

# Building Bridges

Ending and preventing homelessness in our community . . .  
one church and one family at a time.



## MISSION

Bridge of Hope ends and prevents homelessness for women and children with the help of trained mentoring groups from within congregations.

Our goal is to exemplify Christ's love and to promote physical, emotional, social and spiritual wholeness.

Single mothers obtain:

- permanent housing
- financial self-sufficiency through employment
- life-changing friendships
- growth and wholeness

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## PART-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Regina Diller

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR/ CASE MANAGER

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## PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT

Stefanie Mesko

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GRADUATE BOHCC Mom's Successes

Nija has been in the Bridge of Hope Centre County program for about nine months and is paired with a mentoring group from State College Presbyterian Church.

Nija and her mentors maintain regular contact. One mentor drives Nija and her son, Stevie, to Stevie's karate lessons, one helped her furnish her apartment by connecting her with Interfaith Mission, another tutored her in Statistics. Some are especially good at listening while Nija discusses concerns. They celebrate special occasions together and enjoy the monthly 'Bridge of Hope Night' potlucks and conversation. "A lot of other people forget me on birthdays and holidays. I feel like I belong-- this is my second family."



The group's first activity together was just prior to Christmas 2009. The mentors gathered ornaments and a Christmas tree, and met Nija and Stevie at their home. Together they decorated the tree, shared snacks, laughed and learned about one another. That Christmas was especially poignant for

Nija. "I'd always had to decide whether I could afford to have a tree or to get presents for Stevie. That was the first year I was able to give him both! It really felt good to open up, to be able to accept help without feeling guilty...to realize that I can be myself."

Since last Christmas, Nija has made commendable progress towards her goals. In May she passed the police exam for State College Borough, where she had just completed an internship. No officer positions are currently being filled in the Borough, but Nija is seeking employment in security, human services, or any area where she can develop her skills. She remains optimistic. "I'm closer to where I want to be in life. I know that I'm capable."

On September 18, Nija graduated from South Hills School of Business and Technology with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Several mentors and Bridge of Hope Board members were at the ceremony to cheer as she received her diploma.

If you would like to learn more about mentoring, or if you are aware of an employment opportunity for Nija, please contact Kris Santillo at [bohcc@verizon.net](mailto:bohcc@verizon.net).

## GOOD NEWS!



Exciting things are happening at Bridge of Hope Centre County! **We have hired a part-time Executive Director — Regina Diller** takes on this role

in October. Look for more about Regina in the next newsletter.

With Stocker Subaru as the presenting sponsor, our first ever Mother's Day Walk raised \$15,000. Now we are taking a leap of faith by training another mentoring group and interviewing more Centre County families to serve in 2011.

Your partnership with Bridge of Hope has made all these milestones possible. Thank you for your faith in our program which supports mothers who continue to make tangible progress in creating more secure lives for themselves and their children.

We ask you, once again, to continue to support our mission to serve homeless and at-risk single mothers. Watch for the BOHCC Annual Appeal letter in your mail soon. And please give as generously as you can. Thank you!

## SAVE THESE DATES

- February 13, 2011 **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Movie Event at the State Theatre**
- May 15, 2011 **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mother's Day Walk**

Watch for more details coming soon!

## SPECIAL THANKS

To those who have presented programs to the families and mentors at a Bridge of Hope Night:

- **Gretchen Pritt** from Out of the Box Life-Coaching
- **Gretchen Roth** — help with resumes and interviewing
- **Del Fuller** — for discussion of job search tips
- **Kathy Pollard** from The Wellness Forum — nutrition information
- **Mary Faulkner and Michelle Hamilton**, Women's Resource Center — discussion of domestic violence and community resources

Thank you for being so generous with your time and expertise!



## MORE THANKS TO...

- **The Whistle Stop Restaurant** in Centre Hall for donating 10% of all food sales on July 10 to Bridge of Hope!
- **The Goddard School** for donating a basket of baseball goodies which was given away by Bridge of Hope at the August 18 Spikes game.
- **Little Caesar's** for donating pizza and breadsticks for our August Bridge of Hope Night. How nice to have a cook-free evening!

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**W**ant to get involved? BOHCC is currently looking for a **Volunteer Coordinator** (2 hours per week) to manage the contacting and organizing of our volunteers and volunteer database.

**A**s we continue to grow, more people are interested in helping us with everything from addressing envelopes to walking in the annual BOHCC Mother's Day Walk.

**P**lease contact Anne Marshall at [annedmarshall@aol.com](mailto:annedmarshall@aol.com) if you are interested.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUPERSTAR SUPPORTERS

### Magnum Broadcasting

**O**ur media partners for the 2010 Mother's Day Walk, Magnum Broadcasting and its radio stations, 105.9 / 106.9 QWIK ROCK and 970 AM WBLF were the first to sign up for the event.



**G**eneral Manager, Diana Stapleford, basically said, "We're on board, what can we do to help?" On-air interviews, radio spots and promotional reminders helped raise awareness for the event. And "Quicky" showed up at the remote broadcast on the day of the walk to have pictures taken with our participants. BOHCC could not have asked for a better partner.

**S**tapleford states, "Part of our mission at Magnum Broadcasting, beyond building a successful business, is to be present in the community—to be there in a tangible way, not just selling advertising but also supporting Centre County citizens. We believe in connecting on all levels." BOHCC and QWIK ROCK ...a winning combination!



**Todd Costello**  
**RE/MAX**  
**Centre Realty**  
**Agent**

**M**other's Day Walk 2010

sponsor Todd Costello has been intimately involved with Bridge of Hope Centre County since its inception.

**A**s a former Board member and continuing supporter of our mission, Todd came to the program with a personal vantage point — he was raised by a single mother. He is all too familiar with the daily challenges facing single mothers and wanted to work to elevate the condition of homeless families in Centre County.

**T**odd and his wife, Margie (also a former BOHCC Board member), and their two daughters live in State College.

### E-NEWS

Help us cut costs and reduce waste — **receive your newsletters via email** — send your email address and name to [bohcc@verizon.net](mailto:bohcc@verizon.net).



And look for Bridge of Hope Centre County on **Facebook!**

Bridge of Hope Centre County is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the state of Pennsylvania. As required by the PA Solicitation of Funds Act, a copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Centre County  
United Way



## Yes! I want to help end homelessness for Centre County women and children.

With your donation to Bridge of Hope Centre County you become our partners in ending and preventing homelessness for Centre County women and children. Together we can make a difference, one family and one church at a time!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:  \$100  \$50  \$35  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please complete as you wish to be recognized)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

Please charge my  VISA  MASTERCARD **OR**  Check enclosed (payable to BOHCC)

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to Bridge of Hope Centre County, P.O. Box 433, State College, PA 16804.**

**You may also make a secure donation online at [www.bohcc.org](http://www.bohcc.org). Thank You!**