

# The Bridge Recap of 2020

January 2021

## Pandemic, Remote Learning, Grieving & Hope



### How the Pandemic has affected The Bridge

This last year was difficult for everyone on a personal level and a national one. The Bridge was no exception. The pandemic made every choice we made difficult. We wanted to ensure the safety of our students while meeting in-person to serve their mental-health needs. This meant we required facemasks while indoors, practiced social distancing, and limited The Bridge WiFi Café to once a week. Thankfully the students have had no issues with our new rules. Even in these crazy times, we have had great experiences with our few students. Every week we laugh, play games, and share life stories. I hope someday these students realize how much we appreciate their commitment to us.

As much as we love our true and faithful students, we miss seeing our old students who would come and go. In years past we would have a crowd of students asking for snacks while they walked home. During summer and fall, we would pitch a tent in our yard next to Washington Street to remind students about The Bridge. We'd hand out snacks, water, and Bridge information. This was always a thrill for me. We'd meet new faces and see familiar faces and let them know The Bridge is a safe place to hang out, eat food, play games, and do homework, all the while just hoping that our little conversations would leave the students feeling seen and cared about.

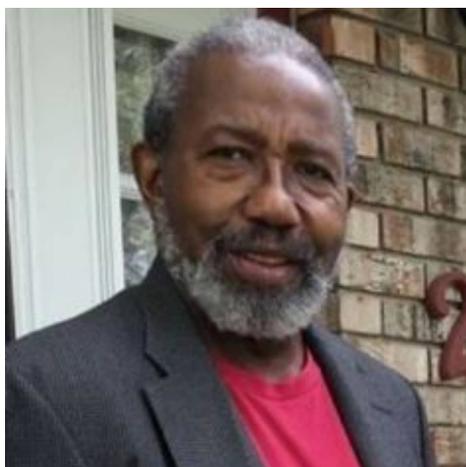
We are so excited to bring back the tent outreach and have these small but meaningful conversations. In the meantime, we treasure the relationships we are maintaining and the time we are investing with Bridge students who join us on Wednesday nights at youth group for games, music, Bible study and prayer, and at our WiFi Cafe' on Thursday afternoons here at The Bridge.

---

## School with The Bridge

As school transitioned to remote learning, The Bridge leadership team wanted to help. We brainstormed and decided to open up our doors for students to study with us. We call it School with The Bridge. As much as we wanted this idea to be amazing, no amount of word of mouth or media advertisement brought many kids. A few students show up here and there and we are ready for them again this semester. Our hope is that whether they are studying with us or at home they continue to learn and grow.

## Clarence Williams



As many of you know, this past year we mourned the death of our beloved brother in Christ Clarence Williams. Clarence taught Special Education for a total of 36 years and served as an elder in our sponsoring church for over 40 years (see our “Leadership” webpage for a bio on his life).

Clarence served as one of our Bridge leaders and cared for the students with a passion and a desire to educate like no one I have ever seen. He gave his time, resources, and love with no end. We truly miss this great man. May the Lord continue to comfort his wife Gail and all of his family and friends.

## Hope

With all the trials and disappointments I can say with full reassurance this is not the end. We will keep giving ourselves to the students of Round Lake. We love this town and its people. Thank you to our volunteers and donors who faithfully pray for us, give of their time, and support us financially. We will keep running the good race and by the grace of God, we will finish the task set before us.

Neomi Nicoline  
Program Director

[theBridgeRoundLake.org](http://theBridgeRoundLake.org)

Program Director: Neomi Nicoline (847) 886-4595 \* [thebridgeroundlake@gmail.com](mailto:thebridgeroundlake@gmail.com)

Executive Director: Pastor Marcus Johnson (847) 886-9155 \* [efcamarcus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:efcamarcus@sbcglobal.net)

Contact us if you would like to know more about supporting or working with us here at The Bridge