



Tamara Fox
Executive Director

*"A sweet friendship
refreshes the soul."*

— Proverbs 27:9



A Sweet Friendship

In the early days of the Christian Church, pilgrims often asked the desert fathers and mothers for "a word of life," a short, simple phrase that could guide them on their spiritual journey. As I settle into my new role as Executive Director at Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties, this beautiful passage from Proverbs has been speaking a "word of life" to me. The spirit of Bridge of Hope rests on sweet friendships that refresh the souls of women and children who are experiencing homelessness, the souls of the volunteer mentors who reach out to them in fellowship, and the souls of the donors whose generosity makes these journeys to wholeness possible.

Often we think of programs that serve vulnerable families as one way transactions. Someone is hungry or homeless and we provide food or housing and services to prevent future recurrences. Bridge of Hope is a little different. We nurture relationships that reweave the fabric of community, connecting families in crisis with members of their community who might otherwise never meet them. Friendships are formed. People learn about each other – their struggles and their strengths. The isolation that makes life so much harder and more frightening for single mothers and their children is replaced by fellowship.

I'm proud and blessed to join this ministry of cultivating "sweet friendships" that bridge social, cultural, and financial differences. Many of you have already discovered the joy of these friendships. Many of you have made them possible with your generous financial support. To those of you who have, bless you and thank you for sharing our vision of a connected community that enriches and supports us all. To those of you who haven't, I invite you to join us on a journey of fellowship that will refresh your soul.



Cheryl Miles
Program Director
Chester County

The One Who Sees Me

Hannah, a recently divorced mother of two, was a heartbroken, discouraged woman living in a shelter after being evicted from her apartment. Her children had gone off to live with their dad. Although she was a college graduate, she was struggling to find sustainable employment after staying home for 10 years to raise her children. She was working part time, but her job was tenuous.

She came to us for housing assistance, but upon meeting her we could see that her physical, emotional and spiritual well-being were in jeopardy. She was more than a single mom in need of housing; she was God's daughter and our sister. We acknowledged her pain and confirmed her strengths. We talked about

(continued on page 2)

True Friends

Leah arrived in the city with her three children after being promised a place to live and a helping hand from someone she trusted. When the promise failed to bear fruit, she was left alone, frightened and homeless.

Through Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties Leah was matched with a group of mentors from a local church. Though she was no longer alone, friendship wasn't necessarily instantaneous. Leah was having a difficult time establishing financial stability and her mentors hadn't ever dealt with that issue themselves. They started a dialogue with Leah about her concerns and now see that there isn't a quick and easy solution to moving out of poverty. Leah also wasn't always receptive when her mentors wanted to give advice, but it wasn't until the mentors took a step back and reentered the relationship as friends, not counselors, that they learned what Bridge of Hope mentoring is all about.

Bridge of Hope mentoring is friendship. It grows as participants and mentors take walks, share meals, laugh, and experience life with all its ups and downs, together.



Her eyes welled up with tears.

"I have never before experienced what true friendship and love is," she said, "but I can now say that

I have true friends."



The One Who Sees Me

(continued from page 1)

her knowledge of God and shared His promises and provisions. She was able to look at her situation from God's perspective and began to speak with hope.

Hannah and many of the women who come to the Bridge of Hope program remind us of Hagar in Genesis 16. Hagar was found cast out, pregnant, alone, homeless, crying in the wilderness. God heard her cry. He affirmed, instructed, and blessed her. Hagar's response was "I have seen the One who sees me." As a result, she felt loved, valued, purposeful, and hopeful.

Homelessness is more than the lack of affordable housing. It is complicated by broken dreams, faith, and relationships. We as a community of faith must seek every opportunity to see each person through God's eyes, share His truths, plan and promises, then help them to find practical ways to incorporate them in their lives. For in His truth there is HOPE.

