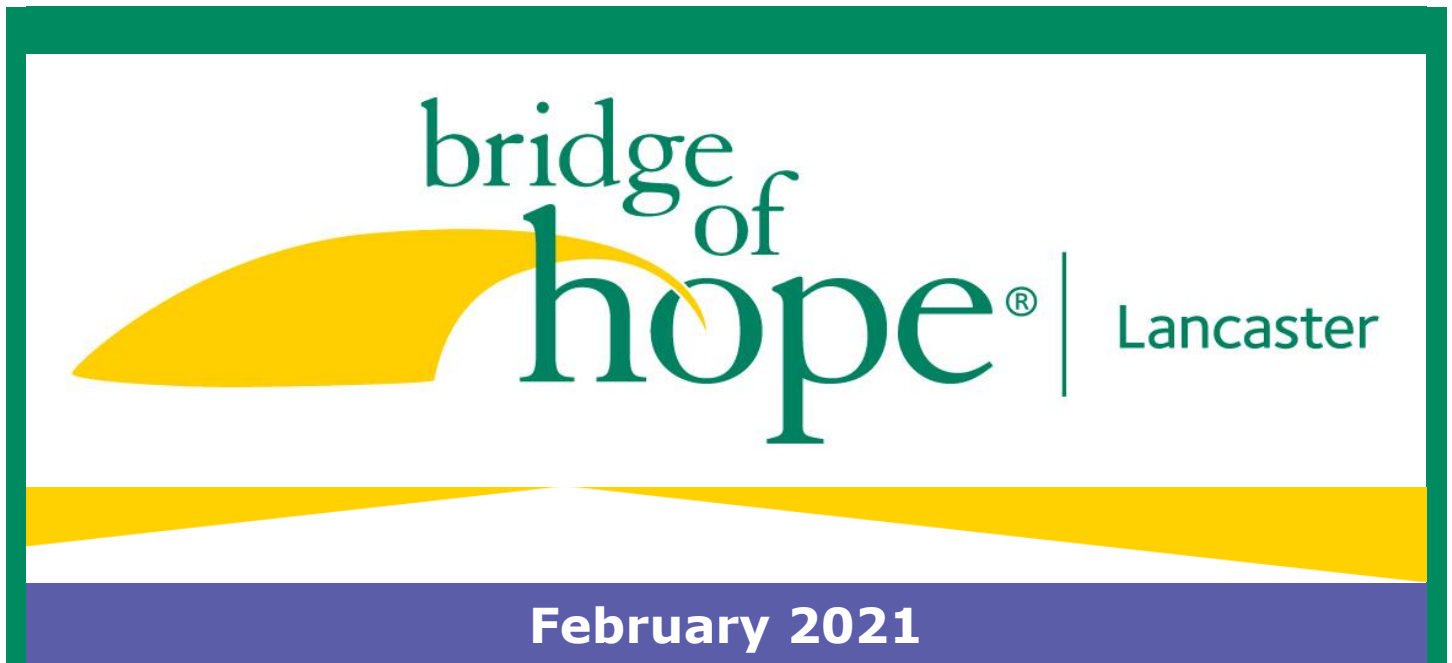


From: From the Director, Audrey Metzler <AudreyM@bridgeofhopeinc.org>

Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 8:00 AM

Subject: Who is borrowing confidence from you?

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Borrowing Confidence

Self-confidence is often in short supply when a woman who has experienced homelessness joins Bridge of Hope. Traumatic life events and experiences; an abusive marriage or relationship, a nasty divorce, a history of sexual abuse, loss of employment, or eviction; impact esteem and the ability to envision a better life for herself and her children. But confidence and dreams are exactly what she needs in order to be successful in Bridge of Hope!

So, how does a woman experiencing homelessness move from a position of feeling powerless to a position of confidence in her ability to create a better future for herself and her family? I suggest she needs to **borrow confidence** from someone else until she can develop confidence in herself. I've watched this happen over and over again. Neighboring volunteers express their confidence in the women in little and big ways. They do this without giving it much thought – because they see the woman in a different light than she sees herself. Over time, this "borrowed confidence" helps the woman begin to believe in herself. She thinks to herself, "If they believe I can do it, maybe I can. Maybe I have what it takes to provide a better life for myself and my kids."

Recently, at one of our graduation celebrations, I contrasted the woman's self-confidence when she interviewed to start the Bridge of Hope program, with where she is today. A little over a year ago, she was completely broken and doubting her ability to make it on her own. But now we are celebrating a successful graduate. How did she do it? She borrowed the confidence that her Neighboring Volunteers and I had in her until a new level of confidence was born within her.

So, whose confidence are you borrowing from right now? Who are you loaning confidence to right now? Both are needed!

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Audrey Metzler

Director

Bridge of Hope Lancaster



Welcome Talita Hall!

Our goal for the coming year is to double the number of families Bridge of Hope is serving in Lancaster County. Talita Hall joined Bridge of Hope in December 2020 as a Neighborhood Resource Specialist (case manager). She holds a Bachelor's in Social Work from Millersville University, brings over 10 years of case-management experience, and attends Bright Side Baptist Church in Lancaster. Talita's professional experience, degree and personal faith are a strong fit with Bridge of Hope's values and mission. Talita says, "As a Christian, now more than ever it is essential for faith communities to work together to give hope, love, and support to those experiencing hard times." Talita enjoys spending family time with her husband and their two beautiful boys. We are so excited to expand our program, and welcome Talita to our staff!

Neighboring Makes the Difference

We have committed to doubling the number of families we serve this year. With thanks to the High Foundation and generous support from the community we have funded a second case manager. We are now seeking more Neighboring churches to join in the fight to end family homelessness. During the isolation of the pandemic, neighboring is incredibly beneficial for both the volunteers and the family (and much of the contact can be done virtually!) Your church should have received an invitation by mail to consider an information session. Contact Audrey Metzler at audreym@bridgeofhopeinc.org for more information.

Welcome to the newest groups that are training to become Neighboring Volunteers!

- **Living Light Mennonite Church**
- **Lord's House of Prayer**
- **Christ Alone Fellowship**

Save the Date for the annual **Bridge of Hope Spring Gala; Friday, April 30, 2021**, featuring New York Times bestselling author Lisa Wingate (join us in reading [her recent books!](#)) Our event will be offered virtually with multiple ways to participate. For all options, sponsorship opportunities, event registration or to donate an auction item—[click HERE](#).

You Can Remove Roadblocks

This year has been very challenging for families already living on the margins. The need for Bridge of Hope has escalated due to job loss, increasing costs and accruing rent. Click here to give to [End Roadblocks and End Homelessness](#) – to increase the number of families served by Bridge of Hope!



With grateful thanks to the following churches for giving to end family homelessness:

- Ascension Lutheran Church
- East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church
- James Street Mennonite Church
- Maple Grove Mennonite Church Sewing Circle
- St John's Center United Church of Christ
- West End Mennonite Fellowship

**To reach Bridge of Hope Lancaster,
email AudreyM@bridgeofhopeinc.org (Director) or
LindaHH@bridgeofhopeinc.org (Director of Events and Community
Engagement).**

**Send gifts to P.O. Box 304, Exton PA 19341
or make a donation below to support families facing homelessness today .**

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