



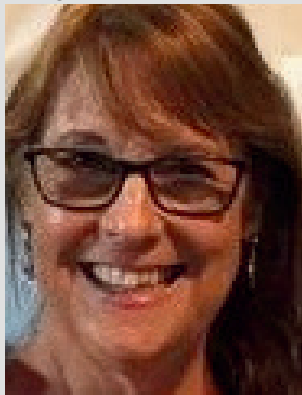
Honoring Jody K.: Celebrating Her Retirement & Impact

After 11 years as a Crisis-Line Volunteer and 14 years as The Bridge's Washington County Outreach Coordinator, Jody K. concludes her time as a steadfast advocate for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. As Jody enters retirement, we honor her legacy at The Bridge and her impact on our advocates, volunteers, and overall community.

Throughout Jody's 25 years at The Bridge, she created strong relationships with survivors by providing emergency shelter, crisis intervention advocacy, criminal justice advocacy, and group support. Many survivors found hope, healing, and safety thanks to Jody's unwavering dedication to survivors in her community.

Jody served survivors in the Washington County area as a part-time advocate working out of our Blair satellite office. She empowered each survivor she encountered and offered unwavering support, compassion, and guidance on their healing journey. Jody leaves a legacy at The Bridge that inspires us and serves as a reminder of the power of compassion and the dedication to helping others.

As The Bridge bids farewell to Jody's time as an advocate, we honor and thank her for helping to illuminate a path toward a future free from domestic violence and sexual assault. Our mission to prevent and eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault is closer to becoming a reality due to Jody's work.



New Development Director Drives The Bridge's Fundraising Efforts

The Bridge is thrilled to announce the appointment of Christy Fiala as its new Development Director, with plans for her to transition into the Executive Director role in two years. The current Executive Director, Suzanne Smith, remains actively involved with The Bridge, ensuring a smooth transition and continuity in leadership. With a deep commitment to supporting our community, Christy intends to elevate The Bridge's fundraising and community engagement efforts.

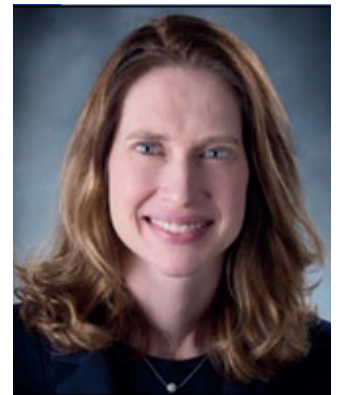
After returning from the Peace Corps in 2007, Christy dedicated the last 17 years of her career to serving her community at local medical organizations and non-profits, including the Fremont Area United Way. Christy is excited to rejoin The Bridge after her time at our organization 15 years ago.

"The mission of The Bridge to eliminate violence and support empowerment and equality matches my personal beliefs. I have always chosen to work with organizations that understand the reality that everyone has a time in their life when they struggle. We all need support to help us get through those difficult chapters. The Bridge assists victims as they rebuild and recover from the trauma they have experienced. I can't think of anything more important that I can do for the community than this work at The Bridge."

As Development Director, Christy plans to connect with our five-county service area through community presentations and targeted outreach efforts. "I plan to learn from all our current supporters about what we are doing well in fundraising and areas where we can improve while also inviting new groups and individuals to learn about The Bridge." Her vast experience with grant writing, fundraising, and project oversight prepares her to steer our fundraising endeavors in order to sustain our vital services and drive strategic planning for future growth.

"I am most excited to work with such an incredible team and support such an amazing organization. I am honored to be in this position, and I am committed to doing all I can to support the mission of The Bridge through successes in grant writing and fundraising."

Our team at The Bridge welcomes Christy and looks forward to her success in this new role.



Mid-Year Impact: Crisis Intervention & Survivor Support

From January to June of this year, our dedicated team of advocates has made significant strides in providing essential services and resources to those affected by domestic violence. So far this year, our team's efforts have resulted in more nights of emergency shelter provided, increased hours of legal advocacy, and a greater number of crisis calls responded to compared to the same period in 2023. These statistics underscore our staff and volunteers' hard work and commitment while symbolizing those who found hope and safety in the face of danger and despair.

By sharing this data, we invite you to join us on our journey of progress and resilience. Together, we celebrate these accomplishments while recognizing the ongoing work needed to eliminate domestic violence in our five-county service area. As we reflect on these statistics, we acknowledge that each number represents a life touched, a family safeguarded, and signifies the progress we have collectively made toward a future free from violence.



