

# The BRIDGE to LIFE Inc.

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## A Newsletter published by The Bridge To Life, Inc.

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### Update

#### WE'VE MOVED, PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS FOR BOTH LOCATIONS

This is my second year as Executive Director for The Bridge to Life. During the past two years, with the assistance of the Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers, we have been able to move forward and improve the quality of life for thousands of women and their families. We have networked with The Pregnancy Service Center, enabling Bridge to help pregnant women find suitable homes during their pregnancy and beyond. Just recently, we helped a woman who was five months pregnant and living in an unsuitable dirty shelter without the benefit of pre-natal care. Through the cooperation of other crisis pregnancy centers, we were able to place her in a better shelter, secure proper prenatal care and show her the support and guidance she so greatly needed.

Our material assistance facility in Astoria has been moved to a space which we rent in a Catholic Charities building. This affords us the opportunity to also work with Catholic Charities to help more women and their families obtain items so greatly needed for their survival.

We recently moved our executive office, counseling and material assistance facility from College Point to Flushing. This is definitely a better location for walk-ins needing pregnancy tests and counseling. We had been working on securing space in such an area for a very long time and it finally has come to be. We reach out to those with positive pregnancy tests, helping them realize that they do have choices other than abortion. I believe this was summed up best by a seventeen-year-old mother I had counseled. When she later came in seeking clothing and formula for her now nine-month old son, she reminded me of my assurance to her that "I will be there for you not only during your pregnancy but whenever you need me." She told me, "You have definitely lived up to your promise". This is what Bridge to Life is all about...helping, caring, giving moral support and thus saving the unborn from the horrors of abortion.

In these economic times, the number of mothers and families coming to Bridge for assistance has definitely increased enormously as the need for our help is greater than ever. Your prayers and donations have given us the ability to keep our doors open and to continue to help these families in need.

I am proud and very happy that I was given the opportunity to keep

Bridge to Life functioning and to carry on Eleanor Ruder's legacy.

*Ginny*  
Virginia Gallo

### For Your Information

In 2009, The Bridge to Life has been instrumental in helping mothers to be choose life through our counseling program. In addition, we have supplied material items to over 3,000 women and their families throughout the five boroughs of New York.

We work closely with sidewalk counselors, nurse partnerships, case managers and social workers who refer needy clients who have chosen life. We also have been able to assist those who have other children, are from shelters, victims of domestic violence or just those whose life circumstances have put them in a position where they are in need of our assistance.

### Nurses and Healthcare Reform

With health care reform so high on the federal government's agenda it may be instructive to be aware of the position on health care reform of the National Association of Pro-life Nurses.

Because proposed health care legislations affects those of us in the healthcare profession directly, the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses issues the following guidelines to be included in any approved proposal:

“The bill must not include any mandate for abortion. Abortion funding prohibitions must be included to reflect long-standing bans in place. State laws regulating abortion must be upheld. There must be protection of the conscience rights of health care workers. Any plan adopted must include full prenatal care and delivery care of all pregnancies.”

Sharon Long, R.N.

### Inspirational Examples of Giving

Stephanie Bonanno was asked to do a project for Girl Scouts that would benefit the community. She thought she would ask for donations of either hand-made or store-bought baby blankets so she could donate them to a needy charity or organization. Stephanie even learned to crochet so she could make her own blanket. She then put a notice in St. Kevin's Bulletin asking for 50 blankets. She received 200 blankets! This enabled her to donate to more than one charity or organization. Bridge was one of those lucky organizations she chose to help. She donated over 80 beautiful blankets to Bridge. Now we can help so many babies keep warm this winter thanks to the efforts of Stephanie who did this all on her own.

To be commended as well is a young man named Peter Sammarco who did a collection for The Eagle Scout Project through Holy Family Church. During a period of 6 weeks of hard work Peter collected a staggering amount of baby, toddler

and children's items which he delivered personally to Bridge.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to gratefully acknowledge the unwavering efforts of the St. Mel's Girl Scout Troop 4011 who participated in a special collection project for Bridge and who also personally delivered and sorted an enormous amount of much needed baby, toddler and children's items.

It is so wonderful to see such caring, initiative and dedication coming from young teenagers. Especially in these times of the "Generation X" where most kids are thinking of only themselves, these inspirational teenagers set such a good example not only to their peers, but to all of us as well. Thank you to all those young ladies and gentlemen for all their hard work.

### A Special Thanks

General Sherman Shrine K of C will be hosting Bridge to Life's BBQ on September 20<sup>th</sup>. (See Flyer) They also hosted an enjoyable prayer breakfast in recognition of our dedicated volunteers. **Without the assistance of these exceptional volunteers, we could not continue our mission.**

Olympia Council #394 K of C who organized their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Baby Shower for Bridge, providing us with much needed items and financial donations.

K of C Council #12675 --- Thank you Jim, John and Steve for delivering an entire truckload of baby and children's items from the special donations drive conducted for Bridge.

CUNY Youth Program which was introduced by Ms. Williams who has sent to date: 6 intern students to

volunteer. They have been an enormous help assisting us in getting settled in our new facility and help with our clients.

### Thank You, Thank You

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the people from the following parishes who participated in our much needed Baby Bottle Campaigns 2009:

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Church, Douglaston
- ❖ St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, College Point
- ❖ Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Angels Layette
- ❖ St. Josephat's, Bayside
- ❖ Holy Family, Flushing

### We Need You

- ❖ Can you sponsor a Baby Bottle Campaign at your Church or Organization?
- ❖ Can you volunteer to help sort items, pick up donations, help with hotline, etc. ?

### Wish List

- >Cribs with mattress
- >Diapers, from size 1-5
- >Strollers
- >Car seats (not more than 5 yrs. old)
- >Children's Winter Clothing, Boys and Girls sizes 3 and up.
- >And coats for pregnant women.
- >Layette Items: Especially infant gowns, stretchies, hooded towels, crib sheets, baby wipes, and baby wash.

### Upcoming Event

#### Save the Date:

Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Fundraising BBQ (See Flyer)