

# BUILDING HOPE



One of our recent graduates, center, with her daughter and Neighboring Volunteers

## My Story of Hope

I was raised by my grandmother my entire life. Unfortunately, in 2020 during my senior year of high school, she lost her battle with breast cancer.

After losing my legal guardian, I found myself feeling hopeless with no options, I began dating an older man whom, in my ignorance at 18, thought would help guide and support me. After finding out I was pregnant and his insistence on abortion - I knew I had to start planning my escape. After reaching out to my estranged alcoholic mother, I found myself sleeping on her couch feeling that once again I had few options. But this time I had my daughter whom gave me more hope and optimism I could even express.

Before joining the Bridge of Hope BuxMont program, I entered premature labor at 32 weeks; leaving me out of work and with a newborn baby in the hospital.

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"My people will live in

*peaceful*

dwelling places, in

*secure homes,*

in undisturbed

places of *rest.*"

*Isaiah 32:18*

## 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*  
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*Program Manager/Director*

Kristin Vasey  
*Communications Admin.*

Jennifer L. Yothers  
*Executive Director*

I urgently returned to work, when I was cleared, working tirelessly knowing where I was currently residing was not a safe or comfortable place for my child or me.

I call these the dark days. As I took Uber from work to the hospital, all while paying half my mother's rent, plus trying to save money for my future. Once again feeling lost but far from hopeless.

Throughout my time within the program, the consistent support from both my case manager and my neighboring volunteers have enabled me to consistently reach small goals to make a huge impact!

As I prepare to graduate from the program, I can truly say that I feel my overall growth has been monumental, both as a person and as a mother. I have my driver's license and a vehicle. I have found a career that I love that enables me to support my daughter. I have strengthened my personal relationship with God as well as others around me. I continue to be motivated by my daughter and the strength that being her mother has provided me.

To any other mother whom may find themselves in hardships, you truly never know how strong you are until being strong is your only option. Just know that you are not alone, no storm lasts forever and this too shall pass.

- March 2024 Graduate of Bridge of Hope BuxMont



## A Note from our Executive Director

Spring brings anticipation of new beginnings, transition and growth. At Bridge of Hope BuxMont, we have the joy of offering a fresh beginning to women and children facing a housing crisis. Our recent graduate shares how Bridge of Hope BuxMont walking alongside her made a difference. The opportunity of family and financial stability is only available because of your compassionate investment in the lives of your neighbors.

Our fiscal year has just finished and we are humbled by your amazing outpouring of support! We say THANK YOU for empowering mother-led families with strength, inspiring hope and investing in new beginnings. With the skyrocketing cost of rent, lack of available units and the reality of how hard it is to make enough on a single income - your partnership is essential in offering mothers and their children the opportunity to *not just survive but thrive!*

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming *Raising Hope Gala* on April 19, 2024 (details on the back). Come and hear how **Together We Thrive!**

I look forward to seeing you there,

- Jennifer L. Yothers, Executive Director



## Farewell Marlene Derstine

*and thank you for 12 years of service at Bridge of Hope BuxMont!*

We want to celebrate Marlene Derstine as she concluded 12 years serving through Bridge of Hope BuxMont at the end of February. As a Case Manager, we were blessed to have Marlene invest selflessly into the lives of over **170 mothers and children** during her time with us. Her passion to empower, educate and encourage the families she was privileged to journey alongside was a gift – not just for the families but for the rest of the BOHB team as well.



We are certain she will continue to impact countless more lives as she moves on to her next opportunity. Thank you Marlene! Blessings to you and your family!

## Thank you for the following Special Gifts:

**In Honor of Wayne & Dolores Kratz and Kenneth & Ruthie Gehman**  
Given by Doug & Marice Kratz

**In Honor of Robert & Beth Light**  
Given by Nancy Garis

**In Memory of Douglas Geib**  
Given by Thomas & Barbara McGlynn

**In Honor of Scott & Sherri Heckler**  
Given by Dorothy & Robert Tyson

**In Memory of Anthony Palombo**  
Given by Raymond & Joan Wambold

## A Celebration of Two Graduates at our Spring Hope Gathering

What a joy it is to celebrate moms who graduate from our program!

At our Spring Hope Gathering, we gathered at Mr. B's Coffeehouse at Calvary Church (Souderton) with current/past participants and their children, board members and Neighboring Volunteers. It was a sweet time of fellowship and a special time to recognize and celebrate the perseverance, determination, and successes of our graduates and how far they've come during their time in our program.

Chick-fil-A (Montgomeryville) graciously donated goodies and we even had a visit by the Chick-fil-A cow!



*Thank You, Chick-fil-A (Montgomeryville) for bringing smiles to the faces of children and adults alike!*

PO Box 225  
Souderton, PA 18964-0225



**Monday, June 10, 2024**  
Mainland Golf Course, Harleysville, PA  
*benefiting Bridge of Hope BuxMont*

**Connect with us!**  

[www.buxmont.bridgeofhopeinc.org](http://www.buxmont.bridgeofhopeinc.org)

BRIDGE OF HOPE BUXMONT INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

# Raising Hope **G A L A**

DINNER & AUCTION

*"Together We Thrive"*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024 | 6:30 PM**  
**INDIAN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, TELFORD, PA**

**\$75 PER PERSON**

RSVP BY APRIL 8 AT [WWW.BUXMONT.BRIDGEOFHOPEINC.ORG](http://WWW.BUXMONT.BRIDGEOFHOPEINC.ORG)

## Thank You to our Gala Sponsors:



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