

From: Audrey Metzler <AudreyM@bridgeofhopeinc.org>

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Subject: Bridge of Hope - Giving AND Receiving

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October 2020



In Everything ... give Thanks!

We are so thankful for growth in this past year! We are currently serving 7 families (25

moms and children) with comprehensive whole family case management and groups of Neighboring Volunteers. **With your support we are planning to hire a second case manager and double the number of families served in the coming year.** The pandemic has impacted everyone, but we find small mercies daily - the wonderful relationships that are being built, a new baby, an unexpected gift, and YOU, our friends, supporters and partners. You are ending family homelessness.

Audrey Metzler

Director

Bridge of Hope Lancaster



Ascension Lutheran Church, Willow Street, Neighboring Volunteers

On the Giving or Receiving End of Things?

In Bridge of Hope, Neighboring Volunteers are trained to help - and to be on the giving end of things. They seek to lessen anxiety and fear by offering the gift of listening. They seek to increase feelings of hope and confidence by giving words of comfort and encouragement. They give of their time and material possessions. Case managers are also

trained to help - and to be on the giving end of things. But what happens when the Neighboring Volunteers and/or case managers unexpectedly find themselves on the receiving end of things?

I think most of us are more comfortable with giving than receiving. Recently, this was clear to me in a new way. Due to a physical need and a short stint in the hospital, I found myself on the receiving end of things. Nurses, doctors, friends and relatives were attentive to my needs and were quick to give of their time, resources and care. What a blessing it was to receive words of encouragement and prayers from those who know me well and care about me. **But even more special were the calls and texts from the families I have been working with in Bridge of Hope.** The tables were suddenly turned; I was in a position of need and they were helping me.

Being on the receiving end of things is not always comfortable, but sometimes necessary. It makes me more grateful and aware of my vulnerability, even mortality. It makes me more empathic and compassionate to the families we serve, who find themselves suddenly and unexpectedly in a position of need and not wanting to be there. This was evident during one of my recent launch nights when the woman expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Neighboring Volunteers she had just met. She needed them to know how she felt awkward and uncomfortable - but very grateful. And suddenly, the Neighboring Volunteers were on the receiving end of things - receiving the gift of her trust, gratitude and appreciation. So, where are you today? Are you on the receiving or giving end in your life right now ... or maybe it's a little of both?

Your Support Matters

In the past week, you likely received a letter of invitation to support Bridge of Hope Lancaster between now and December 31. Your support makes all the difference as we seek to respond to more calls for help than ever before.

Bridge of Hope is participating in the ExtraGive!

This amazing day of giving will be held on Friday November 20, 2020! You can help impact our support by sharing information about Bridge of Hope with your friends - by Facebook, email or word of mouth! **We are also seeking gifts of challenge matches for the day, to help encourage donations - please contact me if you can make this possible!** This has been a difficult year for many families and nonprofits, and we are thankful for your advocacy, prayers and support for Bridge of Hope. You will receive more information about ExtraGive, but please save the date --11/20/20 and support us as you are able!



Christmas Blessings

This year, to help Bridge of Hope families celebrate Christmas, we invite you to provide gift cards to allow moms to experience the joy of picking out gifts for their own children, even though their finances are tight. [Click here for details.](#)

You can reach me by email at AudreyM@bridgeofhopeinc.org, send gift cards to P.O. Box 304, Exton PA 19341 or make a donation below to support families facing homelessness today.

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Physical Address: 255 Butler Avenue, #205, Lancaster PA
Administrative/Mailing Address: P.O. Box 304, Exton, PA 19341
lancaster.bridgeofhopeinc.org | 717.207.8932

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Bridge of Hope
1 N Bacton Hill Rd Suite 100
Malvern, PA 19355