



The BRIDGEWAY Connection

SUMMER 2008

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 116

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

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*Bridgeway is a tax exempt,
tax deductible, 501(c)(3) non-profit.*

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Summertime at Bridgeway

Carole Haas, Executive Director

Spring has come and gone, but brought with it a number of special events...

We would like to congratulate:

Former Bridgeway residents Shelbie and Lexi for getting their high school diplomas and Calena for attaining an Associates' degree. These young women reflect our emphasis on education.

We also wish to congratulate several 'Bridgeway babies' that have graduated from high school. *Way to go Justin, Brittany, and Melinda!* In addition, a few of our former babies have successfully completed their first year of college. We are very proud of each of them and know that they have worked hard to accomplish these goals.

Our summer picnic for current and former residents is Aug 9th. It will be fun to see everyone again. The moms appreciate the school supplies and other necessary items they receive in preparation of their children returning to school. I remember all too well how challenging it was for me to meet all the needs for my 4 children when they were going back to school. These items really help out our families. We appreciate any and all help for this project.

Our home is packed to the brim with pregnant young women and parenting moms and their babies. It is such a fearful, exciting, and challenging time in their lives. Thanks for helping their dreams come true.

Concerts for Kids helps Bridgeway

Ellen Robison, Director of Finance

The end of May brought big changes to the Bridgeway house. The Concerts for Kids foundation chose Bridgeway along with 26 other local non-profit organizations as recipients for their Community Day 2008.

The house was bustling on the 31st of May as truckloads of supplies for new kitchens arrived and the work began. Concerts for Kids volunteers removed all of the old cabinets and worked all day and into the evening to replace them with brand new cabinets, countertops, and backsplashes. They also surprised us with new appliances and light fixtures. This however was only the beginning! In addition to three brand new beautiful kitchens, Concerts for Kids also redesigned the front yard with landscaping, new flower pots, and a sprinkler system, carpeted the front and back house, and removed and replaced the entire patio.

The following week Central Parking Systems generously donated 100 tickets for Concerts for Kids- John Legend and Jewell Concert to Bridgeway residents, former residents and their families. It was an amazing concert and all of our residents had a wonderful time.

Thank you to Concerts for Kids, Central Parking Systems, Milender White Construction, Europa Escape Landscaping and all of the suppliers and volunteers that contributed to this incredible project. You have made such a difference for all of our current and future residents!

Bridgeway Babies!!



Brilliant Beginnings

Jaime Armbruster, Director of Brilliant Beginnings

Brilliant Beginnings, Bridgeway's childcare center, plays a large role in helping our residents turn their lives around. Bridgeway considers its residents' time in our program as a window of opportunity and by providing on-site childcare, our mothers are able to attend school and/or work knowing their children are well cared for in a licensed center. Brilliant Beginnings serves current and former Bridgeway residents, making child care affordable, convenient and trustworthy.

Studies have proven infants from low-income and single parent families can benefit significantly from quality childcare. These studies support Brilliant Beginnings' devotion to fostering the individual infant's growth in cognitive, social, fine & gross motor skills, as well as language development. While Brilliant Beginnings is licensed to care for up to six infants, we maintain a ratio of 1 caregiver to 3 infants. Trained staff provide each child individual attention to meet their nutritional, emotional, physical, and educational needs in a caring and safe environment. We also have our rock and roller volunteers—those who love to rock the babies and roll the balls! Typical daily activities include reading, music, play, exercise, and infant massage. Many of the residents enjoy coming in to see the babies interact in play. We also provide feedback to our mothers, giving them insight into their infant's developmental needs so they may better care for their children. Brilliant Beginnings creates a loving and nurturing environment, providing a healthy example for our moms.



Resident Spotlight

Desiree, former Bridgeway resident

In 1996 I was 16 years old and heading down the wrong path. I was pregnant and homeless. Then...I found Bridgeway. As a resident, I was afforded much more than a roof over our heads for my daughter, Ariel, and myself. Bridgeway provided us with food, clothing, education and most of all love. I gave birth to Ariel early and without Bridgeway I would not have had a single thing for her. By the time I brought her back to Bridgeway, Ariel had everything she could possibly need, all of which was made possible by generous community members. While at Bridgeway I received my high school diploma and proceeded directly into college. I am now the proud mother of a beautiful 11 year old girl. I have a great career and am married to a wonderful man named Michael.

On Saint Patrick's Day 2008, my husband Michael adopted Ariel, a step that has completed our lives. To celebrate the adoption we held an "Adoption Baby Shower" in honor of Bridgeway. We asked our guests to bring something on Bridgeway's wish list to be donated back to the organization that made it all possible. It felt so good to be able to give the gifts to Bridgeway, knowing the difference they would make in another young mother's life. Our family was able to give something back to Bridgeway after all they did for Ariel and me!! Thanks, Bridgeway!!



Michael, Desiree, and Ariel

Thanks to all who contribute through payroll deductions!



