

TRANSFORMING LIVES AND REBUILDING COMMUNITIES



**2012-2013 DONATION PACKAGE**

**ONE BRICK AT A TIME!**

**\$500,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

[WWW.BRIDGINGTHEGAPMILWAUKEE.COM](http://WWW.BRIDGINGTHEGAPMILWAUKEE.COM)

# HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

## MISSION STATEMENT

Educating, inspiring and equipping underserved youth and adults with the necessary tools and resources to develop and maintain successful futures and strong, productive communities.

## OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Byrd\*  
*Founder*

Valerie Wilson Reed!\*  
*President*

Anna Townes  
*Vice President*

Cathy Stamps Covington\*  
*Secretary*

Mary Ellen Powers  
*Treasurer*

Ann Koontz  
*Member*

Marilyn Braddock\*  
*Member*

\* Marquette Alumni.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Bridging the Gap  
Learning Center, Inc.  
1017 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
414.939.4960

### Accounting Firm

Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP  
414.271.7800

Dear Supporter,

*Did you know that Milwaukee is one of America's top 10 impoverished cities, with a poverty rate of 29.4% in 2011; and among minorities, 41% of Milwaukee's black population and 35% of Hispanics live below poverty levels?*

Simply looking at these numbers, it is clear to see that a large percentage of Milwaukee's minority population lack the income, opportunities, access, or resources to meet the basic needs of life. Therefore, their full participation in our society is limited, which weakens the overall nucleus of our local and global economies.

Here at Bridging the Gap Learning Center, Inc. (BTG), our goal is to lay the foundation for underserved communities to have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to engage and compete in our economy. We believe the cycle of poverty can be broken through our core areas of focus: education, job training and placement, entrepreneurial training and professional services.

In order to make this a reality, we aim to build a state-of-the art Entrepreneurial Center that will be devoted to supporting economic development throughout the Milwaukee Metropolitan area. In order to fund the construction of this facility, we are proud to announce the launch of our ONE BRICK AT A TIME Capital Campaign to raise \$500,000.

We are committed to rebuilding communities and changing lives, and ask for your help.

Please take a moment to review the following pages, which briefly outline our programs and services, and specifically how you can support us. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at 414.939.4960 or email [support@bridgingthegapmilwaukee.com](mailto:support@bridgingthegapmilwaukee.com).

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Bryd  
*Founder*  
Bridging the Gap

Valerie Wilson Reed  
*President*  
Bridging the Gap

## CORE AREAS

Bridging the Gap Learning Center, Inc. (BTG) is a 501c3 organization with a mission to educate, inspire and equip underserved youth and adults with the necessary tools and resources to develop and maintain successful futures and strong, productive communities. This is accomplished through a full range of educational, developmental and training programs and services spanning the following core areas:

- ① Education & Sports
- ② Job Training & Placement
- ③ Entrepreneurial Training
- ④ Professional Services

### ① EDUCATION & SPORTS

#### Tutoring Program

BTG has partnered with the *Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee* and *Marquette University* to implement a youth tutoring program for high school students. The program is facilitated by the *Allies of the Club*, a student organization formed by the *Boys & Girls Stein Scholar* recipients. The Stein Scholars College Preparatory Program is a two-year program that helps recipients attend and succeed in higher education. There are approximately 23 *Stein Scholar* recipients attending Marquette University who are committed to tutoring the participants in the program. The tutoring program is held weekly on Marquette's campus, affording the participants a glimpse of the on-campus, collegiate experience.

#### Student-Athlete Program

In the belief that athletics could be used as a means to achieve success beyond the athletic arena. In 2000, BTG acquired a vacant city lot on the corner of 17th and State and created the first of its kind country golf training facility for youth and adults. The facility features a small clubhouse with state-of-art putting green, hitting mats, turf, and netting. Shortly thereafter, BTG partnered with the *WI PGA Junior Foundation: The First Tee of Milwaukee County* to facilitate the current instructional curriculum for youth and adults. The facility not only introduces inner-city youth to the game of golf, but also provides a positive environment for them to learn.



