



A Note from the Executive Director Johanna Fessenden

We just recently celebrated donor impact at our annual Spring Gala on April 11th. It was a wonderful night of fun and fellowship where supporters, Staff and Board Members came together to celebrate the impact our supporters are having on the single mothers in the Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area program.

I shared how our organization started with one Director, one family, and one mentor group back in 2006. The need for our services has continued to grow, on average we currently receive about 20-30 calls a month from women struggling to keep a roof over their families head. In order to meet the increasing need for a program that assists homeless single mothers in our community we have taken numerous steps of faith as an organization to increase our capacity. Our current staff of 4 now includes an Executive Director, Development Officer & Special Events Coordinator, Family Resource Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. We also have the full support of a working board of 11 members and board committees, one of which has an alumni Bridge of Hope participant offering her very valuable expertise. As of today we are serving 5 families with the capacity to serve 8 to 10 families by the end of this year. Our goal is to be serving 11 to 12 families by March 2017.

We have been blessed with the funding, Board Members and staffing to serve more families but because of the time commitment involved in investing into someone's life we struggle to find mentors. On average it takes about 5 to 6 hours a month to meet the basic time commitments involved in being a mentor. For mentoring groups of 6 to 8 individuals, that adds up to over 800 hours in the course of a single mother's time in the program. What an incredible amount of impact one mentor group can have on a family in that amount of time! Mentors can serve as singles, couple or the whole family can get involved.

Mother Teresa once said, "We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something." We at Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area may only be able to help so many families at one time, but the impact one mentoring group has on one family in the program is limitless and amazing. Would you consider mentoring today? If so, call me at 717-635-5957.

Uplifting: Traci's Story

Traci was uncertain she wanted to have the baby she was carrying. You see, Traci was raped and became pregnant as a result. The thought of seeing the aggressor in her unborn child's face was more than she could take. More than that, she carried a burden of fear for how she would provide food, clothing and shelter for this child she would be raising alone. However, when Traci was offered the services of Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area, which included a case manager who helped her meet her financial and educational goals, rental assistance on a decreasing basis and the support of a group of mentors, her decision and outlook changed. Traci now has a job in the field of her choice, has an apartment, a group of mentors she calls friends and a beautiful toddler daughter. Traci recently graduated from the Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area program successfully supporting herself and her child with a hope for the future! Here's what Traci had to say about her experience:

"Bridge of Hope helped my life and I can't put it into words enough....It saved my daughter's life - If not for them I would have had an abortion, she is here because of Bridge of Hope"



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...

Executive Director- Johanna Fessenden
Family Resource Coordinator- Sally Krasevic
Development Officer – Jenny Nace
Administrative Assistant– Donna Wenger

Board of Directors:

Todd Cressler, Board Chair	Rich Horn
Justin McClure, Vice Chair	Neliana Lord
Kristen Sims, Treasurer	Rosalie Roland
Melanie Shaver-Durham, Secretary	Tom Chelednik
Wanda Johnson	Eric Tharp

Faithful Service Recognition

Joe Stiles and East Shore Baptist Church

We gratefully recognize Joe Stiles and his committed service to the women in the Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area program. Joe, in conjunction with East Shore Baptist Church, has faithfully donated his time and efforts for car repair services and car donations. Without Joe's services and donated cars, the ladies in the program would not be able to maintain their jobs and support their families. Thank you, Joe, for all you do for Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area and the women and children we serve!



Family Needs



DVD player
 Gas Gift Cards
 Household cleaning supplies
 Paper products
 Grocery Gift Cards
 Girl's Hair Products
 Vacuum
 Pep Boys Gift Cards
 Family Fun Gift Cards
 Activities for children
 Pillows
 Silverware, plates & cup
 Reading books (for a 14 year old girl)

School supplies for the Fall (Book bags, lunch boxes)
 Comforter & Bed Sheets-Twin (Disney Character or Pink)
 Furniture & household items for a family just beginning in the program.

Meet Donna Wenger



Donna joined the Staff of Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area in January 2015 as Administrative Assistant. Donna has been a homemaker for almost 27 years, wife of a local

business owner and mother of four children. She's had lots of administrative experience in homemaking, her kids' sports teams and in various church programs. Donna was also a volunteer at a local pregnancy center before her children were born, which began her love for people in need. Donna looks forward to being a help to Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area so they can continue to serve homeless, single moms in the Harrisburg Area.

Meet Eric Tharp



Eric joined the Board of Directors in April 2015. He is employed at Santander Bank as a Premier Banker. Eric has a B.A. in International Studies and French from Dickinson College. He has

past experiences of service with his church, Operation Timothy, a missions trip to New Orleans and men's retreats. Eric has strong interests in fundraising and networking. He comes to Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area excited to use his personal and professional specialties to benefit the organization and the women and children we serve.

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.



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Spring Gala 2015 - A Celebration!

The annual Spring Gala was held on April 11th and we thank all of our donors for their unparalleled generosity that night! Bridge of Hope Harrisburg Area was able to raise over \$43,000 through the Spring Gala all of which will help us meet our \$75,000 matching grant for this year. Mark your calendars for April 9, 2016. We would love to see you at next year's gala!

If you have an interest in networking for Gala 2016 auction and sponsors we would love to have you join the Planning Committee. Please contact

Jenny Nace, Development Officer & Special Events Coordinator at 717-839-7077 or at development.boh.hbg@gmail.com.



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

"I never look at the masses as my responsibility; I look at the individual. I can only love one person at a time - just one, one, one. So you begin. I began - I picked up one person. Maybe if I didn't pick up that one person, I wouldn't have picked up forty-two thousand....The same thing goes for you, the same thing in your family, the same thing in your church, your community. Just begin - one, one, one." - Mother Teresa