



WINTER 2011

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 sustainability through employment
- life-changing friendships
- growth and wholeness

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CONTACT US

mail: P.O. Box 433
State College, PA 16804

office: 1315 S. Allen Street
Suite 108
State College, PA 16801
(814) 237-HOPE (4673)

email: bridgeofhope.office@gmail.com

www.bohcc.org

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PART-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Regina Diller

FAMILY RESOURCES COORDINATOR

B.J. Weaver

PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT

Stefanie Mesko

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Many Will Not Be Home for the Holidays

by Regina Diller, Bridge of Hope Centre County Executive Director

For many of us, Christmas is a time of gathering with friends and family to sing carols, open presents, and celebrate the beauty of the season. But there are families in Centre County for whom this is a season of despair. There are single moms struggling to find a safe, warm place to stay and wondering how they will be able to give Christmas gifts to their children this year.

We are in the process of adding two new families to our program and we've received 14 referrals from several local agencies. These are families

who don't have a home including women who are living in their cars. The intake process is always hard because they all need and deserve help, but we can't serve them all.

The women often have heavy stories and they are so overwhelmed. But as BJ, our new family resource coordinator, said the other day, "These women are such an inspiration. They come in with such broken lives,



but with such determination to turn their lives around." Sometimes they just need someone to point out to them all of the great work they are already doing in their lives with such difficult circumstances.

We ask for your prayers as we carefully move through the intake process to find families that are a good fit for the program.

We plan to accept these new families and match them with their mentoring groups by the end of the year.

Everyone deserves a home where family memories can be made. Thank you for helping to bring hope to families in need this Christmas season.

Home For The Holidays

*"Oh, there's no place like home for holidays,
'Cause no matter how far away you roam,
If you want to be happy in a million ways,
For the holidays, you can't beat home, sweet home."*

— Perry Como

DURING THIS SEASON OF GIVING

You Can Give Hope

We are in the final weeks of our 2011 fundraising campaign. Thank you to all of you who have already given!

New this year, you can donate quickly and safely online, and track the progress toward our goal of \$10,000. Follow the "BOHCC Annual Appeal" link at www.bohcc.org.

We are currently 27% of the way toward our goal!

Your gifts bring hope to single, homeless and at-risk mothers and their children and help pave the way towards a happy and stable future.

Gift Cards Welcome

Gift cards to Giant Foods, Weis, Wegmans, Walmart and Scheetz are always welcome and allow us to provide our families immediate help with necessities such as groceries, household cleaning products, and school supplies for the children.

Charitable Stock Donations Benefit Everyone

Consider making a gift of appreciated stock to Bridge of Hope. Gifting shares owned for a year or more allows for a tax return deduction of the full value and eliminates the tax on any gain.

Contact your financial advisor to assist you. Make a donation of appreciated securities today — Bridge of Hope will benefit and so will you!

A special thanks to Nestlerode and Loy, a local investment advisory firm, for including Bridge of Hope Centre County on their list of recommended local charities for stock gifting.



Nestlerode & Loy inc
investment advisors

Research-based Solutions • Personal Attention



WELCOME!

Family Resource Coordinator

Please help us welcome our new family resource coordinator, BJ Weaver. BJ joined the Bridge of Hope family in June 2011. She is a graduate of Lock Haven University with a degree in social work and a minor in psychology.

BJ ironically found herself in a situation very similar to the women we aim to serve at Bridge of Hope after recently separating from her husband.

She states, "Finding a job with BOHCC has been a gift on so many levels. Not only do I get to work in a field that I love and believe in, but I also found healing and hope for myself through the wonderful people I come in contact with on a daily basis because of BOHCC.

From the women we serve, the mentors, the board and my amazing boss, Regina, I count my blessings every day to have this job and am grateful for the opportunity to be even a small part of this amazing organization and the difference it is making in Centre County."

BJ is a wonderful addition to our staff.

SPECIAL THANKS

— To **Barry and Renee Gummo** for donating proceeds from their pumpkin sale in October to Bridge of Hope.

— To **Kappa Phi**, a Christian club for women at Penn State, for their ongoing help with our mailings.

GET E-NEWS INSTEAD


If you opt to receive this **newsletter via email** you will help us cut costs and reduce waste! Please send your email address and name to bohcc@verizon.net.



Look for Bridge of Hope Centre County on **Facebook!**



Bridge of Hope Centre County
MOTHER'S DAY 5K FUN RUN/WALK



SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 12

New this year, we are adding a **5K course** to our annual Mother's Day event!

The fun run and walk will be held **SATURDAY, MAY 12 at 9:00am at the Military Museum in Boalsburg**. The registration fee is \$20 if paid by April 25 and \$25 after April 25. Kids 12 and under are \$5.

Shirts will be available for all those who pre-register before April 25.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Support Bridge of Hope and advertise **your company or business** through this event.

There are several levels of sponsorship available. Please email bridgeofhope.walk@gmail.com or call 814-237-4673 for more information.

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.

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: \$250 \$200 \$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. Thank You!