In addition, to ensure a broader athletic reach, BTG has partnered with *The Game Alliance* – an upcoming online resource center (2013) that seeks to assist student-athletes WIN the GAME of life through athletics. The mission is to create a collective body of resources that support student-athletes with the exposure, eligibility requirements, and development of excellence to attend and succeed in higher education. Core areas include:

- Academic Advising
- Career Development
- Sports Psychology
- ACT/SAT Prep
- Recruiting Education
- Leadership/Life Skills

## BRIDGING THE GAP CORE AREAS (CONT.)

### 2 JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT

Starting in 2013, BTG will offer a job training and placement program in the construction, cosmetology and hospitality industries. The program will entail an in-class training curriculum and on-the-job training that help candidates develop the knowledge and skills needed to secure entry level or higher position jobs. In addition, BTG will provide job placement assistance to candidates that successfully complete the program.

### 3 ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

Also starting in 2013, the entrepreneurial training program will prepare and support entrepreneurs in all facets of starting and running a successful business. In addition, space will physically be available inside the center for entrepreneurs to set up shop and run their businesses on site. (i.e. business kiosks, beauty and barber chairs, etc.)

BTG believes that communities already have the talent, energy and ideas within them to foster change. Therefore, the training program helps to bridge the gap for promising entrepreneurs to build vibrant businesses that create employment opportunities, provide needed goods and services, and contribute to rebuilding the community.

### 4 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Once the entrepreneurial training program is functional, professional services (accounting, banking, legal, human resources and printing) will be available to entrepreneurs at discounted rates. BTG understands that affordable access to these types of services is crucial to helping businesses succeed.



**\$500,000**

**ONE BRICK AT A TIME FUNDRAISING PROGRAM**

Bridging the Gap Learning Center, Inc. (BTG) is proud to announce the launch of our ONE BRICK AT A TIME Capital Campaign to raise \$500,000 to build a state-of-the art Entrepreneurial Center, devoted to supporting economic development throughout the Milwaukee Metropolitan area. We would like to offer donors an opportunity to support the construction of our new facility and supporting structures on the 9,800+ square feet parcel of land currently owned by BTG.

We ask that you make a commitment to support our Capital Campaign by making a financial or in-kind donation. With a goal of \$500,000, we hope that you will be able to make a contribution and join us as we strike a mighty blow for the transformation of our community!

For donations of \$25 or more, you can leave a lasting impression by purchasing a personalized brick that will be permanently displayed at a designated location within the new facility. You may choose to have your name engraved in the brick, have it inscribed in memory or in honor of a loved one.

*“The highest use of capital is not to make more money but to make money do more for the betterment of all life.” — Henry Ford (1863– 1947)*

**MONETARY DONATION LEVELS**

 <p><b>PLATINUM</b> \$4,000+</p>	 <p><b>GOLD</b> \$500-\$3,999</p>	 <p><b>SILVER</b> \$100-\$499</p>	 <p><b>BRONZE</b> \$25-\$99</p>
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**IN-KIND DONATIONS**

BTG is also seeking the following in-kind donations:

- Construction Material/Tools
- Culinary/Commercial Kitchen Equipment
- Office Equipment
- Computers

We ask that all donations are in new or gently-used condition.

**For more information, please contact us directly at  
414.939.4960.**

**HOW YOU CAN DONATE**

- 1 Complete *Donation Form* on the next page and mail to the address listed on the form
- 2 Visit our website and make an online (secure) donation
- 3 Consider leaving BTG a bequest in your Will

*\* All contributions made to Bridging the Gap’s ONE BRICK AT A TIME fundraising program qualify as a tax-deductible gift.*

# BRIDGING THE GAP DONATION FORM

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please print your name and information below:

Name			Phone		
Address			Fax		
City	State	Zip	Email		

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check    My check for    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    (please make payable to Bridging the Gap Learning Center)

Charge    Please charge:    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    to my:     Visa     MasterCard

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_    Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_    CRV Code (on back): \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge    I wish to pledge:

\$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100     Other    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To be paid:     Monthly     Quarterly     Semi-Annually     Annually

For:     1 Year     2 Years     3 Years    Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Online    [www.bridgingthegapmilwaukee/donate](http://www.bridgingthegapmilwaukee/donate)

**Mail Donations to:**  
 Bridging the Gap Learning Center, Inc.  
 1017 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Milwaukee, WI 53233

**Thank You for Your Kind Support!**



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