New Mentoring Groups



We are pleased to welcome the following mentoring groups joining us in a ministry of friendship with our Bridge of Hope families.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran,
Lititz, PA

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship,
West Chester, PA

Practical Ways to Help

FOR CHESTER COUNTY:

Cleaning Supplies

Liquid dish soap
Dishwasher detergent
Multipurpose cleaner
Toilet bowl cleaner
Clorox wipes

Kitchen Items

Aluminum foil
Plastic wrap
Sandwich bags
Washcloths and kitchen towels
Drawstring trash bags (13 gallon size)



FOR LANCASTER COUNTY:

Cleaning Supplies

Mops and brooms
Laundry detergent
Buckets
Laundry baskets

Personal Care Items

Hand soap
Body wash
Deodorant
Shampoo

Paper Goods

Toilet paper
Paper towels
Canned foods
Small dry erase boards

Upcoming Events



Engle Printing & Publishing Co., Inc. 9th Annual Golf Outing — Drive Against Homelessness

**Friday, June 10, 2016
7:30 AM & 1:30 PM**

Crossgates Golf Club
1 Crossland Pass, Millersville, PA

For more information contact:
Jocelyn Engle
717-492-2588
jrengle@engleonline.com



Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties Spring Luncheon with Frederick Law Olmstead

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Bent Creek Country Club
620 Bent Creek Dr, Lititz, PA

To request an invitation, please
contact Katherine Lovell at
610-380-1360 ext 108, or
KatherineL@BridgeofHopeLCC.org

Special Gifts

Recent gifts with special purpose in honor or in memory of loved ones.

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 so and mail to Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties, 1516 Olive St., Coatesville, PA 19320.

In Honor of:

Samirah Aaron
Dixie Becker
Jeannine Boyer (2)
The Carroll Girls
Michael Cassidy
Francesca J. Crane (6)
Rebecca Cuff
Judy Eberhardt
Joyce Eby
Cheryl Eshleman
Patricia Fox
Mike, Shawn, & Jason
Garman (10)
Paul Gillam
Tina & Dave Glanzer

David & Margaret High
Fran Homer
Judy King
Grandchildren of
Arnold & Nelda Kring
Kate Kooker
Donna & Mike Lennon
Shadell Quinones
Evy Rella
Joanne Hess Siegrist
Meme Sylvia Uahengo
Em and Glen Vasey
Anne Kaufman Weaver
Ruth Weaver
Zmich Family

In Memory of:

Esther & Jennie
Josephine Antol
Marie Baker
Brenda Bookman
Edgar T. Chatman-Royce
Annis E. Denlinger
Gene & Marjory Ellis
Stephen P. Gary
Judy Harnish
Dean Hegarty
David Hess
Janice Homsher
Naomi Y. King

Clarence R. Krantz
Elmer Rohrer
Betty Smith
Frankie Stanley
Brenda Jean Taylor
Audrey Yoder
Dorothy Zynn



As required by the Pennsylvania Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act, a copy of the official registration and financial information for Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within PA (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. 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.

Thank you, Media Sponsors!



Engle Printing & Publishing Co., Inc

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties

Board of Directors

Simon Brain, *President*
 Linda Alle-Murphy, *Vice President*
 Ken Benner, *Treasurer*
 Chelsea Spiegelhalter, *Secretary*
 Molly Brown Joyce Reeves
 Sharon Fremont Dennis Rittenhouse
 W. Scott Lasser Darlene Taylor
 Barbara Martin Doug Thompson
 Teresa Powell

Staff

Executive Director

Tamara J. Fox

Development Director

Katherine Lovell

Program Directors

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

Co-Founders

Sandy Lewis & Linda Witmer

Memberships

Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce
 The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 Leave a Legacy
 Everence
 Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce

Wait – Where’s the Envelope?!

Did you notice there’s no reply envelope in this newsletter?

We’ve decided that our newsletters should focus on thanking you for your partnership and showing you the difference your investment of time, talent and treasure is making in the lives of our moms and children. Don’t worry, we’ll ask for your support again, but for now let’s just catch up on the news at Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester County. And we’ll say it one more time —

Thank You for your commitment to our families!



info@bridgeofhopelcc.org
 www.bridgeofhopelcc.org

Chester County Office

1516 Olive Street
 Coatesville, PA 19320
 610.380.1360

Lancaster County Office

616 North Lime Street
 Lancaster, PA 17602
 717.394.7707