



The Bridge Crib



Issue 8, Spring 2019

President's Update

Hello and happy spring! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters, sponsors and volunteers that helped to make our 2019 dinner dance a huge success. Next year we are going to try a different time of year – the fall of 2020. To be exact, the date to save is October 4, 2020!

The night before the dinner I was excited and humbled to hear from Maple, a past client. She shared with me that 10 years ago she was hurting and found Bridge. She said her daughter is alive today because of our assistance. This warms my heart to know that we are making a difference.

We still have lots of work to do. While we are assisting women faced with unplanned pregnancies and those who are struggling with raising their children, our governor pushed through the Reproductive Health Law (RHA) that allows for abortion up until a child's birth. This law also allows other medical professionals other than a doctor to perform abortions. How is this helping women?

It is so important that people become informed about the NYS

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Many Days, Hard Work...A Dinner Makes



Meet this year's dinner dance committee (l to r) Cathy Donohoe, Chairperson Eleanor Malone, Cathy Black, Julia Chitos, Virginia Gallo, Mara Burns, Rose Dauge and Mary Beth Topczynski. Their hard work pulled off yet another successful event.

What a Difference A Day Made!

Editor's Note: Recently our President, Cathy Donohoe had a chance to speak further with the client she mentioned in her update. Learn how one day at Bridge made a difference in Maple and her daughter Olympia's life.

Maple came to this country from Hong Kong as a young child. She became pregnant at age 29. Once her fiancé found out she was carrying a girl, he broke off the engagement which deeply affected the families. Maple had to raise Olympia on her own because both families weren't supportive. To this day, she has little contact with her family.



She found Bridge through an internet search for "assistance for pregnant women." Maple remembers the kindness she was shown by Bridge's volunteers throughout her pregnancy and beyond. While we were assisting her, she was living in Mother Teresa's House in **Continued on pg. 4**

27TH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

We did it! And, we'll do it again for as long as there are pregnant women and families with babies that need our help because each day Bridge is open makes a difference in their lives.

The patchwork of faces below are just a few of the several who attended this year's dinner to support our work and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals for a fun afternoon.

Join us for our next dinner which is moving to the fall of 2020 — October 4th, 2020!



Honoree Msgr. Dillon Knights of Columbus #5872. Pictured are (L to R) Manny Lamicela, Grand Knight Anthony Belviso who accepted the award on behalf of his council, Anthony Liuzzi and Charles Faruggia.



Memorial honoree, Barbara Meara's son (speaking) and daughter accepted the plaque in her honor. They are surrounded by Jean Head who spoke about her friend and pro-life advocate and some of the Bridge board members.



Volunteer Spotlight: **Mary Boyd & Janet Keogan** **The Unseen Welcoming Committee**



Meet Mary Boyd (MB on left) and Janet Keogan (JK to right), two women who volunteer their time to provide our babies a loving start right from the get go – when they leave the hospital. “They have graciously taken charge of managing our layettes section each

Wednesday so Bridge has beautiful ‘going home from the hospital’ gift bags for our moms-to-be,” states Director of Material Assistance, Virginia Gallo.

Mary started volunteering at Bridge in 1995 while Janet started in 2010. Neither of them knowing the other, they’ve now been working together on the layettes since 2013 where they became fast friends. Let’s get to know this wonderful Layette Duo!

Q. Why did you start volunteering at Bridge?

MB. Bridge opened in Bayside where I lived; I would walk by it all the time. One day a volunteer came to speak at my church, Sacred Heart of Jesus, about Bridge’s work. I signed up to volunteer and was called right away by it’s founder, Eleanor Ruder. I believe in the pro-life mission and wanted to help women.

JK. After I retired from education where I taught high school French and worked several registrar positions at local law schools the last being St. John’s, I wanted

to volunteer for a women’s literacy program. Upon calling several places and hearing nothing back, I was referred to nuns who possibly ran a reading program. I discovered, however, they actually volunteered at Bridge. Although different from my initial goal, I was still helping women...and babies so I signed on to help!

Q. What have you done at Bridge?

MB. I’ve done it all; I’ve worked with baby bottle campaigns; sorted clothes; helped clients with Material Assistance and even assisted Bridge relocate five times before I started with layettes.

