



Lancaster & Chester Counties

# THE BRIDGE

Supportive friendships for lasting impact

Vol. XXIV, No. III

Ending and preventing homelessness for women and children

Fall 2013

## Celebrate With Us

September 12, 1988. Bridge of Hope opens their doors to serve single mothers experiencing homelessness. 25 years later, over 1,000 women and children have benefited from our services and more than 2,500 mentors have given their time and energy to support once homeless families. I think that deserves a celebration!

Please join us in celebrating:

- The dream that Sandy Lewis and Linda Witmer had back in 1986 to change the way single mothers experiencing homelessness could find a home.
- People who stepped up to mentor families leading to healthy support systems.
- Former and present board members for carrying on the dream.
- All former and present staff members for their dedication.
- The larger community of individuals, businesses, foundations, clubs and churches who reached out to help make the dream come true.
- Most of all - the women and children who worked hard to change their life paths and found a safe place to call home.



Francesca Crane  
Executive Director

A 25 year journey has come to a conclusion for Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties and we are pleased to rejoice at this milestone. But, in celebration, we also look forward to another 25 + years. We have recently completed a strategic plan that puts us on a path to serve many more single mothers experiencing homelessness.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Celebration, an Important Part of a Bridge of Hope Family's Life

So much of our walk with families in Bridge of Hope services is celebrating special days or events. We are fortunate, as staff, to have parties be part of our job description.



Jeannine  
Strom Boyer  
Program Director  
Lancaster County

The most obvious Bridge of Hope celebration is a mother's graduation from the program. This event takes on the style and manner of the participant family and their mentors. Recently, a graduate said "I am going to dress up my children and bake something." Mentors may have many young children and the party is full of fun and games. An older group may adopt a more somber, yet celebratory tone. Graduation festivities commemorate all the progress the woman, family, mentors and staff have made together. It is also a time to look to the future, for a Bridge of Hope mom to celebrate the people who have offered on-going support for her family as she took on new challenges and goals.

*(continued on page 3)*

## You're Invited!



Come visit our beautiful new office space in Lancaster City!

First Friday  
Open House  
October, 4  
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

616 North Lime St.  
Lancaster, Pa

## A Mothers' Celebration

Search for a synonym of *celebration* and you will see *party, festival, gala, etc.* Take a look in the dictionary and you will find *marking a special occasion or showing happiness that something good or special happened.*

While all of these are true, Nicole Cavanaugh of Black Sheep Coaching took it one step further when she described a celebration as **a bridge between one journey and the beginning of the next.**

Marking the end of one journey and the beginning of the next resonates with mothers in the Bridge of Hope program. They travel from homelessness to wholeness, from uncertainty to strength. But even a celebration like a birthday party, often considered routine, can mark a significant transition. One recent graduate told us about her mentors and the party they organized for her birthday.

*My surprise birthday party made a difference [in my life] because I had not celebrated my birthday in years due to the struggles of my divorce and the custody battle. I felt like someone really cared. They went far and beyond.*  
**Nobody ever did that for me!**



What a joy that she now has people in her life who care. What better way to celebrate a new chapter in her life than with the friends who were walking with her on her journey?

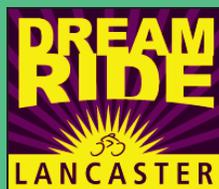
As Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties marks 25 years of helping single mothers move from homelessness to wholeness, join us in celebration of the 1,000 mothers and children who have traveled that road, and in celebration of the next 25 years of providing the hope of housing and support to women and children in our local community.

## Upcoming Events

### Dream Ride

**Saturday, September 21, 2013**

Community Bible Church, Marietta, PA



We are looking for **25 cyclists** ready to **raise \$25,000** together **in celebration of our 25th Anniversary!** Ride through scenic Lancaster County and join us in ending and preventing homelessness.



### Kaleidoscope: Celebration of Hope our 25th anniversary finale!

**Saturday, November 2, 2013**

Ridgeview Mennonite Church, Gordonville, PA

*Join this giant party!* Festive Hors D'oeuvres, Delicious Desserts, Lively Silent Auction with Exceptional Dining and Vacation Opportunities, Kids' Activities, Storyteller Rita Clarke & Concert with *Vulcans*, a three-piece Americana/Folk Rock Band, winner of Philly Songwriters Festival 2013.

