

FACT SHEET



FOUNDED 2014

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Salma Villarreal

MISSION

ourBRIDGE fosters the education, acculturation, and well-being of refugee and immigrant families through out-of-school programs and comprehensive, culturally-responsive wraparound support.

MODEL

ourBRIDGE welcomes 250+ immigrant and refugee children into its out-of-school programming, offering culturally relevant, experiential learning activities, one-on-one English literacy tutoring, homework help, healthy meals, and free transportation to and from the program.

Our Family Support Team offers personalized, multilingual support to help families navigate complex systems and access essential resources such as food, healthcare, school support, and mental health services. By meeting families where they are and communicating in their preferred language, they help strengthen family stability and children's overall well-being.

GOVERNANCE

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

Satoshi Watanabe - Board Chair
Retired

A.T. Castillo - Vice Chair
Retired

Nancy Yang
Senior Manager, RSM US LLP

Hiba Salih
Program Officer, LISC

Lisa Luth - Board Chair Emeritus
Senior Vice President, Luth Research

Vince Altamura
EVP Deputy General Counsel, Truist

Matt Roden
Area Vice President, Community
Engagement NC/GA
Atrium Health

Gavin Dowell
Deputy General Counsel, Consumer Banking,
Ally Financial

KaLee Strawbridge
Senior Manager Information Security, Lowes

Kim Barnes
Housing & Neighborhood Services,
City of Charlotte

SERVICE AREA

ourBRIDGE provides out-of-school programs at two Charlotte sites. **At our East Charlotte community site**, 150 K–8 children from 20+ countries and 13 languages participate in afterschool and summer programs with certified ESL instructors. Families access wraparound services, adult ESL classes, health fairs, bi-monthly fresh food distributions through The Bulb market, and community events like the International Fall Festival.

At our South Charlotte school-based site at CMS Pinewood Elementary, 100 K–5 students—78% English language learners, 90% Spanish-speaking—receive afterschool and summer support with certified ESL instructors, alongside nearby parent support groups, mental health workshops, and community events.

The Charlotte is Home Center is a comprehensive service hub addressing essential service barriers for Charlotte’s foreign-born population. Renovated in August 2024, the center provides walk-in access to legal aid, low-cost healthcare, and wraparound supports such as food referrals, a diaper bank, a community closet, and more, helping families navigate resources and build stability.