**Served 348
Survivors with
337 Children**



**Provided 1,234
Hours of Criminal
& Civil Justice
Support**



**Provided 645
Donated Items
to Survivors**



**Provided 108
Nights of Shelter
to 42 Survivors**



**Responded
to 1,601
Crisis Calls**

Hairstylists Take Action to Support Survivors

Hairstylists often build deep, trusting relationships with their clients. In the intimate setting of a salon, clients share personal stories and experiences, sometimes revealing signs of abuse not disclosed elsewhere. This summer, our Community Education Coordinator, Stacey, spearheaded a comprehensive training program for local hairstylists to equip them with the skills to recognize and respond to signs of domestic violence.

Over the summer, Stacey visited professionals at ONESalon in Waterloo and Jerry's Hairstyling Salon in Fremont to provide training on identifying the warning signs of physical and verbal abuse, how to appropriately respond to a client's situation, and how to refer a client to resources safely and confidentially. Through this partnership, Stacey and her fellow Advocates aim to utilize non-traditional settings, like salons, as critical touchpoints for identifying and assisting survivors. Empowering salon professionals with essential tools and knowledge about domestic violence expands the network of safe spaces for survivors in our communities.



ONESalon Hairstylists, Sarah, Nicole, Madison, and Myah, with our Community Education Coordinator, Stacey

We are deeply grateful to the stylists at Jerry's Hairstyling Salon and hairstylists Sarah, Nicole, Madison, and Myah at ONESalon for their unwavering commitment to providing a safe space for survivors in our communities. Their participation in Stacey's training highlights how every individual and organization can play a part in our mission to prevent and eliminate domestic violence. Through education and collaboration, we can continue to build a community that supports survivors.

To learn more about how your organization can participate in awareness and prevention training, contact our office at 402.721.4340 or email Info@BridgeFromViolence.com.

Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to the remarkable individuals and organizations who have generously contributed to our mission. We couldn't achieve our goals without you.

CIRCLE OF HONOR

David & Cynthai Christensen
Casey Meyer

First Lutheran Church

Kristi Storm

SUSTAINING SPONSORS

Wanda Samson
Tom & Marka Sawyer
Mary Tomes Lueders
Novozymes Blair

Salem Covenant Sunday School
Christ Lutheran Church
Peace Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church - Fremont

Nye Home Health Services
Dani Cooper

ALLIES WITH IMPACT

Memorial Community Hospital & Health System
St. Patrick's Church of Fremont
Ed & Lynette Kaup
Alice Nott
David & Carole Rise

Fraternal order of Eagles #200 Ladies Auxiliary
First Community Bank
Sid Dillon Chevrolet of Blair & Fremont
Harold & Judy Ruwe
Sarah Smith

BRIDGE BUILDERS

Joyce Roberts
Jennifer Newby
barbara Newill
Todd & Ronda Niehaus
Lori Nielsen
Michael & Cynthai Brass
Jean Katt
Bailey Licht
First Northeast Bank of Nebraska
Fremont Housing Authority
Nye Legacy
Nye Technology
Dodge County Attorney's Office
Dodge County Treasurer's Office
Jeremy & James Rehwaldt
Sinai Lutheran Church
Krasne Furniture
Peak Home
Northeast Nebraska Community
Action Partnership
Cedar Bluffs HOSA
Schuyler Snow Stars

Marcia Fouraker
Cheryl Hagen
Jason Harnisch
Cindi Hermanson
Troy Holcomb
Cody Horrocks
Marvin & Peggy Iverson
Derek & Kylie Kampschneider
Karen Killingsworth
Lori Knapp
Dawn Koehlmoos
Dr. Duane & Helen Krause
Eleanor Kubin
Christy Laake
Madison Laake
Stacey Lichtenberg
Amy Lundholm
Kelsey Maas
Jeanne Malmberg
Ginger Malousek
Jody Bykerk
Larry & Cheryl Feala
Christy & Ryan Fiala
Jessica Fickbohm

Jenn Nabb
Faith Perry
Russell & Jennifer Peterson
Russell Rabeler
Maren Reppert
Kevin & Kiley Cordes
Stephanie Scheer
Eric & Jena Seitz
Lynnette & Monty Sellon
Barbara Shelton
Jeff & Suzanne Smith
William & Nan Smutko
Don & Julie Sorensen
Luisa Soto
Todd & Jennifer Thomason
Sarah & David Tonjes
Dawn Updike
JP & Rachel Wachter
Fremont Area Women of Today
Fremont Youth Power
Randy & Darcy Mendlik
David & Leatta Millie
Nancy Lichtenberg

