

Remembering a friend

Mission

Vital Bridges helps people throughout metropolitan Chicago impacted by HIV and AIDS to improve their health and build self-sufficiency by providing food, nutrition, housing, case management and prevention services.

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For more than a decade, Bob Mayo served as a Board member, Board officer and key leader of Vital Bridges. On January 8, 2009, Bob passed away after a prolonged illness. He will be tremendously missed by all in the Vital Bridges family.

Bob helped Vital Bridges in so many ways. First, he brought professional resources to the organization to help us plan and focus our efforts. Bob was a strategic thinker and instrumental in the merger process that created Vital Bridges.

Bob was a fearless fundraiser and a very generous donor. Bob connected his extensive network to our cause. He brought scores of people to our events and thereby to our organization.

Bob was an avid advocate for our clients. He was clear about what was important and committed to making sure that people living with HIV/AIDS, who had no resources, could come to Vital Bridges to improve their health and build productive futures. Because of him, thousands of people living with HIV and AIDS have received nutritious food, nutrition counseling, housing services, counseling and education. Most of the people that Bob's generosity and leadership touched never met him. But his impact is felt everyday: in the meals clients eat; the apartments they call home; their interactions with the counselors who help them move forward; and the training they receive in our Learning Center.

Bob is survived by his partner Bill Lasche, a loving family, and many, many friends. To honor Bob's memory, Vital Bridges has created the Robert S. Mayo Memorial Fund to support client services. If you would like to give a gift to the fund, please go to our website: www.vitalbridges.org or mail a contribution to Vital Bridges, 5543 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60640. Through the fund, Bob will live on at Vital Bridges.

20th Anniversary

Continued from cover



food, housing and case management – became a reality with the merger of Open Hand Chicago, Community Response and the HIV Coalition, becoming Vital Bridges. Clients across the metro area could now access multiple services at multiple sites in the city and suburbs, and professionals were there to help them plan their next steps and meet their needs.

When it became clear that our clients were struggling to find adequate housing and all too often were on the verge of homelessness, Vital Bridges expanded its housing services



to assure that clients had the foundation from which to rebuild their lives. And, as the medical complexity of our clients increased, we responded with additional education, more intensive case management, and stronger relationships with medical providers to help clients manage and sustain their health.

In twenty years, Vital Bridges has provided nearly 10 million nutritious meals; more than 600,000 nights of safe, stable housing; 250,000 counseling and education sessions and countless hours of compassion and care. From a tiny orga-

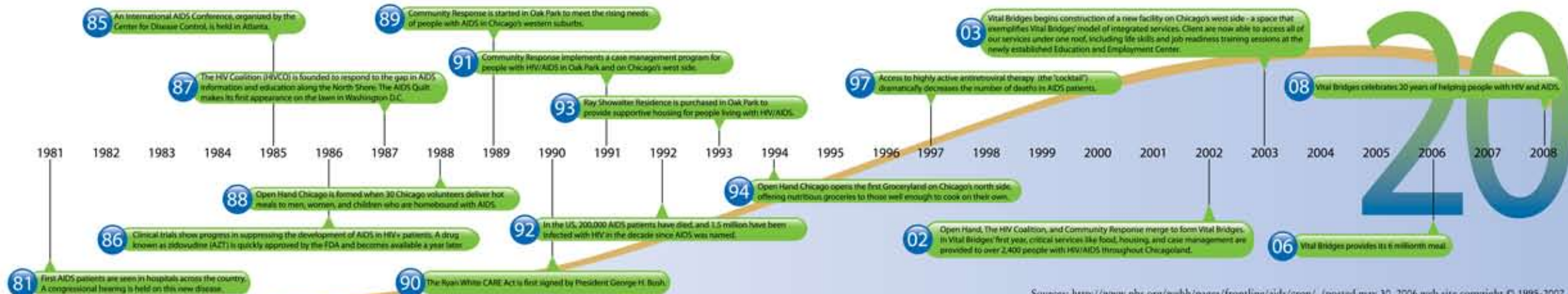


nization supported with a few thousand dollars and a small army of dedicated volunteers, Vital Bridges has grown into a nearly \$4 million agency with a professional staff of 28. Today, Vital Bridges has a corps of more than 500 volunteers helping to bring our mission to life.

Each year, Vital Bridges now helps nearly 2,000 clients build healthier, more self-sufficient lives. The organization provides 500,000 meals; 30,000 nights of housing; 12,000 counseling sessions; and 2,000 educational and vocational sessions.



From day one, Vital Bridges was built on strong commitment: to respond to those who were sick and had no resources; to build quality, effective services; to stay the course in hard times; to put clients first. Twenty years later, this commitment still stands.



Sources: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/aids/cron/> (posted may 30, 2006 web site copyright © 1995-2007 WGBH educational foundation) AND http://history.nih.gov/NIHInOwnWords/docs/page_26.html.