



Introducing New Members to Our Board of Directors

Spring is upon us, and as new growth arises in nature, The Bridge celebrates new growth within our Board of Directors. Earlier this year, we welcomed five new members to our Board who have displayed outstanding dedication to our mission to end domestic violence and sexual assault.

Kim Schwarz

As a resident of Dodge County, Kim found herself drawn to The Bridge and our mission. The Bridge's mission aligns with her core values, beliefs, and principles that drive her efforts to make a difference in her community. As she begins her first year on the Board, Kim looks forward to bringing her strategic thinking and vision to help shape the long-term goals and direction of The Bridge.



Jena Seitz

Jena's passion for people and heart for service led her to The Bridge. Serving Fremont and the surrounding areas is near and dear to her, which she found she could accomplish as a Board member. As a nurse, Jena has seen firsthand the prevalence of domestic violence. "The mission and the work of The Bridge is completely unmatched, and the fact that we can advocate for a population who so desperately needs to be heard, seen, and understood is an incredible testament to all communities that the organization serves."



Vivian Sanchez

With Vivian's background in empowering others and involvement with our Hispanic/Latino community, she brings a strong skillset and sense of dedication to our Board. Driven by a deep passion for serving others and her belief that we all have a right to live free from violence and fear, Vivian aspires to advance our mission at The Bridge. "I am more than dedicated to The Bridge's mission of empowerment, education, and social change. I am here to dedicate all my efforts to creating a safer community."



Kelly Johnson

Knowing that domestic violence impacts entire communities, Kelly found herself wanting to expand her work with women's and children's shelters. As a nurse, Kelly takes great pride in ensuring those in her community have what they need and have support. Her awareness of what it takes to overcome domestic violence runs deep, and her heart reaches out to survivors in our communities. As she begins her work on our Board, Kelly is motivated by her belief that "the only way domestic violence is going to change is by people coming together to provide support and guide survivors as they navigate their situation."



Kelsey Maas

Driven by a passion for serving the community where she resides and works, Kelsey aspires to make a difference in the lives of those who benefit from the services provided at The Bridge. She knows the power of her voice and plans to use it to support education and social change. With a strong alignment with The Bridge's mission, Kelsey aims to promote her belief in enhancing safety, equality in relationships, and eliminating violence in our communities while utilizing her interpersonal skills to connect with donors and community partners.



The dedication and commitment of our new Board members ensures our Board of Directors continues to advance our mission to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in our 5-county area. Thank you to our new Board members for joining us at The Bridge in support of survivors across our service area.

Celebrating Over a Decade of Volunteerism

Volunteers are the driving force behind our mission to prevent and eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. Their commitment to supporting our mission changes the lives of survivors and profoundly impacts our community.

Longtime volunteer, Bobbie C., is a shining example of one of our volunteers who brings us closer to accomplishing our mission. In 2010, Bobbie was encouraged by a friend to go through volunteer training at The Bridge.

After taking her first shifts on the 24-Hour Crisis Line, Bobbie found that it was an easy way to give back to her community. She explains, "All you need is a phone and a heart to help others."

Over the years, Bobbie has received various crisis calls that have greatly impacted her. She states, "I still think of the survivors and pray for their healing. It has a great impact on me knowing that I was able to provide them with the services they need alongside The Bridge."

As Bobbie continues to volunteer for the Crisis Line, she utilizes her ability to offer survivors a listening ear, emotional support, and encouragement. She is glad to help those in need of help because she knows she would also need that support if she were in their shoes.

Throughout her time as a volunteer, Bobbie has seen many members of the community join as Crisis Line volunteers. To those interested in serving their community, Bobbie encourages them to go through the training and then decide whether it's right for them. "Talk to the advocates at The Bridge about what would be the best fit for you. There are many opportunities, and The Bridge can make the volunteer experience as comfortable as possible."



The impact Bobbie continues to have on our community through her decades of volunteerism shines a light of hope for those who need it most. Thank you, Bobbie, for your dedication to supporting survivors in our community!

Join Us for the 2024 Fremont Area Big Give!

Mark your calendars for May 7th for the annual Fremont Area Big Give! The Bridge is one of the many nonprofits participating in the 2024 Fremont Area Big Give, a 24-hour online giving event organized by the Fremont Area Community Foundation to celebrate the power of philanthropy and support the good work of nonprofits who help make the Fremont area a special place to live, work and thrive.

In years past, we have seen a substantial increase in support for our mission through this event. In 2023, we successfully raised \$10,510 from 61 gracious donors, which was matched by a generous anonymous donor. Including the \$1,565 won in prizes, we raised a total of \$22,585! This was the second highest amount raised of all the non-profit organizations that participated.

