



The BRIDGEWAY Connection

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 119

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Wish List



*Bridgeway's
Mission:
Building New
Lives for
Pregnant Teens*

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Bridgeway to Hope...An Amazing Evening

Carole Haas, Executive Director

I want to thank everyone who attended our *Bridgeway to Hope* benefit, especially because these are challenging times. You helped make it a success. In these times of many unknowns we are fortunate to have supporters who believe in our mission and are committed in supporting us. Many of our former residents attended as Alumni Ambassadors. They were very touched by your contributions! They realize how amazing it was for you to generously give your hard-earned money to make lives better for others. Our donors are the best!

I feel the young women who have lived at Bridgeway can tell you much better than I just how Bridgeway impacted their lives. We had two powerful Alumni speakers at our fundraiser. Although very different, both did an incredible job. I would like to share Terra's story at this time. Perhaps another time I can share Mellissa's.

Hi, my name is Terra Jack,

Eighteen years ago I found myself alone and pregnant at 16. The only thing I knew for sure was that I wanted to keep the baby that was kicking around inside me. Everyone around me was telling me that doing that would ruin my life, but they couldn't feel what I did. Those movements inside me were my child. How could that little baby ruin my life? I will admit when she got the hiccups it would drive me crazy, and how about those frequent bathroom visits, they were a little bit annoying, but I could deal with all of that.

What I needed help with was EVERYTHING ELSE!! That's when I found Bridgeway!

In January of 1992 I walked into the Bridgeway office a scared 16 year old with nothing. I went to the Bridgeway house with nothing but some clothes and my belly.

At the house there were lots of rules, and we were given demerits for breaking the rules...I was what you could call the demerit queen. If you received a demerit you had to work them off by doing extra chores. I will never forget working off my 1st demerit. I had to wash windows and iron the curtains. Carole still laughs about this today, I broke most of my nails washing the windows and I didn't know how to iron, but when I finished I stood back and admired my hard work and was so proud of myself.

On April 22nd, 1992 I met an angel! Her name is Cierra Justine Julianne Marie, who came into this world via C section one month early. She weighed 4 pounds and was so beautiful. I will admit I was afraid to break her, but with all of the classes that Bridgeway offered like parenting classes, breastfeeding classes and infant massage (yes babies enjoy a good massage just like we do) I had the knowledge and support I needed to do right by my baby. I am so proud to say I lived at Bridgeway. Without Bridgeway I'm not sure where I would be today. The love they give doesn't end when you walk out the door, it lasts a lifetime.

About the only thing Bridgeway did not prepare me for was the teenage years!! It was tough since we pretty much grew up together. We butted heads a lot. I used to pray that some day she would love me, or at least LIKE me. Then last December Cierra was on the computer and I was watching TV when suddenly she launched herself at me and wrestled me down on the couch, then as quick as it started she stopped, sat up beside me, and said, "Momma, I love you. You're my best friend!!" Thanks to Bridgeway I had the chance to have my daughter and hear those words.

Today I am a successful hairdresser, I have a great scrapbooking hobby turned 2nd job, and on January 31st I welcomed home my husband Josh, a marine who was in Iraq for 7 LONG months.

When I look back on my life the one thing besides my daughter that has been a constant presence in my life is my Bridgeway family. I know that I can never repay them for all they did for Cierra and I, I just hope that by being here tonight and sharing my story with all of you, they will know just how much I love them. Bridgeway saved our lives and made both of our dreams come true and for that I will be eternally thankful!

As you see, we feel strongly in holding the residents accountable for their actions. Not only the young women, but their children as well, become part of the Bridgeway family. We are truly impacting two generations. Thank you for helping make this happen.



Bridgeway
Babies!!



Thanks to all
who contribute
through payroll
deductions!



Bridgeway to Hope Benefit 2009
Thank you to all of you
who made this evening such an amazing success!



Honorary Chairpersons
Molly Hughes,
CBS4 News
& John Butler,
Atlas Medical, LLC

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- 1st Bank
- Montgomery, Little, Soran & Murray, PC
- John and Terry Hill
- Atlas Medical, LLC
- ECC



Former Resident Speaker
Melissa Heerdt
with husband Ron



Benefit Committee

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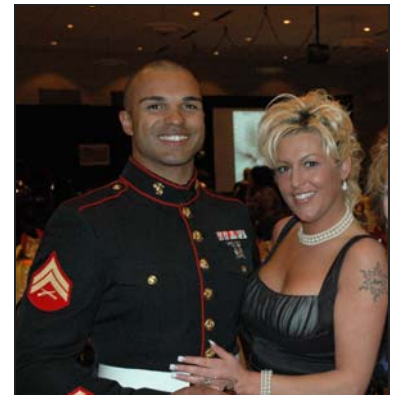


