



# Building Bridges

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## 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 relationships
- Growth and wholeness

## Board of Directors

- Rich "Bo" Barbrow
- Sally Best
- Sherry Gensemer
- Terry Padden
- John Schaffer
- Joe Soloski
- Kelly Swisher
- Meredith Wideman

## Welcome to our Team!

Bridge of Hope Centre County is pleased to welcome RoseAnn Hill as the newest member of the team. RoseAnn has accepted the role as family resource manager. This means that she will fulfill the professional role of the Bridge of Hope Centre County triangle in ending homelessness for single mothers. RoseAnn comes to us with extensive experience in human services. She is active in the Centre County community and is eager to use her skills to give back to the those in need in Centre County. Take time to meet RoseAnn!

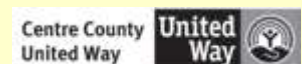
## Home D Pizzeria Fundraiser Dinner

Bridge of Hope Centre County is blessed to partner with Home D Pizzeria in holding fundraising dinners. These amazing meals are 5 course dinners with two wine pairings for only \$75 dollars. The next dinner will be held on **Tuesday, October 27th at 6pm**. Make your reservation by calling the office or emailing [bridgeofhope.office@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeofhope.office@gmail.com)

During the last fiscal year 7 dinners were held. Bridge of Hope Centre County received almost \$8200 from these events. These 7 dinners allowed Bridge of Hope Centre County to provide rental assistance to a mother and her 4 children as well as other professional services. This family has since completed the program and has achieved family stability and financial independence in Centre County. You can help another family become independent. Contact us to reserve your spot at our next dinner!

## Thank You

Without the local community, Bridge of Hope Centre County could not provide the services that work to prevent and homelessness. We were blessed by Wegmans and Chick-Fil-A in providing donations in order to have the meal at our monthly Bride of Hope Night with mothers, children and mentors. Our gracious host for that night each month is Park Forest United Methodist Church who welcomes us to share in their church space for these meals. Thank you for your gifts to this community. You are appreciated and important!



## Interview with Board Member Sally Best, LPC

### How Can I Help and Get Involved?

- Join a mentoring group
- Become a board or committee member
- Donate financially
- Attend our next "Home D Dinner" on October 27<sup>th</sup>

### Why are you a board member for Bridge of Hope Centre County?

I am a board member because someone on the board was actually part of helping me with my own journey as a single mom, so she knew I had first hand understanding of what our moms are facing and thought that I might be interested in helping others on that same journey. She also knew of my faith and thought I would be a good fit for sitting on the board.

### What is your passion in helping single homeless mothers' and children?

My own experience fuels my passion. I have said many times that I think my life would have been and would now be completely different if I had had the benefit of the Bridge of Hope program. I still struggle in many ways from the consequences and experiences of my single parenting years. I used to say that my "retirement program" was going to be offering tangible, practical help to a single mom in my sphere of influence. Bridge of Hope has dropped that opportunity at my feet (without my having to be retired!). This is the reason I have also been trained as part of a mentoring group- to be able to have that relationship as well as participate in guiding the organization.

### What do you wish everyone in Centre County knew about Bridge of Hope Centre County?

I wish everyone knew that there are so many ways to help Bridge of Hope. It's not necessary to commit to a 2 year mentoring group or a 3 year board stint. Your church group or community organization can help immensely by providing a meal for Bridge of Hope nights, or purchasing gift cards for various places, services or events, donations of things as needs arise like furniture, working cars or any number of things to help the mom we are serving to get on her feet. We are also always looking for people who will present at a Bridge of Hope night to inspire or teach the moms and the mentor groups how to make it through - whether it be information about nutrition, car care, self-care, family relationships or any number of topics - we need others to help keep it fresh and relevant.

### What makes Bridge of Hope Centre County Special?

I am impressed by the passion of the Board members and staff in bringing BOHCC to greater light in the area as well as the fund raising that goes on. I appreciate how much time and sweat folks are willing to invest to make the events successful and I think, moving forward, the organization is going to see a great deal of growth. I think God is about to astound us with His goodness and His faithfulness through the people who are in place to lead.

### **Donor Spotlight:**

This month we want to recognize **Park Forest United Methodist Women** for their monthly gifts to Bridge of Hope Centre County. Thank You!

**Not sure how to help...just ask!**

**Everyone can be part of the Bridge of Hope Centre County team.**

*Select Bridge of Hope Centre County as your designated donation through United Way*

*Invite a Bridge of Hope Centre County team member to speak to your organization*