Volunteer Corner

Mary Ann Forman, Director of Volunteers

Volunteers Light up our World! This was the theme of the Jefferson County Volunteer Connection luncheon in April of this year. This certainly rings true of Bridgeway volunteers. As we have been highlighting a few volunteer groups in each newsletter, for this one we would like to give special thanks to Girl Scout Troop 1540 for holding a fundraiser to benefit the moms and babies of Bridgeway. They purchased laundry baskets and filled them with many needed items using the profits from their fundraiser. These young ladies also donated boxes and boxes of Girl Scout cookies which the residents enjoyed immensely. Another Girl Scout Troop, # 1394, planned, organized and hosted a baby shower for the residents of Bridgeway in May. Once again, it is wonderful to see these young women reaching out to their peers in the community.

Other "shining lights" at Bridgeway include a crew of volunteers from Genesis Presbyterian Church in Littleton who spent a Saturday recently painting, planting flowers and general clean up, along with a few repairs, at the house. A peaceful atmosphere is created when the Bridgeway residents come home to a clean home and a beautiful yard. The Green Mountain Kiwanis Club has brightened up our days with much needed repairs in and around the house this past quarter as well.

With summer and our annual picnic for former residents and children of Bridgeway upon us, we will be looking for volunteers to assist with set up, food service, clean up, and activities for the children. If this or any of our other volunteer opportunities are of interest to you please don't hesitate to call the office at 303-969-0515.

Do you know Bridgeway:

- 1 Was founded in 1986;
 - 1 Has helped over 550 young women and their babies;
 - 1 Receives over 500 calls for help yearly and those that aren't appropriate for us are referred to one of the 300+ resources we have on file;
 - 1 Conducts interviews with approximately 90 young women yearly;
 - 1 Encourages both parenting and adoption;
 - 1 Is home to 10 young women at any time;
 - 1 Maintains an ongoing wait list for other pregnant teens;
 - 1 Is a significant factor for the young women who live and thrive with us; and
 - 1 laughing and sharing joy regularly happens at Bridgeway.
- Additionally,
- 1 41% of our residents are 18 or younger when they come to Bridgeway;
 - 1 Over 1600 hours are donated by volunteers annually

Staff News

House Moms

Bridgeway's house moms play a crucial role in the daily lives of our residents. Since our office and home are not in the same location, the house moms provide supervision, support, assistance, and accountability for our residents on an on-going basis. They act as a positive role model for the young moms.

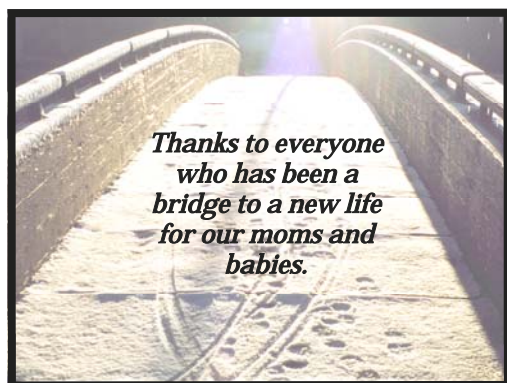
Typically, we have three house moms who rotate duties with one 'mom' on duty each night. House moms complete the in-take procedures when a new resident arrives and the check-out when she is ready to move on. As an on-site supervisor, the house moms are instrumental in making sure the house remains well organized, clean, and in good repair. They also identify residents for awards at the end of each month, help distribute donations, supervise volunteers, attend weekly staff meetings & life skills classes, and assist in the office as needed.

Many of our house moms come from the Brethern Volunteer Services program and live at Bridgeway for approximately one year receiving a small stipend along with housing.

Our current house moms are Carolyn Gong, Rita Schuele, Julia Seese, and Rochelle Brogan.

Staff changes

Debbie Dispense has retired from her position at Bridgeway to enjoy her family, including a new grand child. We sincerely thank her for all her time and effort and contributions to Bridgeway!



Thank you to the Swiss Flower and Gift Cottage for holding a mini-fundraiser for Bridgeway in June. It means a great deal to our moms and babies to know you care. We always appreciate support from the community.

WE ARE ALWAYS
READY TO SPREAD
THE WORD -
ABOUT BRIDGEWAY!

Call our office today at 303-969-0515 to schedule a speaker for your organization, workplace or church service.



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Bridgeway's Summer 2008 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.

School Supplies and backpacks for former residents' children and current residents

MOTHERS

Prenatal Vitamins

Books:

Eating Well When You Are Expecting

What to Eat When You are Expecting

Sun block

BABIES

Mobles

Sun block for babies

Baby hair brush and comb sets

Bottle Brushes

Laundry Detergent for baby items

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bleach

Tall Kitchen Trash Bags

Books:

Barnyard Banter by Denise Fleming

White on Black by Tana Hoban

Tails by Matthew Van Fleet

Everywhere Babies by Susan Myers

HOUSE

33 & 13 gal. Garbage bags

Canned fruit

Toilet Paper

Paper towels

Cleaning Supplies

Dish Soap

Kitchen sponges

Faces of Generosity



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