JK. As is typical, I started with sorting clothes; in fact, Mary taught me the ropes. I moved to Material Assistance, but after a few years and due to some balance issues, I moved into layettes where it was less hectic.

Q. What makes working in layettes so special?

MB. We want to make the mother’s feel respected and not like a number like at many agencies. When we assemble the layettes, we color coordinate the items, make them look nice for the mom. We include clothing, blankets, bottles, diapers, wipes, rattles and stick a stuffed animal on top for baby! Many people donate hand-made blankets and sweaters. These items are very special to our mothers as they would be for any mother. I also knit and have made over 300 sweaters for Bridge – each one a unique design.

JK. I wanted to help women, help them take care of their baby. Our goal is to also include items to wash

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Our Silver Stars!

Beginning last November 2018 through March

2019, Girl Scouts’ Patricia Ranallo and Nina Wiese from St. Mel’s Catholic Academy’s G.S. Troup #4011 planned and executed a volunteer project for Bridge while working towards their Silver Project Award.

“Nina and I chose to help Bridge because it’s an organization that helps mothers and pregnant women who can’t afford to take care of their children,” stated Patricia. Added Nina, “It is an important organization that helps our community.” They learned of Bridge

from notices in St. Mel’s church bulletin and parishioners involvement with us.

Just in the 8th grade, these girls enacted their plan placing baskets at school entrances to collect clothing, posting flyers in the halls and speaking to other classes to advertise their project. Once a week they sold snacks during their lunch raising almost \$600 to purchase needed items for Bridge’s layettes,



Nina Wiese & Patricia Ranallo (l to r) selling their snacks!

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Our Silver Stars (cont. from pg. 3)

and then they went out shopping for those items! But, their work wasn't done! After collecting and shopping, they delivered everything to Bridge, then sorted and organized the items for us! We have no doubt they will get their Silver Award; they are stars — Silver Stars — to Bridge!



Nina & Patricia (l to r) shop!



We Need Your Help!

We have to relocate our Flushing office as our lease is only being renewed for another year. We are also looking to add new board members. If you know a space we can rent long term or are interested in joining the board, please contact the office.

President's Update (cont. from pg. 1)

abortion laws. I strongly encourage everyone to see the movie, Unplanned. This movie reveals some of the lies that Planned Parenthood perpetrates. We have allowed them to deceive women long enough. We need to stop the lies. Our children deserve so much better.

Thank you for helping Bridge to provide material assistance and guidance to our moms. By doing this, we give them the gift of hope which has the ability to transform lives.

Catherine Donohoe, MS, RN,
Board President

Editor's Note: On March 24th, Cathy received the Sanctity of Life award at the 2019 Lincoln Dinner. Check our blog for a photo of Cathy with her award.

What a Difference....

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Brooklyn where she stayed during and one year after her pregnancy and they helped her to obtain public assistance from the city.

Currently, she works as an interpreter for the United Nations and the board of elections. She also composes songs and is operational manager of Victoria Tiffany Savitt, an international opera singer.

Her lovely daughter, Olympia is now 10 years old and attends a gifted and talented program in Queens. She plays the piano and is in an Azure Choir which performed at Steinway Hall and Lincoln Center.

Maple knows what it means to struggle, and she wants to give back by volunteering her services to Bridge any way she can.

The Unseen (cont. from pg. 3)

the baby and care for the baby such as soap, shampoo, baby oil, lotion, etc. While we don't always have enough toiletry items, when we do, we always stick them in the Welcome Home Kits so our moms' have everything they need to care for their newborn.

Q. What are your other interests?

MB. I love to sing and have been a member of the Oratorio Society of Queens for 24 years. We perform two concerts a year. Besides knitting, I enjoy painting, watercolors, doing stained glass and am a lector at my church, I have two children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

JK. As you can surmise, I'm addicted to reading. I also sing and have been a member of the Community Singers of Queens for 25 years. I like to attend musicals, Broadway, shows, spend time at the beach with friends and am a parishioner of American Martyrs Church.

Kudos Honor Scroll

The January to March kudos list is already posted on our website blog, **BridgeChronicles**. Be sure to check the blog quarterly for the latest list. We thank each and every one of you for all you do for Bridge during the year.

For specific needs, please check our blog or Facebook page.



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