

BUILDING HOPE



My Story of Hope

I was working in a nursing care facility for seniors during the pandemic and developed PTSD. I had to leave my fulltime job of seven years and started working part-time at another facility. At the time, I was sharing a home and expenses with a friend and they abruptly left. Because I was only able to work part-time, I could not keep up with my bills and the costs that come with two children.

I felt stuck, I was very emotional and dealing with a lot of anxiety; I found myself losing my patience and that was so not like me. I knew I needed to reach out for help but it was very hard as I had always been self-sufficient.

During my time in the program, I faced many difficulties with my health and extended family. Through these experiences, I have learned to set boundaries with my family. I found patience, I feel balanced, and my anxiety went down.

continued on next page

"Bridge of Hope **BuxMont** brought



darkness."

Our Mission

To engage our community in ending and preventing homelessness for single mothers and children in Bucks & Montgomery Counties through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ's love.

Bridge of Hope BuxMont strives to support women and children facing homelessness in achieving these primary program outcomes:

- Safe and sustainable housing
- Strong and resilient families
- Supportive neighboring relationships

Board of Directors

Amy Biemiller, Board Chair Doreen Hespell, Vice Chair Joan Wambold, Secretary Mark Abissi Jessica Carson Lindsey Coughlin Karen Kutzner Abbie Lampe

Staff

Marlene Derstine Kristin Vasey Jennifer L. Yothers I am doing things again with my daughters that are important to them. I am in a better financial position; I paid off seven accounts on my credit report, established a savings account, got a credit card to help build my credit score and replaced my car.

The Bridge of Hope program gave me a comfortable space to express my concerns and myself. My girls and I felt cared for and supported through the prayers, letters and cards from our Neighboring Volunteers.



Bridge of Hope made me feel whole again as a person and a mother. They brought light to my life when I felt such darkness.

Don't give up no matter how hard things may seem, tomorrow is always a new day to start over.

- A 2023 Graduate of Bridge of Hope BuxMont

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ...
and He will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6

A Note from our Executive Director

You made the difference in the lives of mothers and their children that we served this year!

In this newsletter, we highlight two journeys of 2023 graduates and their transformations during their time with us. We are so grateful for every individual, family and business whose compassion and generosity made these opportunities possible! Your involvement provides empowerment, HOPE and an opportunity to change the trajectory of the lives of two generations and beyond.

Your support has provided security deposits and rental assistance for warm, safe homes for mothers and children, one-on-one case management, financial education/training, encouragement, goal planning, practical life skills, counseling and more. We can't thank you enough!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with the joy & peace of our Savior!

- Jennifer L. Yothers, Executive Director

A Story of Transformation

Finding Bridge of Hope has been a blessing to myself and my children. We were in a hard place after separating from their father, when the owners of the house we were renting from wanted to live in their house again due to unseen circumstances.



Life before entering the program was not stable, it was very unsettling having to be away from my children while finding adequate and affordable housing. During my time in the program I have successfully found housing plus lost a job due to my employer closing and replaced it with three jobs simultaneously. I was able to stay afloat with losing my job because of the assistance from the program for the short transition period to new work.

The most helpful thing to me was all the nonjudgmental support and kindness that I received. I felt that I was seen as worthy of help while I was in crisis. My case manager was always there with helpful resources or ideas that were free from being pitied.

To other mothers facing a crisis, I am not sure what I would say...perhaps that when the going gets tough, you have to be tougher. You must be patient with yourself and know that you will make things come together in due time.

Welcome to our new Neighboring Churches:

Calvary Chapel of Quakertown

Grace Bible Church (Souderton)

Grace Community Church (Chalfont)

Immanuel Church of the Nazarene (Lansdale)

Thank you for the following Special Gifts:

In Honor of Robert & Beth Light
Given by Nancy Garis

In Memory of Donna DelcampGiven by Connie & Andrew Minnig

In Memory of Douglas GeibGiven by Louise Geib

In Memory of Jake LandisGiven by Dwayne & Linda Moyer

In Memory of Dennis SwartleyGiven by Darlene Swartley

In closing, it is bittersweet to be leaving the program - something that had been supportive of us the last year is done but I am also happy there will be room for another mom to get the help she needs. Thank you for everything!

- A 2023 Graduate of Bridge of Hope BuxMont



Thank You Upward Sports - North Penn!

We want to thank Upward Sports - North Penn for choosing Bridge of Hope BuxMont as the beneficiary of their **Upward Gives Back**. Upward has a tradition of "giving back" to celebrate a great flag football and cheerleading season, and we were thrilled to be the recipient this year! Thank you, Upward Sports, and all the kids, parents and volunteers for contributing towards our ministry!

Make Your Year-End Gift Today

Please return your gift in the envelope provided or visit our website at <u>www.buxmont.bridgeofhopeinc.org</u> for online giving. Our website shares more about what we do, ways you can get involved, and most of all, you can read inspiring stories of women who were given a chance because of your past support!



PO Box 225 Souderton, PA 18964-0225



Connect with us! www.buxmont.bridgeofhopeinc.org



THANK YOU to all who came out to our Fall Benefit Concert in October! It was a wonderful night of worship led by Sanctus Real, Consumed By Fire and Stars Go Dim. It was by far the best attended concert we have hosted over the past 11 years! Thank you to the bands, Calvary Church for hosting, our generous sponsors, volunteers, and all of YOU who came out and showed your support for the work we do in our community.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONCERT SPONSORS:

























RK&CO















REV. DR. MARJORIE **DUNCAN REED**