We are beyond grateful for our past donors and can't wait to connect with new and past donors during this year's event. Thanks to every donation received our work to eliminate and prevent domestic violence and sexual assault continues.

A promotional graphic for the 2024 Fremont Area Big Give. It features a blue background with a white logo in the top left corner that reads "THE FREMONT AREA BIG GIVE" with a red hand icon. The main image shows a group of people from behind, with their arms raised and hands forming heart shapes. At the bottom, white text on a dark blue background reads "SAVE THE DATE", "MAY 7, 2024 | 12AM - 11:59PM", and "FREMONTAREABIGGIVE.ORG".

Early giving begins May 1st with the main event taking place May 7th. Visit FremontAreaBigGive.org for more information.

Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to the incredible individuals and organizations who have generously contributed to our cause. Your kindness is a testament to the strength of our community, and we couldn't do it without you.

CIRCLE OF HONOR

The Debby Durham Family Foundation
Redeemer Lutheran Church - Hooper

SUSTAINING SPONSORS

Leisha Moxness
Fremont Alliance Church

ALLIES WITH IMPACT

Cecily Giese
Craig American Legion Auxiliary Unit #127
Fremont Cosmopolitan Club
Legacy Apple III
Pershing

Jean & Jon Katt (In Memory of Megan Cameron)
Dani Cooper
Casey Meyer
First Baptist Church - Fremont

BRIDGE BUILDERS

Sinai Lutheran Church
Blair Public Library
St. Timothy Evangel Lutheran Church - ELCA
Jeremy & James Rehwaldt
Angie & Jeffrey Hazen
Gail Nielsen
Jane Martin-Hoffman
Mildred Ondracek
Keith & Sheryl Tank
Tom & Cindy Weitzenkamp (In Honor of Terri Maschka)
Bruce & Georgine Bellamy (In Memory of Terri Maschka)
James & Vicky Robart (In memory of Terri Maschka)

Marianne Drimi (In Memory of Terri Maschka)
Robert Reynolds (In Memory of Terri Maschka)
Barbara Davenport (In Memory of Terri Maschka)

IN-KIND DONORS

Fremont Alliance Church
First Baptist Church - Fremont
First Lutheran Church - Blair Confirmation Class
Janet Lack
Steve Rector
Randy & Julie Reznicek
Kathy Allender
Debby Durham

Bruce Brown
Shannon Winter
Chuek Williamson
Dawn Tasset
Anita Misfeldt
David Baker
Judith Smith
Joy Ludvigsen

Paul Van Behren
Lori Davidson
Sue Andrews
Michelle Kluthe

From The Board Secretary's Desk

Introducing Email Marketing to The Bridge

In our ongoing efforts to support survivors and spread awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault, we are thrilled to announce a new initiative at The Bridge: email marketing. We recognize the importance of reaching a wider audience and providing valuable resources to those in need, and email marketing offers us a powerful tool to achieve these goals.

Our first steps on this journey involved procuring a list of contacts and setting up an email platform. Through our email campaigns, we aim to not only raise awareness about domestic violence but also provide essential information, resources, and support to survivors and their loved ones. From educational materials and safety tips to details about our services and upcoming events, our emails will serve as a valuable lifeline for those impacted by abuse.

We're excited about this new chapter in our outreach effort and look forward to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. We invite you to join us on this journey by subscribing to our email list by sending a message to Info@BridgeFromViolence.com

Stay tuned for updates as we continue to evolve and grow in our mission to end domestic violence and support survivors!



Claire Eckhardt
Secretary, The Bridge
Board of Directors

Our Mission

The mission of The Bridge is the prevention and elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault. We work to enhance safety and to promote equality in relationships. We are opposed of the use of violence to control the lives of others. The Bridge is committed to eliminating violence in the lives of women, children and men through empowerment, education and social change.

Our Staff

Suzanne Smith
Executive Director

Jennifer Thomason
Advocacy Program Manager

Jody Bykerk
Shelter Program Manager

Kylie Kampschneider
Sexual Assault Services Coordinator

Stacey Lichtenberg
Community Education Coordinator

Luisa Soto
Spanish Speaking Services Coordinator

Jody Koziol
Washington County Outreach
Coordinator

Madison Laake
Marketing Coordinator

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Claire Eckhardt
Secretary

Vivian Sanchez

Cindi Hermanson

Jena Seitz



Contact

Serving Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Saunders & Washington Counties

Fremont Office

402.721.4340
141 S Union Street
Fremont, NE 68025




Blair Office

402.533.4411
810 N 22nd Street
Blair, NE 68008

24-Hour Crisis Line

402.727.7777
888.721.4340 (toll free)

 BridgeFromViolence.com
 Info@BridgeFromViolence.com

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