

Reach for the Stars! at the Bridging Out Program

established 1990



What is Bridging Out?

Bridging Out is a social enrichment group program for adults with learning disorders, established in 1990 by group members and their families. John Beach and Mary-Jane Beach have co-lead the group since it began.

The group is for socializing and talking out problems in confidence. "What is said here, stays here!" We have a chance to share personal experiences and life events, such as when a family member dies. Over time, we have formed true friendships because we trust each other. We value working and we like to get out in the community.

Meetings

Meetings are held once a month. This is a supper club and members may bring dinner or take-out from restaurants.

Reach for the Stars

Reach for the Stars! is the group motto since 1994. We look at the positive side of life, try new things, set goals, live productive lives and learn new ways to find solutions to our challenges.

Handle with Care

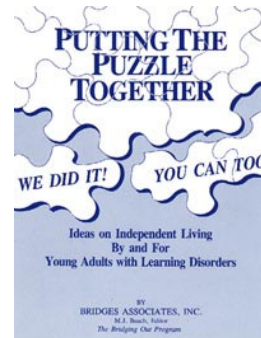
Every member must agree to treat each other with respect, kindness, patience, and good manners. Members of the group agree to avoid alcohol and other drugs before and during meetings or functions.

Share News .. Plan Activities

Each meeting begins with NEWS. Members usually share something about their job, vacation, community activities or personal announcements. The group also plans the activity schedule which includes games, events, fundraising and fun!

Fundraising for projects and events

We welcome personal tax-deductible donations, in-kind donations or cans for recycling to enrich the program, provide scholarships or offset costs. Special fundraising events support the annual Holiday Party in December and the 15th anniversary edition of the Puzzle Book in the near future.



Written in 1991-

1992!

Watch for the revised edition!

Your donation will support the Bridging Out Program!

Do you know that the members of Bridging Out wrote a book in 1991-1992? Putting the Puzzle Together was written by members of the group who met for nearly a year socializing and discussing issues that were important to the then "twenty-somethings". The group experience was followed by individual interviews with the members who wished to share a personal story. Most of the stories depicted frustration and struggle. Nearly 17 years have passed since the program began and nearly 15 years since we wrote the book. Our members experienced significant personal growth. They have gotten older, and as we all know, aging imposes new developmental tasks. In recognition of this, we are preparing to write an update of the Puzzle Book. We will look at resilience as our members have discovered remarkable solutions for many of their challenges. Using the Take Charge! lingo, they have bounced back! We will create a publication for adults, parents and professionals about succeeding in adulthood with learning disorders. We will document the history of the Bridging Out Program and describe this successful social group model.

Bridges Associates, Inc., established in 1989, is a private, tax-exempt organization (EIN #04-3069367). Bridges Associates, Inc. helps children and adults who learn differently take charge of their lives. The Bridging Out Program was established in 1990 by members and their families.