work we are doing and believe in our collaboration and difference we are making in the lives of youth and families in the Knox, Warren, and Henderson Counties. YES System of Care has been awarded an additional THREE YEARS OF FUNDING (Jan 1, 2025-December 31st 2027)!!!

As I reflect on the impacts and the growth we have seen over the last four years of funding, and the relationships and foundation that was established even before, I truly believe sky is the limit. We are making a difference. Our collaboration over competition approach to serving families has inspired other state grant recipients to changing their models for their own projects. Our area has been noticed because a group of individual agencies believe in removing barriers, communicating, and just serving people.

I am so honored to manage this project, but this



could not have been successful without you all,  
and for that THANK YOU!  
Thank you, Thank you!  
Wishing you all the best,”  
-Jessica Boock, System of Care Director

# Two Bridgeway Leaders Graduate from IARF Future Leaders Program



Two Bridgeway leaders completed the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) Future Leaders training. Jenni Winbigler, Senior Accounting Manager, and Jonathan Fitch, Director of Community Living and Support Services, celebrated the completion of this training at the IARF Future graduation ceremony in Springfield last week, where they were accompanied by their supervisors, Staci Danner (Chief Financial Officer), Alyssa Hart (Vice President of Disability Services), and Bill Nelson (President and Chief Executive Officer).

The IARFuture Leadership Initiative is a one-of-a kind program designed to develop, train, and strengthen future generations of leaders working in not-for-profit social service agencies. The eight, day-long sessions offer the chance to learn from leaders in organizations that are changing the face of service delivery and re-tooling their agencies to meet the opportunities of the future. It also offers the chance to create an amazing support network among fellow participants from organizations similar to Bridgeway.

Jenni and Jonathan thoroughly enjoyed their experience and came out of the program with a stronger knowledge of the nonprofit world, a stronger sense of leadership, and developed relationships with their classmates. They both agree that this is a great development tool for future leaders of Bridgeway.

Jonathan said, “I had a really good time. It was a great opportunity to meet a variety of people from all over the state that share our passion for social services in all the various forms they take. I was grateful for the opportunity to learn from so many amazing speakers and experts. I am confident with these attendees and with others from previous years and years to come, that the future of Human Services is in good hands and I am humbled to be able to play my small part in that.”



Jenni Winbigler, pictured middle



Jonathan Fitch, pictured middle

## Events Bridgeway Staff Attended, Sponsored and/or Supported in the last few months!



- Dunlap High School Special Education Resource Fair (Dunlap)
- 92nd Annual The International Bridge, Tunnel & Turnpike Association (IBTTA) Conference (Cleveland, Ohio)
- Galesburg Chamber of Commerce State Legislative Luncheon (Galesburg)
- Carl Sandburg College New Building Open House (Galesburg)
- Bloomington Career Expo (Bloomington)
- McLean County Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Showcase (Bloomington)
- International Pack Expo Trade Show (Chicago)
- First Christian Church Resource Fair (Kewanee)
- Illinois Health Practice Alliance Conference (Chicago)
- Macomb Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours (Arnold Brothers Heating and Cooling- Macomb)
- Baby Fold Festival of Trees (Bloomington)
- Heartland Community College HALO Program Mock Interviews (Bloomington)
- Freezing for Food (Monmouth)
- Speak out Illinois Community Resource Fairs (Peoria and Bloomington)
- Holly Days parade (Galesburg)
- Festival of Lights (Rockford)
- Christmas Meal Packing for Jamieson Center (Monmouth)





## What's Happening at Bridgeway

- Bridgeway donated \$2,000 to the American Red Cross for hurricane relief efforts following Hurricane Helene and Milton. Our staff wore their sports gear and everyone who wore something, Bridgeway Foundation donated \$10 to the efforts, plus Bridgeway Foundation matching \$10 for every person wearing sports gear!
- Bridgeway Macomb staff wear purple for Domestic Violence Awareness month, to raise awareness for victims of domestic violence.
- Keri Dodson, Community Engagement Director, was on the panel at Carl Sandburg College for local area middle school children career day.
- Held the FOG (Friends of Growth) Christmas party for consumers and staff at our Loves Park location.
- We recognized our dedicated staff for their years of service at Bridgeway:
  - Stephanie Grabowski, Data Entry Operator in Loves Park- 5 years
  - Natalie Nygren-Kearns, Data Entry Operator in Loves Park-10 years
  - Rebecca Alston, Data Entry Operator in Loves Park- 10 years
  - Abby Blades, Program Support Specialist in Kewanee- 20 years
- Bridgeway consumers designed Christmas cards to raise money for a greenhouse in Pekin!
- Bridgeway staff participated in holiday fun in numerous ways:
  - Data Entry staff in Loves Park, Macomb, and Galesburg did a spirit week with different dress up days
  - Door decorating contest in Galesburg
  - Christmas parties for consumers

# Bridgeway in the News

Check out some of the articles Bridgeway has been featured in lately!

[Knox County Vending Machines Expand Knox County's Push to Curb Overdoses](#)

[Free Narcan, Test Strips in Knox County Vending Machines](#)

[Federal Grant Allows Bridgeway to Offer a More Robust Model of Behavioral Health Care](#)

## Upcoming Events

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September

19

**Discover Wellness Summit**  
Carl Sandburg College  
Mark your calendar for the 2025 DWS!

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We're Hiring Awesome  
People!

Bridgeway Inc | 2323 Windish Dr | Galesburg, IL 61401 US

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