



**JUNE 2022**

24 Hr Crisis Line · 1-888-721-4340 · 402-727-7777  
Email: [info@bridgefromviolence.com](mailto:info@bridgefromviolence.com)

FREMONT · 141 South Union · 402-721-4340  
BLAIR · 810 N. 22nd Street · 402-533-4411

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## Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault in LGBTQ Relationships

**Domestic violence & sexual assault is not limited to heterosexual relationships and can affect individuals of all sexual orientations and genders.** Sadly, despite the prevalence, LGBTQ people are less likely to identify domestic or sexual violence in their relationships, & less likely to report it to the police or seek support from services

- **44 percent of lesbians and 61 percent of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner.**
- **26 percent of gay men and 37 percent of bisexual men experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner.**

There are several aspects of intimate partner violence & barriers they may face which can be unique to the LGBTQ community.

- **Dangers of their partner “outing” them when seeking help & the risk of rejection & isolation from family, friends, and society.**
- **Survivors not knowing if the services in their area are LGBTQ friendly.**
- **Fear of homophobia from service providers.**
- **Low levels of confidence in the sensitivity & effectiveness of law enforcement and the court system for LGBTQ victims.**

June is Pride Month & it's the perfect time to think about and discuss these issues and raise awareness. Although huge strides have been made for equality over recent years, we all still have a long way to go.

### **All survivors deserve safety and equal access to resources.**

*Services at The Bridge will not be denied to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking based on age, race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, health status, employment status, immigration status, physical or cognitive ability, or religion.*



## Inside This Issue

Pg. 1 DV & SA in LGBTQ Relationships

Pg. 2 New Board Member Spotlight

Pg. 3 Donations & Needs List

# New Board Member Spotlight

**What sprang an interest in you wanting to be involved with The Bridge?** I have a great deal of appreciation for the services that The Bridge provides to the communities they work with. I worked for Suzanne many years ago and have experienced first-hand, her passion for helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Serving on the board provides me the opportunity to support a local non-profit that makes a significant impact on the lives of those who utilize their services.

**Years of employment and or/leadership/ volunteering role(s) at The Bridge:** Combined it may be 5 years of employment and volunteer work.

**Family:** My husband Greg and I live in Arlington, Nebraska with our little fur-baby French Bulldog, Sulley. Our three sons are all young adults now and we have been blessed with three grandchildren already, ages, one, two, and three.

**Born/Raised/Educated Where:** I was born and raised in Fremont, graduated from Fremont Public High School, received my bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and my master's degree in health management from Nebraska Methodist College.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Greg and I both enjoy camping or "campering" as we like to call it. We are trying to squeeze in over 15 weekend trips this year. We also love to go hiking and plan on logging another 50 miles during our summer vacation trip this June. Although I have minimal artistic skills I have fun working on various craft projects throughout the year, both large and small.



## The Bridge Staff

**Suzanne Smith**, Executive Director  
**Jody Bykerk**, Shelter Program Manger  
**Stacey Lichtenberg**, Community Education Coordinator  
**Jody Koziol**, Washington Outreach Coordinator  
**Jennifer Thomason**, Advocacy Program Manager  
**Kylie Kampschneider**, Sexual Assault Services Coordinator  
**Maffiah Keenan**, Office Outreach Coordinator  
**Luisa Soto**, Crisis Intervention Advocate/Bilingual

## Board of Directors

Kiley Cordes, President  
Vickie Cameron, Vice President  
Pam Thomsen, Treasurer  
Kylee Stanley M.D., Secretary  
Kate Chrisman  
Cindy Hermansen  
Becky Novacek  
Rev. Scott Johnson  
Stephanie Scheer  
Cathi Sampson

# Incredible Donations

The following names are of those who donated to The Bridge between the dates of May 1– May 31 We regret the accidental omission of any donor. Thank you for your donation and continued support; we could not do it without you!

Amy Fachman	Ja & Bethany Harnisch	Marka & Tom Sawyer
Casey Meyer	Jake & Niki Herre	Nan Smutko
Christina Hagelstien	Jamie Polick	Nicholas & Cheryl Lamme
Cynthia Coffman	Jane Tracy	Padi Fleharty
Dale Olson	Jessica Fickbohm	Pamela England
Dave & Shelia Monke	John Sajevic	Ron & Teresa Gisselmann
Deanna Kloster	Joy McKay	Russell Rabeler
Diane Hamel	Karen Cope	Ryan & Christy Fiala
Doreen Beaudette	Katie Hurd	Sami McMahan
Elizabeth Brewer	Keith Lallman	Skip & Judy Sawyer
First Northeast Bank of Nebraska	Kimberly Cuda	Tanya Miller
First State Bank & Trust Co.	Larry & Cheryl Feala	Taylor Bourek
Gary & Mary Haskins	Linda Schlapfer	Troy Holcomb
Glenda Masteller	Lynnette Sellon	Wanda Samson
Howard Krasne/Abe Krasne Home Inc.	Maranna Bentley	

## CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE STORE?

We have a digital wish list where you can shop straight from your phone or computer. It will ship straight to our office when you order.

Shop our digital wish list at:

[https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/28TCUEI5T9I19/ref=smi\\_ext\\_lnk\\_lcl\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/28TCUEI5T9I19/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl)

## Needs List

Tracfores & Minutes	Toilet Paper
Security Cameras (ring doorbells, hunting cameras, etc.	Paper Towels
Old Cellphones	Microwaveable Meals
Copy Paper	Fast Food Gift Cards
Stamps	Individual bags of M&M's & Skittles
	Smarties

\* Due to limited storage we are not accepting clothing at this time



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to see what else we're up to!



Find us online @

[www.BridgeFromViolence.com](http://www.BridgeFromViolence.com)

### **The Bridge Services**

24-Hr Crisis Line: 1-888-721-4340 or 1-402-727-7777, Crisis Intervention, Emergency/Temporary Shelter, Support Groups for Women and Children, Medical and Legal Referrals, Criminal Justice Advocacy, Public Education and Awareness.

**Victim services are free, confidential, and available in Spanish.**

### **Women's Support Group**

**Fremont** - Women's Support Group in English, and in Spanish, and Children's Rainbow Days Group are still currently not active.

## Volunteer at The Bridge

The volunteer rate remained steady as over 77 million Americans volunteered hours last year. Those who volunteer enrich our community and keep our nation strong. Volunteering goes beyond helping other people. Studies have shown that the volunteers themselves benefit, whether through increased job prospects, better health, or even better overall well-being. Nebraska rates 7th highest in volunteer rate, with 34.6% of Nebraskans volunteering their time.

**We respond to nearly 4,000 crisis calls each year. If you or someone you know would like to get more involved with The Bridge, please encourage them to contact us (402-721-4340 or email: [info@bridgefromviolence.com](mailto:info@bridgefromviolence.com)) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.**

### **LEAVING A LEGACY**

A thoughtful planned gift can become a beautiful legacy you leave to The Bridge and to the victims of abuse who come through our doors for years to come. Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Lead Trusts are a few of the many avenues you may consider for continual support. An attorney can help you decide which option best fits your personal needs and financial circumstances.

Funded in part by:

