



Building Bridges

August 2015

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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!

By Sue Patterson

I am excited to share with you the August 2015 edition of Building Bridges. It is a time of transition and stability all in one at Bridge of Hope Centre County. During the past few months, we have welcomed Rosita Derstine to our staff as the Office Assistant. She was one of the founding board members of Bridge of Hope Centre County. We feel blessed to have her experience and passion as part of our office team. It is also a time of departures and we wished a fond farewell and thank you to Regina Diller who has served the role of executive director over the past 5 years. She has brought much knowledge, time and passion to the position and the foundation of the program was built through her efforts and work. As of June 2015, I joined the team as the new executive director. I am eager to learn and grow with Bridge of Hope Centre County with an amazing staff, a devoted Board, church congregations and the Centre County Community working together. Together we can end and prevent homelessness across generations. I can't wait to meet you!

Thank You

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You! The first annual Glowin' Home Run event was a success. Not only was a great time had by all, we were able to raise money towards helping a single mother and her family enter the Bridge of Hope Centre County program to end homelessness for her and her children. We are blessed with a community that cares and is willing to give of their time, energy and finances to give a "hand up" to a single mother in need. When board member Richard "Bo" Barbrow was asked about a way he found Centre County special he replied

"When soliciting donations for the silent auction, the generosity of our local merchants became quite apparent. Although they are asked for donations on a regular basis from various charities, about 90% of those solicited gave a generous donation. That is a great snapshot of how this community works together."

Stay tuned for other ways to be involved in Bridge of Hope Centre County events



Interview with our Board Chair – Sherry Gensemer

CONGRATS!!!!

September 1st we welcome another mother and her 4 children to being an ALUMNI of Bridge of Hope Centre County! This mother is successfully completing the program and has ended homelessness for herself and her children. Thank you for your hard work and a special thanks to her mentoring group from Centre Church.



Thank you for being part of our team!

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

It's an opportunity for me to do my part in helping our neighbors. It's far reaching - we help a mother become stable, she is then better able to help her children grow, the relationship between the mother and the mentors helps them all grow in friendship. The outcome is limitless and I am thrilled to be a small part of the process.

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

Mothers want to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children. There are a special challenges for a single parent household and often it takes just one or two events to make homelessness a possibility. The ability to help a mother help herself and her children is so satisfying.

What is something you love about the Centre County Community and how it helps other community members in their time of need?

People in Centre County are not afraid to help their neighbor. "How can I help?" is a common response when community members learn of an individual's issue.

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

Bridge of Hope is helping build strong community members one by one. Stronger community members, in turn, help the community become stronger.

What makes Bridge of Hope Centre County Special?

Bridge of Hope Centre County helps that struggling mother cross the bridge to stability. We're there to help those people that truly want to help themselves.

How Can I Join in Helping?

Join a mentoring group

Donate of your time

Become a board member

Attend a fundraising event

Donate of your finances

Donate office supplies

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