

They come from many different industries, for a variety of reasons, all with one common goal in mind - to succeed in business.

Businesses and nonprofits; companies that aid the youngest and oldest members of our community – interior design to immigration assistance – Community Capital Fund invests in organizations as diverse as Bridgeport itself. At a time when banks were overly cautious about loaning and making it difficult for entrepreneurs to get the capital they needed, CommCap stepped up and made economic growth possible not only for individuals and their clients, but the community at large.



In 2012
CommCap provided
\$2.3 million
in loans to Greater Bridgeport:

- > Businesses
- > Housing developers
- > Nonprofits



Since 2006
\$15 million
in loans in Greater Bridgeport

Bob Melcher
Visiting Angels
1305 Post Road – Fairfield

When the needs of an elderly family member outweigh their desire for self-sufficiency, decisions need to be made. But Bob Melcher provides a solution that makes these choices easier. Visiting Angels offers personalized homecare for seniors, allowing them to stay in their homes and get the care they need.

Starting with just two certified nursing assistants, a Licensed Practical Nurse and a bookkeeper, in two years the agency grew to 32 nurses in the field and includes a company car. With growth comes cash flow issues, payroll costs, taxes and insurance, making a loan necessary; CommCap was there to help.

“The experience was amazingly easy,” Melcher said. “All it took was a couple visits and after a 10-day wait, we had a check.”

\$1.1 million
lent to small businesses in 2012

Rosie Jones-Clarke
Bright Morning Star Daycare
Black Rock – Bridgeport

A few years ago, Rosie Jones-Clarke decided to attend a class at the Women’s Business Development Center which not only helped her cement her dream of opening a day care center, but also to tweak her business plan and introduced her to CommCap.

Through meeting with Barbara she was able to qualify for a loan to help her set up the facility, purchase equipment, hire a staff and get licensed.

“I thought it would take much longer, but the loan was expedited very quickly,” Jones-Clarke said.

Now as Bright Morning Star Daycare opens its doors, the center is ready to care for 26 children in the Greater Bridgeport area so parents can get back to work.



**COMMUNITY
CAPITAL FUND**
Investing In Greater Bridgeport
240 Fairfield Ave., 3rd Floor
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Phone: 203 332 7977
www.commcap.org

THE LINK



Small Business Resource for
the Bridgeport Area

The Link Technical Assistance has aided 16 total businesses.



Since the
2008 Recession...
\$420,000
in loans made to
Nonprofits

Angela Rossi Zurowksi
International Institute of Connecticut,
Inc. 670 Clinton Avenue – Bridgeport

The International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) is a statewide nonprofit organization assisting refugees, immigrants and new Americans.

A sizable portion of IICONN funding comes from state and federal grants but in January 2012 they were seeking operating money, looking for cash flow and to start new programs.

IICONN Executive Director Angela Rossi Zurowski serves on the board of Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust and spoke to BNT Executive Director Elizabeth Torres about her issues dealing with a bank. BNT has received financing for both projects and operations using CommCap.

“Funding is a difficult process for nonprofits,” Angela said. “CommCap was the exact opposite.”

The loan allowed IICONN to serve more people and achieve their goals.

In 2012,
CommCap loans
supported **53**
local jobs

Buddy Ontra
Ontra Stone Concepts, LLC
541 Central Ave – Bridgeport

Founded in Monroe and specializing in custom Granite countertops, fireplaces, vanities, backsplashes, marble walls, flooring and special projects, Ontra Stone has materials and designs for every room of the house.

In early 2012, Buddy Ontra saw an opportunity to move his operation to Bridgeport. Moving is an expensive proposition, especially with the large equipment that Ontra Stone requires, so he needed debt consolidation help.

CommCap’s staff aided Ontra in getting two loans to finish the purchase of the new building and to secure a credit line for the down payment on their assets.

“They were very helpful and they treated me like a person.” Ontra said.

\$1.2 million
in loans approved for
housing development
in 2012

Adrienne Houel
Park City Green – Greater Bridgeport
Community Enterprise/Green Team
485 Iranistan Avenue – Bridgeport

The Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprise is on the front line in the growing sector of “green” jobs. Through job training and job creation, the nonprofit helps families in the region achieve economic self-sufficiency while creating sustainable communities. Park City Green is a nonprofit that deconstructs old mattresses to repurpose the parts and materials for manufacturing. The work is ideal for Bridgeport residents with difficult work histories who need skills training.

With CommCap’s assistance, Park City Green got the credit and cash flow they needed and opened for business in June 2012.