

## **Door County Bridges Summary**

**Number of employees:** 0

**Number of volunteers:** 90+

### **What is your Mission Statement?**

To provide friendship and assistance to international J-1 Visa students in Door County through social events, English classes, sports activities, and other services.

To create opportunities to share Christian faith with international students in Door County, through distribution of Christian scripture and literature, informal discussion groups, and American Connection Friendship Family relationships.

### **What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?**

Each local church provides funding to support the six large-group events. This makes up about 80% of our financial needs. The remaining is made up of individual supporters, one Foundation - The Easter Foundation, and gifts in kind.

### **What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?**

We serve all of Door County from Sturgeon Bay to Gills Rock.

### **Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.**

We serve international students who come to work on a J1 Visa or H2B visa for the summer. Our goal is to come alongside these students and give them a taste of America, provide them with opportunities to meet other students from around the world, and give them a chance to have some fun while working hard for the summer.

We support the State Department's program called Bridge USA, a Summer Work Travel program that provides foreign students with an opportunity to live and work in the United States during their summer vacation from college or university. One of their goals is to help these students experience and to be exposed to the people and way of life in the United States. Door County BRIDGES helps fulfill this goal.

We run six large group events, including a Sunset Cruise, a Kayaking event, Sports night with a traditional Fish Boil, Christmas in July, and a Summer Picnic with a Barbeque, Somores, and Segways. The second option we offer is the opportunity to have an American Family befriend you. They take you on hikes, invite you into their home, and become an "Uncle/Aunt or Grandma/Grandpa" while they are away from their home and family.

**How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?**

Door County depends on the international students for the summer and fall seasons. Over 500 students work in our beautiful corner of the world. We work in cooperation with the local businesses and the State Department to ensure these students are well cared for and supported. Over and over students return to Door County to work because of their experience with Door County BRIDGES. I also love to see local churches working together to serve our students and the community.

**What is your annual budget?**

\$16,000

**If you were to receive a donation from 100+WWC, how would that donation be used?**

1. We would use it to buy backpacks with reflective tape and lights on them to keep our students safe. We would use the backpacks as our gift bags. We would use the money to buy items for the gift bags. It has been a real struggle to get individuals to make donations of gift items to fill our bags.

2. We would love to create a bike repair team that would help keep the bikes the students use for transportation. The bikes are provided by the employers, but many are unsafe, and there is no place to get them repaired. It would be great if we could buy lights for each bike as well.

3. We currently use a very talented graphic design person to help us create our website, do our social media posting, and create our mailings. We would like to offer to pay her for her services.