Lisa Ahrens
Nikki Beatty
Lisa Braasch
Beth Brewer
Lloyd & Betty Brooks
Stephen & June Cardwell
Linda Ciurej
Kimberly Cuda
Claire Eckhardt
Diane Braun Counseling
Bryce & Kay Exstrom
Benjamin & Pamela England
Tom & Linda Emanuel
Donald Elliot
Pinnacle Bank

IN-KIND DONORS

Katie Bartholomew	Denise Morse	Alli Greene
Emily Beatty	Lynn Neukann	Ryan Mulliken
Michael & Cynthai Brass	Lenore Peatrowsky	Nancy Lichtenberg
Mary Caffey	Beth Pribil	Jodi McLaughlin
Dani Cooper	Joan Schulz	Maggie Stephens
Cindy Culbertson	Gina Swigert	Bret Grinde
Elaine Evand	Linda Williams	Bea Hendren
Barb Gaskin	Kelsey Maas	Jamie Folkers
Debra Hale	Cedar Bluffs HOSA	Nicole Gaskin
First Lutheran Church	Church of Nazarene	Deb Mellema
Ahead of the Curve Salon	Barb Hevlin	Sue Wilcoxon
Michael Polick & Family	Blair Lyons Club	Darcy Johnson
First Presbyterian Church	Joe Lager & Family	Tamara Loberg
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Barbara Kunce	Paul Von Behren
Sinai Lutheran Church	Purina Animal Nutrition	

IN HONOR/MEMORY

Mike Bechtel- In Memory of Jason Bechtel
Maranna & Corey Bentley- In Memory of Katie Humphrey
Bonnie Maschka- In Memory of Terri Maschka
Vickie Cameron- In Memory of Megan Cameron
Merlin & Betty Oswald- In Memory of Tessie Jo

Cathi Sampson- In Honor of My Grandchildren
Casey Meyer- In Honor of Jennifer Thomason

From The Development Director's Desk

Dear Bridge Supporters,
Volunteers and Donors,

I am new to the team and incredibly excited for the opportunity to work at The Bridge and serve the community as Development Director. I feel honored to be part of this amazing group and to work with all of you to make our community safer for everyone. We all have a part to play in decreasing domestic violence and sexual assault in our communities. Moving forward, I am motivated to do my part to support this effort to the best of my abilities.

My plan for the future is to first learn everything I can from the incredible team at The Bridge and use that knowledge to assist the organization in growing both its impact and resources, ensuring it remains resilient to ongoing and future challenges. Secondly, I plan to build on my past experiences in order to lead successful grant and donor fundraising efforts that will allow more individuals to become aware of the amazing and impactful work accomplished each day at The Bridge.

I have always known that tragedy and misfortune can find any one of us, and the humbling experience of asking for help is a challenge we must overcome at times in order to lift ourselves up and move forward. With this belief in empathy and connection, I approach this work with the intention of bringing us together because we can only make sustainable change through large-scale collaboration. I ask that you join me in these efforts in a way that is right for you.

Please reach out for conversation and connection. I would love to get to know you and hear your thoughts as I begin my journey as Development Director at The Bridge.



Christy Fiala
Development Director,
The Bridge Staff

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

Christy Fiala
Development Director

Kylie Kampschneider
Sexual Assault Services Coordinator

Jody Bykerk
Shelter Program Manager

Luisa Soto
Spanish Speaking Services Coordinator

Stacey Lichtenberg
Community Education Coordinator

Madison Laake
Marketing Coordinator

Board of Directors

Cathi Sampson
President

Kiley Cordes
Past President

Kelly Johnson

Kate Chrisman
Vice President

Stephanie Scheer

Kim Schwarz

Kelsey Maas

Vicki Cameron

Nikki Beatty
Treasurer

Vivian Sanchez

Cindi Hermanson

Claire Eckhardt
Secretary

Jena Seitz

SAVE THE DATE

2024

NIGHT OF HOPE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH @ 6:30PM

MIDLAND UNIVERSITY- OLSON STUDENT CENTER
N. LOGAN ST.
FREMONT, NE 68025



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



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TheBridgeFremontNE



TheBridgeNE



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