

Notes from the Development Director

Why Bridge of Hope?

Six years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Francesca Crane, the new (at the time) executive director of Bridge of Hope Lancaster and Chester Counties. We worked on a committee together promoting health and wellness in the greater Coatesville area. I was impressed not only with her background in international mission work but also with her deep sense of caring about the community.



Katherine Lovell

much less a single mother with the additional worry of homelessness?

Those of us lucky enough to have close friends, neighbors, church members and family around us know what it means to have somebody to pick up a child from school when we have a meeting, somebody to let you know when a job opportunity arises, somebody to listen when we are sad and join us in celebrating the joys of life.

Please remember to cherish the love and support of those around you and pray for the continued success of Bridge of Hope mentors and Bridge of Hope families as they travel together on the path God has laid out for them.

Fast forward to this past spring. For years I had been volunteering with various non-profits and working on a part-time basis. With one child about to leave home for college and the other becoming more and more independent, I felt it was time to focus my various efforts on one organization that provides immediate assistance to families and also help and hope for their future. Bridge of Hope LCC fulfilled those parameters.

The one aspect of the Bridge of Hope model that struck me as so essential was the inclusion of mentoring groups in a mother's journey towards self-sufficiency and wholeness. I thought to myself, how can anyone travel through life without a strong support system,



Visit us on Facebook! Join our community for the latest stories, updates and breaking news.

Welcome new churches

Welcome to these churches that have formed mentoring teams to support single mothers and their children moving into new homes and discovering greater wholeness.

- Christ Community Church in West Chester, PA
- Messiah Lutheran Church in Downingtown, PA
- LCBC in Lancaster, PA
- Lancaster 7th Day Adventist in Lancaster, PA

Sign up your church for this ministry of friendship! Call to learn how simple and significant mentoring is.

Events Calendar

More details at www.bridgeofhopelcc.org

Kaleidoscope 2011 - Winter Festival of Hope



Saturday, November 12, 5 to 8 pm
Ridgeview Mennonite Church
Gordonville

A inside winter festival of luscious food, games, music and children's activities.

Ten Thousand Villages Benefit Shopping Events

Ten Thousand Villages will donate 15% of your purchase on any of these days to benefit Bridge of Hope LCC.



November 10 (Thurs)
5-9:00 pm Rockvale Outlets, Lancaster

December 1 (Thurs)
5-9:00 pm Exton Store

December 8 (Thurs)
5-9:00 pm Ephrata Store & Cafe*

December 11 (Sun)
1-5:00 pm Rockvale Outlets, Lancaster

*The Cafe features a fair trade espresso bar, fair trade coffees and teas on other specialty drinks along with soups, salads, wraps and delicious desserts.

Downingtown Fall Fest



Sunday, October 2, noon to 4pm
Along Lancaster Ave.
Downingtown, PA

Bridge of Hope LCC will join a variety of vendors, entertainers and non-profits to celebrate the season. The event is FREE. Parking is available in parking lots surrounding the downtown area.

Chamber of Commerce Business Expo

Thursday, November 3, 5 to 8pm
American Helicopter Museum
West Chester, PA

The Gift of Caring

Food, shelter, clothing . . . We all acknowledge these as essential to the health and well being of families and individuals. But what of their emotional needs?

Imagine no friends, no family, nobody to lean on when times are tough. Loneliness is a deep and painful emotion. Having someone to listen and care about what happens to you and your family can bring such healing and joy. Stacy* came to Bridge of

Hope LCC feeling she "had no future." She had just left an abusive relationship and her job did not offer enough income to support her and her children.

While Bridge of Hope LCC was able to assist her in becoming an LPN and increasing her income, it also matched her family with mentors, providing the support and friendship that had been lacking in her life. She now had people to share her journey. She could now see a future full of hope.

The mentoring system at Bridge of Hope is unique in that it not only equips and educates women for a self-sufficient future, it also connects them with a group of people who can support them through friendship.

"Locate a resilient kid and you will also find a caring adult – or several – who has guided him"

-Invincible Kids, U.S. News & World Report

Continued

The gift of caring (cont'd)

Dr. Larry Crabb, founder and director of NewWay Ministries, says, "Without a community where we know, explore, discover, and touch one another, we experience isolation and despair that drive us in wrong directions, that corrupt our efforts to live meaningfully and to love well."

When reflecting about her time with our program Stacey said,

"Through Bridge of Hope LCC and my mentors I learned that there are people who love and care about me and my children other than my biological family."

The Bridge of Hope program consists of a unique blend, practical guidance and relational support, a great model and a gift that continues to give for generations to come.

* not her real name.

United Way designations

When you give this Fall to the United Way, remember to support Bridge of Hope LCC with your Donor Choice Gift using this information:

- **United Way of SE Pennsylvania** – #10178
- **United Way of Delaware** – #5994
- **United Way of Chester or Lancaster counties** write in Bridge of Hope LCC, 1516 Olive St., Coatesville, PA 19320.

Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties

info@bridgeofhopelcc.org
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

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Memberships

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

Loved ones remembered

With great love the following people have been remembered through gifts given to Bridge of Hope LCC.

Augie Rossi	Judy Harnish (31)
Betty Jane Hafer	Kathy Seamon-McGowan
Cassie R. Medley	Marian Cabott (5)
Dorothy Hazard	Peg Mohr
Elva S. Kaucher	Ruth Thompson Eshleman
Evelyn Hess Groff	Stanley Bielski & Kay

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.

Organize a collection

Encourage a homeless family this holiday season with a donation of the following items:

- **Themed Gift Baskets** to be given to families and/or auctioned at our Kaleidoscope Event. The theme could be Baking Items, A Family Game Night, Spa and Pampering Gifts, Stationary and Stamps or a similar idea. For auction basket ideas contact Kate Kooker at 610-380-1360, ext. 107
- **Winter Accessories** to keep families warm. Hats, gloves, scarves, warm socks, etc.
- **Gift Cards** to meet specific family needs. Gift cards for gas stations, grocery stores, and departments stores are helpful.
- **Canned Goods** like vegetables, soups and pasta sauces to feed families and help them grow stronger and healthier.



Any gift, extravagant or practical, could be your unique way of bringing joy to a family this year.

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.

Help keep families warm
as the cold weather starts
to set in.
More details inside...



Return service requested

1516 Olive St. Coatesville, PA 19320

BRIDGE OF HOPE®
LANCASTER &
CHESTER COUNTIES