Master of Ceremonies
Murphy Huston
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Special Thanks to:

- Pepsi Bottling Group
- Atlanta Bread
- Amy Wade / 3B Bags
- Applejack Liquors
- Little Caesar's Pizza
- Ed & Sherry Zoltay



Former Resident Speaker
Terra Jack
with husband Josh

Volunteer Corner

Mary Ann Forman, Director of Volunteers

Bridgeway's BIG fundraiser of the year has come and gone and it took over 100 volunteers, working more than 700 hours to make it happen. We are so very grateful to each and every one of you who participated by soliciting items for the auction, assisting in the office, taking Auction items to the Event Center, setting up those items, working the Silent and Live Auctions, and, of course, the clean up crew! We heard numerous comments on how smoothly everything ran this year and I am sure a lot of that was because of the terrific volunteers that put so much time and energy into the event. You have all helped to make many dreams come true.



Since the fundraiser we have already had several groups hold baby showers, provide dinners, collections of baby items and even hand made cosmetic bags for the moms. We thank the volunteers of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Arvada United Methodist Church, and the Father Woody Commitment Project for this outpouring of support of the moms of Bridgeway. With Easter still several weeks away the youth of Our Lady of Fatima Parish invited current and former residents to enjoy coloring Easter Eggs, lunch, and an Easter Egg Hunt. They also presented Bridgeway with a huge collection of diapers, baby swings, clothing, and many other necessary baby items. All of these events would not be possible without the donations of time, energy and resources of volunteers.

With spring popping out so early this year we are already scheduling work groups to help with yard clean up, planting, and maintenance throughout the summer.

Volunteers are what keep Bridgeway going and we have many opportunities available. If any of our volunteer positions are of interest to you please don't hesitate to call the office at 303-969-0515.

A Friend Through Troubled Waters

Carolyn Gong, Bridger Coordinator

Bridgeway provides residents with resources which they utilize while living at the house, and also after they leave. The resources that most people in the community hear about include everything from a place to stay, food items, housing information, doctor and services information, as well as donated baby items and personal items. What many people do not know is that Bridgeway also provides residents with a "mentor" through our Bridger program. The Bridger program has been a part of Bridgeway for over 20 years now! This program matches women volunteers from the community with a Bridgeway resident, in the role of a mentor or big sister. Volunteers often do not know that the Bridger program is an option for them until they attend Bridgeway's volunteer orientation. As Bridgers, these women have an important responsibility. They provide a "bridge" between life at Bridgeway and the rest of the world. Bridgers are familiar with the Bridgeway program, rules and policies and serve as a resident's link to the outside world. This is valuable because residents' friends and/or family are sometimes not in a place to offer positive support or to serve as appropriate role models. A resident once shared that she was astonished when she went to her Bridger's home for dinner, and rather than eating



TV dinners in front of the TV, her Bridger had prepared a complete meal, and she and her Bridger's family all sat together around a table, having a wonderful conversation during their meal! Bridgers provide non-judgmental support and often have children of their own. They are prepared to assist with parenting tips or simply extra encouragement. Bridgers are asked to make a year's commitment, maintain conversation with their Bridger at least once a week and hang out together at least twice monthly. Bridgeway staff members are always available and involved with the residents, but we have often received feedback from residents that they consider it a true blessing to have their Bridger. A Bridger is a personal cheering section, a good listener, someone to hang out with, and most importantly, someone who believes that each resident is important and can be successful in reaching her goals! Thank you to all our Bridgers, current and former. You gave of your time to reach out to others and that has made a tremendous difference to our residents.



Celebrating over 20 Years of Service!

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Bridgeway's Spring 2009 Wish List

Here's our wish list to help you help us.
If you're not sure about a donation, please call us at (303) 969-0515.

MOTHERS

Laundry Baskets
Prenatal Vitamins
Women's Stick Deodorant
Dental Floss
Hair Brushes
1st Aid Kits
Breast Pumps
Birth Announcements

BABIES

Formula –Enfamil with Iron
Diapers – Sizes: Newborn &3, 4 , 5's
Baby Wipes
Laundry Detergent for baby items
Baby Hygiene Kits
Mitts for Newborns
Preemie & Newborn Outfits
Sunscreen for babies

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bleach
Unscented Baby Wipes

HOUSE

33 Gallon & Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
Canned Fruit, Vegetables, Meats
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent
Dish Soap
Batteries – AAA & AA
Cleaning Supplies-especially Swiffer wet-
jet fluid and mop pads
Outside plants and flowers
Bathroom rugs
Lawn mower

(We are also registered at
www.babiesrus.com under the
"Bridgeway" Wish List.)

