

Notes from the Executive Director

Support for our children

The frustration of not being able to help a child can be overwhelming. Our oldest daughter totaled her car while returning to college one year. I was living in the Dominican Republic and felt so helpless when I heard her shaky voice on the phone. Fortunately, her uncle was with her and family was doing what needed to be done. I am grateful for that support when I was unable to help.

Recently at a business expo, a woman saw the Bridge of Hope sign and burst into tears. This was the first time anyone responded like this after reading our sign.

All eyes were on Susan as she explained to the gathering crowd how she had been living in another state several years ago when her daughter and grandchild found themselves homeless. She was unable to help financially, and too far away to give emotional support. **“Bridge of Hope saved my daughter at a time no one else could.”**

Susan recounted how well her daughter is doing now. She finished school, became a business professional, married and is expecting another child.



Francesca Crane

In this issue Laverne shares her story as a mother desiring to help her daughter, but unable to do so. She did what she could, but needed someone else to step in. Bridge of Hope was there to lend support to her daughter, Tara, as she worked through what she needed to do to move on.

Now Tara, her son and two daughters have a better life.

Healthy support systems are vital. Bridge of Hope is there for single mothers facing

homelessness without them.

Will you partner with us to make sure these women and children have the supports they need? Your financial support is crucial as we face an unprecedented number of calls.

And for Mother’s Day, consider honoring a special woman who supported you, through a gift to



Honor someone special this Mother’s Day with a gift to Bridge of Hope

Use the enclosed envelope to mail your contribution. You will receive a card to send that special person. Their name will appear in the next newsletter.



Events to benefit families

May 8—Mother’s Day Benefit Concert, Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola

June 11—Engle Printing & Publishing Company’s Golf Outing — Crossgates Golf Club, Millersville.

July 24— Be our 2010 *Dream Ride* Star! Last year, Kate Kooker & her mother, Kathryn Hess, captured bikers’ attention with *60 for Hope*. Call today with your idea for building hoopla and you can be our 2010 Dream Ride Star. You get riders--**we’ll help plan a party!** More information at www.bridgeofhopelcc.org

I am grateful for what my daughter received

“It’s difficult being a single mother these days. Even if you have a job, it’s tough making ends meet and carrying all the responsibilities for your children.”

Laverne is grateful for the support her daughter, Tara, who was in this situation, recently received from Bridge of Hope. As a single mother of three, Tara was forced at times to move in with other people and felt the weight of having to do everything herself -- grocery shopping, laundry, maintaining her car, missing work when her children were sick, and on and on.

Laverne, a single woman herself, offered as much support to her daughter as she could. In February 2008, when Tara applied to Bridge of Hope, she and her three children were living with her mother, all sharing one room as a bedroom.

“Some nights when I woke up at 3:00 am to be at work by 4:00, I would find some of my grandchildren in bed with me. The one room they had was too crowded for all of them. None of us had the privacy we needed, including my daughter. There was no place for her to be alone and get a break from parenting.

“My daughter is a very giving person and would help

anyone in the world. She worked hard to take care of her children. Some days it meant picking up her children from daycare in the late afternoon and not getting home to make dinner until after 7:00 pm. I would try to help her as much as I could, but I also had responsibilities.

“I am grateful for the many ways Bridge of Hope helped Tara. No matter what happened to her

Continued on back



Help families succeed – donate these items:

- Reliable vehicles for mothers – 3 needed
- **“Overnights”** (60-80 lb.) & size 4 diapers
- Baby wipes
- Scrapbooking materials for teen-age girls
- Goya products: rice, beans, etc.
- Canned soup, pasta
- Travel-size hand sanitizer, Neosporin, Advil
- Aveeno & other sensitive-skin care products



Spread the joy

Over the holidays, people recognized those listed here with a gift to Bridge of Hope. You can spread joy to a special person at Mother's Day.

Check out the enclosed envelope for details.

Gift were given to honor: Elizabeth Allen, Hartley Barker, Verna Beiler, Yessenia Blanco, C. John Bryer (2), April Carmen, Diane Corle, Bob & Lisa Crane, Chad & Christina Crane, Chris & Elizabeth Crane, Steve & Francesca Crane, Ginny Cromer, Joanna Cromer, Sue Fisher, Sue A. Groff, Judy Harnish, Linda Joyce, Helen Keller, Louise & Matthew Kenney, Esther Kerr, Beryl Kutrieb, Susan & Mark Lancaster, Margaret Leonard, Stephanie & Ben Mangrich, Mia Marino, Karen Martino, Donna Mosebach, Peg Nelson, Marcia Nolt, Stanley & Ruth Olds, Liz Perry, Eleanor & Fred Schwandt, Irene & John Sigler, Cindy Sweigart, Patricia Thomas, Hilda Williams-King, Chris Yang, Deanne Zimmerman, and Tina Zimmerman.

Gifts given in memory of: Stan & Kay Bielski, Marie R. Bilotta, Kathleen Bryer, Robert L. Castetter, Elaine Davis, Ruth T. Eshleman, Janet Funk, Alice E. Harman, Esther Hoopes, Rachel Kohler, Christ Lapp, Manny Lapp, Ruby Lausch, Lillian & Russell Lloyd, Carmela Lunardi, Ed Pahl, Shirley Robinson, Nancy J. Sevick (3), Harold S. Stauffer, Mayme Stoltzfus, Madeline & Harry Thomas, Jordan Umble, Leroy Umble, and Mr. & Mrs. Christian Zeitler.

Go green, receive news via email

If you would like email notices of Bridge of Hope events and other news, send an email to info@bridgeofhopelcc.org.

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

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Executive Director
Francesca J. Crane

Associate Executive Dir.
Sue A. Groff

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Anne Dunnenberger

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Lancaster County
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- Chester County Community Foundation
- Exton Region Chamber of Commerce
- The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Leave a Legacy
- Mennonite Foundation
- Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce
- Women In Motion
- **Women's Referral Network**

Churches reaching out

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lionville, was matched with a single mother of two children ages 13 and 17. They are supporting her as she works two jobs, one as a nursing assistant and the other cleaning houses. She is hoping to soon enroll in a certified nursing program.

Ascension Lutheran Church, Willow Street, is enjoying their friendship with a mother and her one-year-old son. They are supporting her as she looks for employment and affordable housing.

Hopewell United Methodist Church, Downingtown, had so many eager mentors they formed two teams recently. One group is mentoring a mother of two children who is actively looking for a second part-time job in a tough job market. The other team is mentoring a woman with a strong work history who suffered a financial set-back with a difficult pregnancy.



A mentoring team from Manheim Brethren in Christ Church, is matched with a single mother of two daughters, ages 18 months and 7 years. They are supporting her as she is employed and looking to soon enter a schooling program.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lancaster, is mentoring a single mother and her four daughters, ages 7 months, 2 (twins), and 10 years old. This supportive team is helping her as she works and attends school.

Sandy Hill Community Church, Coatesville, has completed their training and will begin mentoring a woman from their congregation. This mother and her children are already loved by the church.

My daughter (cont'd.)

while she was in the program, Bridge of Hope and her mentors never let her down. She now has childcare close to where she works with makes life easier.

"And she and the children are happier now that they're settled into a place of their own.

"After church on Sundays, they come to my house for lunch. It's always good to see them and see them not struggling as much anymore."

As required by the PA Solicitation of Funds Act, a copy of the official registration and financial information for Bridge of Hope may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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1516 Olive St.

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