



# Fact Sheet

**FOUNDED** 2014

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Sil Ganzó, Founder

## MISSION

ourBRIDGE for KIDS empowers refugee and immigrant students and their families through education and cultural awareness.

## MODEL

ourBRIDGE serves Charlotte, NC by offering out-of-school programming to newly arrived and 1st generation American children, most of them being refugees and immigrants. The organization provides a culturally relevant and experiential learning-based curriculum, one-on-one English literacy tutoring, homework help, healthy meals and free transportation in a safe and welcoming community center. Additionally, ourBRIDGE provides advocacy for the thousands of refugees and immigrants who live in the greater Charlotte region.

## GOVERNANCE

ourBRIDGE for Kids is a 501(c)(3) governed by an eight-member board of directors.

- Chair of the Board: Mark Weber (Croixstone Consulting)
- Vice Chair of the Board: Richard Lee (Narrative)
- Board Members: Meg Campbell Haynes, Esq. (Center for the Support of Families); Reid Leggett (Social Venture Partners); Erika Lopez (formerly with Global Impact); Rusty Rainey (Bank of America - retired); Allen Shifflet (Bank of America Merrill Lynch); Scott Waybright (Charlotte Country Day School)

## SERVICE AREA

ourBRIDGE welcomes children in kindergarten through 5th grade who are learning to speak English or are growing-up in a bicultural environment. The children currently enrolled come from over 20 different cultures and most attend the following Title I Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools: Merry Oaks International Academy, Oakhurst STEAM Academy and Winterfield Elementary School.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

- ourBRIDGE has welcomed over 350 English Language Learners since 2010.
- 95% of teachers saw improvement in: homework, class participation, behavior and more.
- Average student attendance rate in 2015-2016 was 93% on each weekday.
- According to parents' letter of intention, 100% of students will return in 2016-2017.

## RECENT AWARDS

**2016:** Recipient of the first-ever "SEED20 Legacy Alumni Award" by Wells Fargo

**2016:** Sil Ganzó named a "2016 Ricardo Salinas Scholar" by The Aspen Institute

**2014:** Sil Ganzó named a "2014 Charlottean of the Year" by Charlotte Magazine

**2014:** Named a "SEED20 Class of 2014 Finalist" as one of Charlotte's most innovative nonprofits by Social Venture Partners