**For more event information contact Kate Kooker at [KateK@BridgeofHopeLCC.org](mailto:KateK@BridgeofHopeLCC.org).**



**Consider These**  
Exceptional Vacations  
Summer 2014!

**Green Gate Cottage**  
Cape Breton Island,  
Nova Scotia

on Cabot Trail, near Shri Dhu

Breathtaking Ocean Front Views  
Sleeps 8, 3BR w Private Baths  
Loft Sleeping + 1 Half Bath

### Sarasota, Florida Vacation

Week-Long Stay for Six  
Single Family Vacation Home

Minutes from Lido Beach, Siesta Key & Turtle  
Beach Many Great Golf Courses

Fully Equipped House  
Master Suite with King & Private Bath  
Two additional bedrooms (1 queen, 2 twins)

To Be Auctioned **Saturday, November 2, 2013**  
at our 25th Anniversary event.  
Check our website for more information.

## Practical Ways to Help

- Ant spray (like Raid)
- Cleaning Supplies
- Dish soap
- Gas Gift Cards
- Key rack/key holders (mountable for wall)
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Trash bags
- Umbrellas

**We are currently in need of quality car donations. Please contact our office for more information.**

### Volunteer opportunities for Celebration of Hope on November 2nd:

- Create a “hope” panel for the anniversary décor. Instructions supplied. (a great project for youth groups, friends or families)
- Make a favorite dessert for the dessert bar.
- Help serve food at the event.
- Donate an item to the silent auction such as a skilled service, a stay at a vacation property, a meal in your home, or a handcrafted item.
- Contact Kate Kooker, [katek@bridgeofhopelcc.org](mailto:katek@bridgeofhopelcc.org), for more information.

## New Mentoring Teams

New Joy Brethren in Christ Church Ephrata, Pa  
Set Free the Word Ministries Coatesville, Pa

## Celebration, an Important Part of a Bridge of Hope Family’s Life

*(continued)*

But long before a mother graduates from the Bridge of Hope program, she celebrates her journey out of homelessness. The first gathering when mentors and the family meet is called a Match Night. A photo of the group is taken as they enjoy new friendships and the excitement of working together towards the mother’s goals. Bridge of Hope nights, moving parties, house blessings, Christmas, and birthday parties all include good food and fun times where everyone commemorates that special day and a time when friendships continue to bloom. Of course, Bridge of Hope is also about hard work, challenges and some disappointments, but that makes the celebrations even more joyful!

Each day or week it seems staff are celebrating important events: “We got a car donation,” “A pastor from a church called and they have a mentor group,” “Her baby was born,” “She got a job,” “We’re moving to a new office,” etc. After a high five, a shout, and an exciting email, there is always a “Thank you, God!” That’s the best way to celebrate.

## Celebrate with Us *(Continued)*

Facing the future, we know we need to work more efficiently and to dig down deep to meet the even greater needs of our community. Your time as volunteers, your generous financial assistance, your prayers, and your commitment to our program are what keep us going and will propel us forward.

In the next few weeks you will likely hear from us as we make our annual fall appeal for support. Think of how you can help, so that there will be many more celebrations in the future as once homeless families settle into permanent housing surrounded by the friendship and support of Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties.

## Special Gifts Recent gifts given with special purpose in honor or in memory of loved ones.

### In Honor of:

Emma Burkholder  
Jim Lapp  
Nancy Martin  
Grace Narcisi  
Ellen Neff  
Hilda Perales and Family  
Shadell Quinones  
Mary Jane Sensenig and  
Irwin Weaver

### In Memory of:

Leo and Kathryn Adams  
Julia Crowley  
Mae Curtin  
Betty Eshleman  
Grace W. Evans

Anna Hoover  
Ruth Horst  
Elva S. Kaucher  
Gladys Hershey Kennel  
Christian W. Landis  
Beth Bowman Moser

Anna Metzler Shank  
James & Betty Smith  
Ted Steinmetz  
Dr. Charles H. Stone III  
Josephine H. Wiley  
Alice Zimmerman

**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.**

## Thank you, Media Sponsors!



Engle Printing & Publishing Co., Inc.

## Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties

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Jeannine Strom Boyer,  
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Sandy Lewis & Linda Witmer

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Thank you, Toby Leaman!

Toby Leaman has been involved with Dream Ride Lancaster for ten years, cycling through Lancaster County and raising money for non-profits. On September 21, he will gear up once gain to hit the roads, raising funds and awareness for Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties. For five years now he has helped bring in a significant amount of support for our program. Toby enjoys the Dream Ride event because he loves to cycle, his church is supportive and it keeps him in shape. He and his wife Lonnie attend Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa. Toby currently drives a truck for Four Seasons Produce, Inc., but when not working, he enjoys riding around Lancaster County on his motorcycle, golfing and spending time with friends. And bicycling, of course!



Toby (center) with two other riders.

### 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



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