

From: Bridge of Hope Chester County <chestercounty@bridgeofhopeinc.org>

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Subject: Fear to Confidence!

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April 2022



Fear to Confidence!

Kate* and her three children were finally free from domestic violence when Kate's partner left the house. But Kate continued living in fear, struggling to pay the high rent by herself, just getting by with the help of emergency rental assistance. She wouldn't be able to continue housing her family for long on her limited income.

Then Kate found Bridge of Hope. As Kate entered the Bridge of Hope program, she shared her fears with her case manager. She needed a safe and affordable home, where her ex-partner could not find them, and she needed help increasing her income so that they would not spiral into homelessness. With the help of Bridge of Hope, they soon moved to a new location with more reasonable rent.

Now one of Kate's goals is to be promoted in her job, and significantly increase her income so that she can sustain housing for her family. She is also working to find community resources to help her family gain strength and resilience.

Kate's Neighboring Volunteers from a local church are happy to share emotional support on her journey, as well as gardening and lawn care tips, meals, and other practical support. As Kate experiences Bridge of Hope her fear is being replaced with joy and confidence!

We are thrilled to announce that we have hired a second case manager (part-time) to help serve more families in Chester County! **Melanie Palumbo** graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in social work and has over 7 years of experience in case management working with children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As a service coordinator in an early intervention program in Philadelphia, Melanie worked with children and their families to ensure they received necessary services to promote growth and development. She has also worked as a case manager for The Chester County Department of Mental Health/Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities where she helped individuals to thrive in their communities by connecting them with local resources and supports.



Melanie feels that Bridge of Hope is the perfect fit to link her faith and her work experience. "As Christians we are called to show God's love to others, what better way to show that love than by serving and protecting His children that are in need. I am excited to work with an organization that puts this calling into action." She lives in Chester Springs with her two children and in her free time she enjoys watching them play sports, spending time with friends and family and watching Alabama football! (Roll Tide!)

Enjoy the Bridge of Hope Spring Gala May 6, 2022, from the comfort of your own home. To register for a single virtual ticket or to host a virtual gathering, please visit <https://bridgeofhopeinc.org/gala/>.

Watch for more information about the online silent auction coming soon.



A group of 6-10 volunteers from **your Bible study, small group or congregation can be a Bridge of Hope for a family facing homelessness.** Call or email Scott Dorsey at 610-280-0280 x1109 or scott@bridgeofhopeinc.org to learn more about **Neighboring to end family homelessness.**

Thank you for your support!



Rev. Scott Dorsey
Church Engagement Director



Rachel Thomas Steadman
Program Director

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