

Notes from the Executive Director Against All Odds

Graduation Day! Just a few weeks ago we were pleased to attend our son's graduation. But it wasn't your typical ceremony. . . he is a special needs child. For the last seven years he has attended a school that believes in allowing each student to find their own strengths and to soar. We are thrilled that he is now soaring at a sheltered workshop near home. He loves going to 'work' and is saving for a special purchase.



Watching him brings tears to my eyes as I remember the doctor's words when we adopted him, "Don't bother to take him, he'll never walk, he will never learn and he probably won't live past 5 years old." All the doctor saw were his weaknesses and the negatives.

At Bridge of Hope LCC we look for the strengths in everyone. When a single mom comes to us she already knows what she can't do and what isn't

working. She needs to know what she can do and what will work. Our social workers and mentors help make that happen.

As each woman discovers her strengths, she stands a little straighter and is able to take on more. She moves from survival mode to actually living. This benefits her, her children and everyone around her.

Please consider contributing to this effort of giving single mothers the opportunity to find their strengths and soar. As each one moves from homelessness to wholeness our entire community gains strength and soars with her.

Thank you for your generous spirit.

Women's Referral Network

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties is proud to have been named the 2012-2013 Community Outreach Partner for the Women's Referral Network of Chester County.

The Women's Referral Network (WRN) of Chester County is a dynamic referral group for women, promoting business opportunities for and among women. Members build relationships based on their commitment to each others success.

The WRN of Chester County volunteered recently at one of our Bridge of Hope Nights and brought a delicious meal for several of our participants and their mentors.



Volunteers pictured are (from left) Lisa Bickert, Katie Lorenz, Laura Lorenz, Megan McGinn, Geri Barbeau, Peggy Centone, Teresa DeVries, Vickie Beecher and Tammy Cummings.

Events Calendar

More details at www.bridgeofhopelcc.org

Ironman Lake Placid Triathlon - Board Member Competes for Bridge of Hope LCC



Sunday, July 22, 2012

Dan Kerr will be competing at Ironman Lake Placid with 2,500 other athletes to raise funds for Bridge of Hope LCC. Contact our office to join his cause!

2nd Annual Community Ministry Fair at Cherry Crest Adventure Farm



Saturday, July 28, 2012

150 Cherry Hill Road, Ronks, Pa
Explore the exciting features of Cherry Crest Adventure Farm. Mention us when you enter and get 10 "ministry bucks" to donate. Admission \$15.00

Dream Ride



Saturday, September 22, 2012

Lancaster, Pa
A Premiere Bicycling Charity Event Ride for Bridge of Hope LCC!

Contact Kate Kooker at KateK@BridgeofHopeLCC.org to ride.

Save the Date

The Best Kept Secrets Tour is coming to Chester County!

Scheduled for September 14th to the 29th, a portion of each ticket purchase will benefit Bridge of Hope LCC!

Join in the fun and "shop local!"



More information will be found on our website in August.

Building on Strengths

Mothers in the Bridge of Hope LCC program arrive with a wide variety of strengths on which to build a positive plan for moving from homelessness to wholeness. For example:

Marla held a full time job but she faced some tough issues and was at risk of losing her housing. Despite these problems, Marla was **a good mother** and she **provided love and encouragement** to two very bright girls who excelled in school, read well above grade level and made the honor role.

Marla is currently renting a very small home for her family but knows that she cannot afford anything bigger right now.

(Continued)

Welcome New Mentors!

We are excited to welcome new mentoring teams from:
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Coatesville Pa.
Grace Church, Lititz, Pa.
Faith Reformed Presbyterian Church, Quarryville, Pa
St. Peter's Parish, Coatesville, Pa

Building on Strengths (continued)

She is **willing to accept that she cannot afford a larger apartment right now** – a very positive factor in her admittance into the Bridge of Hope LCC program.

Another mother and her children spent over four months without transportation but she **managed to keep her part time job by walking and using the bus**. Her positive outlook and determination will serve her well on her journey.

A recent Bridge of Hope LCC graduate summed it up well when she said *“if it wasn’t for this program, I could not have made it on my own and recognized my own strengths.”*

We applaud all our moms for reaching deep into their own personal strengths to obtain permanent housing, provide for their children and to work closely with staff and mentors on their road to wholeness. Well done!

Practical Ways to Help

Looking for something practical that you can get started on today? Believe it or not, school is right around the corner and before you know it back to school sales will flood our stores and circulars.

School Supplies Needed:

Rulers
Good quality pencil sharpeners
Markers & Crayons
Colored pencils
Book covers
Glue sticks
White school glue

3-Ring Binders
Lined notebook paper
Two pocket folders
Zippered 3-ring binders
Spiral bound notebooks
Highlighters
Backpacks for kids and teens
-black backpacks are needed
Some other items that we love to help families with include:
Laundry detergent
Gas Cards
Gift Cards to Walmart
Diapers (all sizes)

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties

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Memberships

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

Special Gifts

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

In Honor of Mothers & Children:

Lamaria Aaron
Yessenia Blanco
Evie Blank
Lorna Blount
Thelma Bowman
Linda Brower
Emma Burkholder
Francesca Crane
Theresa Crane
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Ellen Neff
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Fern Umble
Bertha Werstler
Cathy Williams
Willean Yoder
Liz Zimmerman

In Memory of Mothers, Family & Friends:

Rosalie Meek Britten
Julia Crowley
Mae Curtin
Jennie D'Ambrosio
Betty Eshleman (2)
Judy Harnish (2)
Margaret Hawkins
Kathryn Hess
Esther Hoopes
Anna Hoover
Jean Hoover
Gladys Hershey
Kennel
Esther Kerr
Sylvia Kipp
Margaret B. Kitch

Iva E. Leonard
Carmela Lunardi
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Mardette Krapf Miller
Mildred H. Musser
Gwen Peachey
Jessica Pripstein
Kathleen Rafferty
Elsie M. Redcay
Stacey Sellers
Anna Metzler Shank
Orpha K. Stauffer (2)
Pam Nyce Yoder
Alice Zimmerman

Gifts other than for Mother's Day:

In honor of:
A Father
Nate and Melba King,
Gale Hess,
Carl Wasylyszyn

In memory of:
Thomas S. Yoder

If you would like to give a gift to Bridge of Hope LCC 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.

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BridgeofHopeLCC

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Read how a strength based program leads to success.
More details inside...



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