



A CHURCH-BASED APPROACH
TO ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Newsletter

A Dream Come True: Kathy's Story



It was a rough couple of months. I was living in a dangerous neighborhood with no friends or family around just trying to keep my children safe and happy throughout the violence that took place right outside my door on a daily basis.

While at work one day I got the most devastating phone call saying that a very important and special family member to me passed away. I rushed home, packed my things and got on a bus to go back home to be with my family. It was by far one of the hardest moments I ever had to deal with. My job was very understanding and allowed me to return to work but the bills had piled up. I was behind on my rent and facing eviction. I was in panic mode. Everywhere I called they could not assist me because I did not meet their criteria.

I left a message with Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area and got a phone call back from Johanna. I explained to her my situation and she sent me an application and asked me to complete and return it. I was then asked to come in for a face-to-face interview where I met Sally for the first time. I don't know why but I felt comfortable with these two women. I shared everything with them...every little detail about who I am, where I came from and what I have been through. I walked away from that interview unsure but I told myself I would leave it in God's hands.

Then I got the phone call, I was accepted!!! I was so overwhelmed with joy I grabbed my children up and explained to them that, "Mommy just got accepted into a program that is going to change our lives"! The most exciting part was knowing that Bridge of Hope was going to help me get my children out of the dangerous, violent and unsafe neighborhood we lived in.

Within days of acceptance, I learned very quickly that my Case Manager, Sally, took pride in what she did for a living. No matter what I asked she went above and beyond to find an answer and make it happen! We were trying to look for an apartment for my children and I, but due to me facing eviction it was a time sensitive issue. Sally dedicated so much of her time to me, unfortunately, we were running out of time. Then it happened! Sally called me and explained that there was a lady willing to rent her home to me for an affordable amount. A house!!! I could not believe it! From that moment forward things moved extremely fast and I was moving that same weekend! There were so many people who volunteered their time to come and help. I could not express the amount of joy, excitement and gratitude I felt.

Once everything was moved in, I stood in the middle of the street looking up at this big beautiful house and knew that it was nothing but the Lord. God has blessed me! My children can play outside now! I can open the curtains and let sunlight in! We sleep in peace. They play, run and laugh harder than they have in a very long time. I am so grateful for this opportunity to be a part of Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area. It's been three weeks and I still can't stop smiling! This is a dream come true!

Kathy still needs YOUR help. She often asks, "Do you have a mentor group for me yet?" She needs a group of people to come alongside of her and be her support through the ups and downs, but we still need a congregation who will partner with us. **Kathy still needs a forever home, a bed for her daughter and heaters to keep costs down, but Kathy also needs mentors she can call her friends.** Contact us today at 717-635-5957 to support Kathy! *(Identifying information has been changed to protect privacy.)*

Our Mission

The mission of Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area is to end and prevent homelessness for women and children with the help of trained mentoring groups within congregations. Single mothers achieve permanent housing and financial stability through employment and attain stability and enhanced self-esteem through ongoing mentoring friendships. Our goal is to exemplify Christ's love and to promote physical, emotional, social, and spiritual wholeness.

Who We Are...

Director- Johanna Fessenden

Family Resource Coordinator- Hiring for Position

Administrative Assistant- Jenny Nace

Board of Directors:

Todd Cressler, Board Chair

Justin McClure, Vice Chair

Kristen Sims, Treasurer

Melanie Shaver-Durham, Secretary

Anthony Cristillo

Neliana Lord

Rich Horn

Wanda Johnson

Rosalie Roland

Tom Chelednik

Thank You!

Thank you, Andrew Lenda with the Morgan Stanley Foundation, for your gift to Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area!

Thank you, Deloitte, for volunteering your time in June. We appreciated your expertise and assistance in many areas!



As required by the PA Solicitation of Funds Act, the official registration and financial information of Bridge of Hope

Harrisburg Area may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999.

Registration does not imply endorsement.

Will You Be the First?

Is there someone in your life you would call when something goes terribly wrong or even amazingly right? Is there a person in your life that you know would catch you if your life fell apart unexpectedly? If there is, you know how precious and needed those people are to you. They're priceless. If not, then you know how hard it is to be alone.

Have you ever stopped to think about the single mothers in the Harrisburg Area experiencing homelessness? They're women, our neighbors really, coming to Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area for help. They tell us there was **NO ONE** there to help when their life fell apart much less there to help celebrate the day they chose to make positive life changes for the sake of their children. **Did you know that you could be the first person in their life that cares; the first person who doesn't judge them but just loves them? Would you consider being a mentor and really just a friend they remember for a lifetime?**



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P.O Box 15212
Harrisburg, PA 17105

**"If you really want to do something,
you'll find a way. If you don't,
you'll find an excuse."
- Jim Rohn**

CONTACT US TODAY

*to find out how you can become a
mentor! There's a mom and her
children waiting for your friendship!*

Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area
PO Box 15212

Harrisburg, PA 17105
717-635-5957

Bridgeofhope.hbg@gmail.com
Harrisburg.bridgeofhopeinc.org

Physical Needs:

1. Child Care Volunteers for Bridge of Hope Nights (1st Wed. monthly @ 6:30pm)
2. Christmas meals - Unprepared ingredients for families to make the day of.
3. Food for families - Giant gift cards are very helpful!
4. Washing machine and dryer
5. Vacuum cleaner
6. Baby crib
7. Toy box
8. Shower caddy
9. Bathroom waste basket
10. Hand towels
11. Little girls laundry basket
12. Red pot holders
13. Bathroom mat
14. Food containers for school lunches

15. Colander
16. Veggie peeler and cutting board
17. 4 black dining chairs
18. Twin bed frame with box springs and mattresses
19. Space heaters

Prayer Needs:

1. More churches would partner with Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area as mentors.
2. Employment and housing for the families in the program.
3. Wisdom for selecting the next family to serve.
4. The right person to fill the Family Resource Coordinator position.

Call or email us if you can meet any of these needs @ 717-635-5957 or bridgeofhope.hbg@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

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HARRISBURG, PA

PERMIT NO. 367

*Have a passion for Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area?
Want to serve women and children? Here's your opportunity!*

We are looking for someone passionate for the mission of Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area with a desire to serve between 10 to 14 women and children experiencing homelessness through case management. If you are interested or you know someone interested in a part-time position with the possibility of transitioning to a full-time position, please contact Johanna Fessenden, Director at #717.635.5957 for more information.

Want to be a mentor? Here's How to Get Started:

1. Schedule a time for us to personally share at your church, Sunday school, small group or even a prescheduled session before or after church. We make it fun!
2. Announce in advance that we are coming so those interested can plan to come.
3. Attend and learn that mentoring is fun, fulfilling and beneficial for both the family and the mentors.
4. Pray for the Lord's leading as you consider becoming a mentor.

