



A YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP – PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our Purpose

The Bridge brings together people who want to connect, belong, and make a meaningful impact in Barry County.

We believe strong communities are built through relationships. The Bridge creates opportunities to build connections, discover local needs, support community causes, and have fun along the way - whether you're new to Barry County or have called it home for years.

Our Vision

To inspire a new generation of community leaders through meaningful connections, generosity, and shared investment in the future of Barry County.

At a Glance

Who it's for	Ages ~21–40 (40+ welcome to join as a mentor)
Membership	\$100/year or \$25/quarter (first registration period only)
Program Year	October 2026 - June 2027
Where	BCF Hall, with a virtual option for every meeting
Contact	thebridge@barrycf.org • (268) 945-0526

What We Do

- **Connect:** Social events, networking, volunteer opportunities, and gatherings all year long
- **Give:** Each member's annual contribution builds a grant pool that funds local projects
- **Engage:** Members learn about community needs, review grant proposals, and vote on where funding goes
- **Build a Legacy:** A portion of every membership grows The Bridge Endowment Fund, extending today's impact for generations to come

Guiding Principles

- Create genuine connections among people who care about their community
- Make philanthropy approachable, engaging, and social
- Provide flexible opportunities that fit busy lifestyles
- Foster a welcoming community where everyone feels they belong
- Encourage leadership and professional development

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to individuals who:

- Want to make a **positive difference** in Barry County.
- Enjoy meeting **new people** and building community.
- **Are approximately 21–40 years old** – If you are 40+ we would still love to have you join as a mentor for the younger generation. *Contact us (thebridge@barrycf.org) for more information.*

Membership Dues

First Registration Period: September 15–November 11 2026

Members can register during the first registration period for **\$100 annually** or choose a **\$25 quarterly payment option**. Quarterly payments are only available during this registration period.

Annual Payment Deadline: **\$100 DUE 11/19/26 4:00PM**

Quarterly Payment Plan Deadlines:

- **\$25 DUE 11/19/26 4:00PM**
- **\$25 DUE 2/01/27 4:00PM**
- **\$25 DUE 4/15/27 4:00PM**
- **\$25 DUE 6/15/27 4:00PM**

Second Registration Period: March 11–March 18 2027

A second opportunity to join will be available March 11–18 for **\$75**, which covers membership for the remainder of the program year. The quarterly payment option is not available during this registration period.

Payment Deadline: **\$75 DUE 3/18/27 4:00PM**

Membership Commitment & No-Refund Policy

By registering and submitting payment, you are committing to pay your full membership dues for the 2026–27 program year (\$100 paid annually, or \$25 paid quarterly). This is a pledge to support The Bridge for the full year — not a fee for individual events. **No refunds or credits will be issued**, regardless of attendance, participation level, or if you leave the program early.

Employer-Sponsored Membership Policy

If your organization is sponsoring an employee's membership, the same no-refund commitment applies to the full pledged amount. If the sponsored employee leaves the organization during the membership period, the sponsoring employer may designate a **different employee** to fill the remaining membership period - including remaining events, voting rights, and program access - at no additional cost. Seats may only be transferred to another employee of the same sponsoring organization; The Bridge does not issue refunds or prorated credits for early departures.

To make a substitution, contact us at thebridge@barrycf.org with the new employee's name and contact information.

VOTING

In the first meeting of the year, members vote to select one of the Foundation's Seven Elements of a Thriving Community as the focus for the grant cycle:

- Arts & Culture / Basic Needs / Economic Prosperity / Education / Environment / Health / Neighborhoods

Once the focus area is selected, members review grant proposals, hear from local organizations, and vote on funding decisions.

Grants could support projects such as new playground equipment, community murals, mental health initiatives, classroom innovation, neighborhood beautification, food security, or other community-driven ideas.

Voting Eligibility: Members who have completed their membership registration are current on membership dues and join by 3/18/2027 are eligible to vote on the annual grant recipient. Each eligible member receives one vote, excluding mentors.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

(Attendance is not mandatory, but highly encouraged)

- **Meetings:**
 - In-person meetings at BCF Hall and option to join virtually for ALL meetings.
 - Voting and discussion done virtually (Applications used: Band, Email & ZOOM)
- **Events:**
 - Community mixers and networking nights; Happy hours, coffee meetups, or brewery socials
 - Professional headshot sessions
 - Book clubs and discussion groups
 - Annual grant celebration
 - Workshops (crafting, resume building, mixology, and more!)
 - Volunteering opportunities
 - Networking opportunities & professional development
 - Family-friendly gatherings
 - Possibilities are endless – Please share your ideas!

PARTICIPATION & RECOGNITION

Members who attend all meetings (virtually OR in-person) will receive a **Bridge Certificate** at the closing celebration. Members may also earn fun **awards, prizes, and recognition** at the end of the year based on participation and engagement.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions that you may have.

The Bridge | Barry Community Foundation

www.barrycf.org • thebridge@barrycf.org • (268) 945-0526