

Notes from the Executive Director

Just a Normal Kid

Every year, Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties grants scholarships to two children of alumnae or participants. We believe this investment in their education will strengthen Bridge of Hope families for generations to come. A recent recipient sent us a heartfelt letter expressing gratitude for her experience in our program and how it provided her family with a home, gave her a chance to experience life as “just a normal kid,” and extended to her family a chance at an education.



*Right before Christmas another mentor invited me over to make Christmas cookies with her. **Just the fact that she welcomed me into her home and made me feel like a normal kid meant a lot to me.** She even drove me to middle school once when I missed the bus!*

These mentors became very close to us. We still get cards at Christmas from them. They created a “family.” They welcomed us in and were always there for us.

Six years ago, after leaving a bad relationship, her mother was working long hours at a factory to support her three children. Her salary was not enough to pay the rent and they soon found themselves homeless. Thankfully, she was referred to Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties and was soon placed in an apartment, lovingly described by her daughter as their first “home” in quite a while. She continued to describe what was, to her, the most important part of the Bridge of Hope program - the mentors and how they helped her see herself.

Bridge of Hope didn't only help us financially. They surrounded us with a group of people who really cared about us.

As anyone can imagine, the emotional toll of [a family breakup and the resulting homelessness] was great. It's a hard situation for anyone.

Our mentors really took an interest in us kids and my mom. My little brother played sports and a mentor made it a point to go to his games. Another mentor would shoot rockets with my little brother and took me out to eat on my birthday.

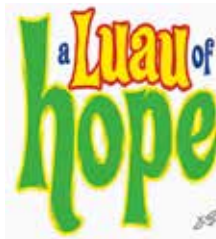
While in the Bridge of Hope program, her mother went back to school – earning not only her nursing degree but also the admiration of her daughter. In fact, this young woman is now pursuing a nursing degree of her own, as she says, “helping people. . . determined to be a success . . . and an example to other Bridge of Hope children that things can be bad, but that there will always be people who help pick you up and point you in the right direction.”

Mentors play an integral part in the program here at Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties. They walk with each and every participant on the journey from homelessness to wholeness. If you, or others in your church, would like to start a mentoring group, please let us know. We would love to hear from you!

Events Calendar

More details at www.bridgeofhopelcc.org

Luau of Hope



Saturday, November 3, 2012

5 to 7:30pm

**Ridgeview Mennonite Church
3723 Ridgeview Rd.
Gordonville, PA**

The 22nd annual Kaleidoscope event for 2012 is a Luau of Hope featuring a pig roast, Hawaiian themed games and entertainment for all ages!

Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Events



Thursday, December 6, 2012

Ten Thousand Villages Main St. Exton
5:00-9:00 PM

Sunday, December 9, 2012

Ten Thousand Villages Rockvale
1:00-5:00 PM

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties receives 15% of all sales at these events.

Double or Triple Your Gift!

Here are some simple ways to increase the value of your giving:

Matching Challenge

All individual Fall Appeal donations given before October 31 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$30,000 by a generous local family foundation! Use the envelope included with this newsletter to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Corporate Matching

Ask your employer if they have a corporate matching program. If so, designate your funds to go to Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties.

United Way Donor Choice Gift

Step 1:

Know your area's code:
Delaware County - 5994
Southeastern PA - 10178

Fill in our address for:
Lancaster County
Tri-state Area
Chester County

Step 2:

Ask for a Donor Choice/Options Form and fill in our address.

Bridge of Hope
Lancaster & Chester Counties
1516 Olive St.
Coatesville, PA 19320

Upcoming Anniversary!

On September 12th, Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties celebrated its birthday. For 24 years, dedicated staff and volunteers have helped **294 single mothers** and their **648 children** secure permanent housing, achieve financial stability and form lasting friendships with their mentors.



We look forward to the many 25th anniversary events planned for 2013!

Annual Reports Available

Our annual report for the 2011-2012 fiscal year is now available online at www.BridgeofHopeLCC.org.

Special Gifts

Gifts were recently given with special purpose in honor and in memory of loved ones.

Memorialized:

Angela
Ann (grandmother)
Ethel Bendt
Mildred Cather
Judy Harnish (3)
Kathryn N. Hess (20)
Siri Hofstetter
Elva S. Kaucher
Elvin Mast
Howard W. Sheldrake
Mr. Leon Ward
Jean Wood

Honored:

Becky Austin-Reeves
Gene & Mary Ellen Huston
Hilda King
Rachel Kohler
Todd Speece

If you would like to give a gift to Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties in honor of a special person in your life or in memory of a loved one, please indicate that with your gift in the enclosed envelope.

The Scent of a Rose

The room is vast.
The chatter is lively.
Among the women gathered
A scent arises –
Familiar or faintly new?
The air permeates with this fragrance;
A simple rose –
One for each mentor,
A beautiful gesture of thanks from a mom and her kids!

By Kate Kooker



Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties

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www.bridgeofhopelcc.org

Chester County Office

1516 Olive St.
Coatesville, PA 19320
610.380.1360

Lancaster County Office

822 Marietta Ave., Suite 20
Lancaster, PA 17603
717.394.7707

Staff

Executive Director

Francesca J. Crane

Development Director

Katherine Lovell

Program Director

Cheryl Miles, Chester Co.
Jeannine Strom Boyer, Lanc. Co.

Co-Founders

Sandy Lewis & Linda Witmer

Board of Directors

Jonathan Hofstetter, *President*
Melba King, *Past President*
Joyce Reeves, *Vice President*
Doug Henderson, *Treasurer*
Linda Shoemaker, *Governance Chr.*

Linda Alle-Murphy Denise James
Simon Brain Dan Kerr
Tasha Delaney Scott Lasser
Cheryl Eshleman Ted Reed
Phyllis Frankhouser

Memberships

- Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce
- The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Leave a Legacy
- Mennonite Foundation
- Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce
- WRN of Chester County

Meet our Newest Board Members



Joyce Reeves

Coatesville, PA

Retired Elementary School Principal & Teacher.
St. Paul's Baptist Church, West Chester

Denise James

Downingtown, PA

Retired Marketing Coordinator
Business Owner – Farmers Insurance.
St. Paul's Baptist Church, West Chester



Simon Brain

Downingtown, PA

VP Finance & Administration
Amuneal Manufacturing Corp.
Hopewell UMC, Downingtown

Scott Lasser

West Chester, PA

Information Technology Consultant.
Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli



Welcome New Mentors

We are excited to welcome a new mentoring team from:
Lancaster Moravian Church, Lancaster, PA

Practical Ways to Help

- Basic Home Tool Kit
- New or gently used outdoor play equipment – sandbox with new sand, lid & climbing equipment.
- \$25 gift cards to Target or Wal-Mart to help families prepare for the holidays.
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers (size 4 and 5)
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Products

Thank you, Media Sponsors!



Join our online community

We would love to know how Bridge of Hope LCC has touched your heart.

Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest.com



Find us under the username
BridgeofHopeLCC

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—donations to which are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. As required by the PA Solicitation of Funds Act, a copy of the official registration and financial information for Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Read how Bridge of Hope
Lancaster & Chester
Counties surrounds a
family with love.
More details inside...



Return service requested

1516 Olive St. Coatesville, PA 19320

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LANCASTER &
CHESTER COUNTIES



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