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

VOLUME XI

Issue I

JANUARY 2003

Our Dinner Dance

We are honored that Detective Stephen McDonald has agreed to be our honoree at our 11th Annual Dinner Dance on Friday, February 28, 2003 at 7:00PM at the Swan Club.



The following merits repeating:

“The doctors declared a miracle when Police Officer Stephen McDonald survived the shooting, but he remained paralyzed below the neck and he was in the maw of despair when he was visited by a kind of angel wearing hospital pajamas and a steel back brace.

The angel who appeared in that room at Bellevue Hospital in September 1986 was Firefighter Ronald Bucca. Everyone declared a miracle when he survived a five-story fall while trying to rescue a comrade at a blaze on the upper West Side.

The mayor then, Ed Koch, visited Bucca at the hospital and offered his own explanation.

‘He’s the first man I’ve ever met who I can say has learned how to fly,’ Koch said.

A broken back is still a broken back, and Bucca must have been in considerable pain when he learned that

*a cop who had been shot by a teenager in Central Park was on the same ward. Bucca made his way down the hall to the paralyzed McDonald again and again, **one miracle seeking to comfort another.***

‘I couldn’t communicate because of the gunshot wounds, but that didn’t matter to him,’ McDonald would remember. ‘He knew I was in a deep depression, dark moods and he would spend time with me, trying to give me pep talks.’

*McDonald managed to fight off the despair that threatened to overwhelm him. He regained his power of speech and **became our city’s strongest voice for forgiveness, peace and justice.***

In September 1987, a year after his fall, Bucca did return to full duty. He was a firefighter-soldier who was certain the terrorists would strike again.

On September 11, Bucca’s prediction came horribly true. He telephoned his wife to say he was on his way to the World Trade Center. He had reached the 79th floor of the south tower with Fire Chief Orio Palmer and firefighters from Ladder 15.



Not even the flying fireman could survive when the tower collapsed. Those who spoke at Bucca’s funeral included Stephen McDonald.

On Thursday, McDonald attended a rally in Times Square that was organized by the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association to demand a pay raise that was undeniably their due long before September 11. He parked his motorized wheelchair on the sidewalk just to the right of the stage and he was introduced to the crowd as ‘one of the great heroes of New York.’ The cops cheered, along with thousands of firefighters who attended the rally as a sign of solidarity. The event culminated in the police union president embracing the fire union president, and McDonald surely would have joined the applause if only he were able to clap his hands.



He could smile, and the light of it spread to the eyes that had only seen darkness in those terrible days 16 years ago. He had not forgotten how his fellow miracle had appeared as a kind of angel when he most needed one and he knew that spirit had not died with Ronald Bucca. To see a cop and a firefighter united up on that stage was to see that New York’s true twin towers are still standing.”

– written by Michael Daly of the New York Daily News

Detective McDonald’s adversity has led him to become the standard for courage and an inspiration to all.

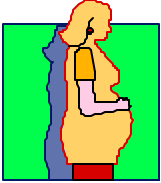
The Winners Are!

\$10,000 1st prize – Thomas Boyd
\$ 5,000 2nd prize – Judith Limpert

Congratulations to both, and condolences to all the rest of us. But actually, condolences aren't needed, because we know in our hearts that your gift will help our Moms and their babies. Start saving for next year!

"Mary"...

is in her early twenties. She found us on our website! If you have a



computer, take a look. It is truly a work of art. She and the baby's father really want to have this baby, but need our help to do it. Of

course, we are helping, because you are all helping us in so many different ways. Thank you from all of our Marys.

We Need

1. As I write this we have a possible stay at Woodlock Pines, an Oreck vacuum cleaner, a basket of cheer and a Kitchen Aid food processor for the "Silent Auction" at our Dinner Dance. We need a few more auction items. The more the merrier!

2. When a young woman is pregnant, or thinks she might be pregnant, she often is worried and even very upset. **At a time like this, she needs to speak to a person, not a machine.** The volunteers who take our Hot Line are stretched to the breaking point. If you think you can spare a few hours a week taking these calls at home, please let us know. Training will be given to you, and you in turn will probably save one or more lives. From the Quran: "One who saves a single life is like one who has saved the whole world altogether."

"You know, I have many friends whose only concerns are where they're going and what they'll wear. On Saturday, among these dedicated ladies, I felt I was in the company of Saints!! Really!!

Gloria wrote this after attending a meeting of Hot Line counselors. Join us and become a saint!

The Hug

There was one particular case when a mother forced abortion onto her 15-year-old daughter that still haunts Eric to this day. "When she got done (with her abortion), her mother did the best she could to come up with some human emotion. Her mother came back to the recovery room as the girl was leaving, and her mother hugged her. The girl looked at her mother and said, 'Does that make you feel good to hug me?' And the mother said, 'Of course it does, why would you ask that?' And the girl responded, 'Because of you, I'll never get to hug my baby.' I'll never forget that. We all stopped – I mean, the whole area just stopped – seemed like an eternity before we all went back to our jobs. That was probably the most poignant comment I ever heard a young girl say to her mother after the mother had forced her to have an abortion."

– Eric Harrah
former abortion provider

A Christmas Message

We received the following from Kathy:

As you can see by the picture of the children, they are growing so quickly. Next year Olivia will start middle school and Christopher will start kindergarten...they grow so fast and before I know it they will be kissing me as they walk out the door to start their own adult lives! Can you imagine if I would have listened to those doctors'



advice to terminate my pregnancy with Christopher because of their suspicions that my baby may be born with brain damage??? I will never forget when those doctors gave me that option...I was horrified! Yeah, I was scared not to mention the guilt that flooded my entire being (what did I do wrong to my body??) that my baby may be born with brain damage! However, the baby was mine given to me by God to take care of

and nobody was going to take away my baby, regardless of my baby's mental condition. We know that He never makes mistakes. My heart cries when I think about all those other mommies who choose the other option out of fear given to them by the doctors! All the "Little Christophers" that have been taken away and never gave a chance at life; simply out of fear.

Brrrr!

On a cold day last January, a husband and wife were referred to us for clothing for their baby boy and girl. They were living in a shelter after a fire destroyed their home and everything they owned. After choosing a few outfits for each child, they were leaving when a volunteer called after the mother, "You've forgotten your coat." "I don't have a coat," she said. She had only a sweater on that frigid day, but had asked for things only for her children. Looking through our maternity clothes, we were able to find a warm poncho for her.



Happy Birthday

A few weeks ago, Rosalie Mullady had a birthday. She was besieged by her **nine** daughters asking her what she wanted as a gift. (Her oldest daughter is a Maryknoll missionary in El Salvador – say a prayer for her.) So, she finally told them to get some gifts for the babies who come to Bridge. They took Rosalie shopping. **Boy, did they ever!** The babies were inundated with countless lovely and useful gifts!! Our thanks to all the Mullady ladies!

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" - Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Eleanor