



The Bridge Crib

Issue 9, Winter 2020



President's Update

Wow, where has the time gone? 2020 has already brought us many blessings. After a tireless search, we have found and hired, Francesca Yellico to be our Executive Director. She is enthusiastic and has a firm belief in our mission and the sanctity of human life. Please help me in welcoming her to our team.



We are also most grateful for a grant we received from the Cabrini Foundation late last year. A portion of this grant will help facilitate our move in 2021. We are working with a realtor in hopes to purchase a building for our headquarters. If you know of any facilities, please let me know.

I had the pleasure, once again this January to attend the Washington D.C. March for Life. The crowds keep getting larger and

Continued on pg. 4



One Young Man Shows Us You're Never too Young to Help Others

Meet Nicholas Yermichov, a compassionate, 10-year-old who brings caring for others to a whole new level. Sincerity and selflessness radiate from Nicholas' tiny soul as he sacrifices of himself in order to help those in need.

It all began this January when Nicholas lost \$10 while shopping with his dad, Robert. As luck would find it, later that day one of Robert's co-workers found a \$10 bill and gave it to Nicholas. What did he do? He put himself to the side, ran across the street and donated the gift to a small church. "I knew the church would use the money for something good," said Nicholas. Dad's eyes lit up with pride as he and his son talked about the care that Nicholas showed towards strangers in need.



all the clothes, diapers and other items Bridge provides to moms and their babies, touched his young heart and inspired him.

"Sometimes people only have enough money for themselves and not enough for their children, so I wanted to do something to help," said Nicholas. As he walked around, he noticed that some of the bins were a little empty. With concern he inquired, "Why are some bins almost empty?" He realized there was a specific need for some items more than others and started writing down what we needed. A few days later, little Nicholas and his dad returned with bags of

Continued on pg. 4

Better Together — Helping Each Other



There are times when receiving help from others also helps them. This is exactly what happens every week at Bridge when volunteers from the Queens Center for Progress arrive on our doorstep. The center helps individuals to gain independence, community involvement and quality of life.

Under the direction of their supervisor, Suzette Midelton, they help sort and arrange donations alongside other volunteers like Vincent to ensure our bins are organized and available for our mothers in the Material Assistance program.

Suzette states, "Working at Bridge teaches them patience, organization and teamwork. It's a friendly environment with welcoming staff." Here's what the others had to say about being at Bridge.



"Volunteering at Bridge gives me a small experience of the beauty of motherhood. And I'm looking forward to being a mom one day," stated Michelle. Whereas Chris just "likes doing something where I'm helping the little kids. They're so cute."

Shakia said helping, "is calming and makes me happy;" Abby said, "It makes me feel like I'm making a difference."

Irene said, "Spending time at Bridge is like spending time with the best family around." Andrea feels the same stating, "The people here are so nice. It's like being around family." According to Marcus, "Being at Bridge is relaxing. It helps keep me young."

Kristopher feels the sense of giving back, he stated, "I like helping people in our communities!"

What a Difference a Day Makes

On a cold, dreary Fall morning, Bridge received a crisis pregnancy call from a young woman faced with an unplanned pregnancy. Tearfully, she revealed that her doctor informed her that she not only was pregnant but was carrying twins. She advised us that it was already a hardship caring for her two-year-old daughter, and now she was faced with two more babies that she couldn't afford. The father had abandoned her after they moved to New York from Pennsylvania. Having no family or friends, she sadly felt completely

alone and desperate. We spoke to her at length, reassuring her that we are here for her during her pregnancy and as long as she needed us. She was given referrals for housing as well as clothing and supplies for herself and daughter. She gave birth to beautiful twins (boy and girl) and was given clothing, supplies, etc. More importantly, she was given the emotional support she needed which gave her the strength to be a good mother to her children and have hope for a better future.

— By Virginia Gallo, Material Assistance Director

Volunteer Spotlight: Kathleen Easton & Irina Gifford

By Helping to Clothe, They Build Confidence



Kathleen heard about us in St Sebastian's Church bulletin. She saw we were looking for volunteers and donations to better assist the moms and babies. One day in September 2009, Kathleen decided to stop in and introduce herself. Her services were

immediately put to use as she started sorting baby clothes. Eventually she found her niche in the material assistance room. There she greets and speaks with the mothers to help them find the clothes they need for their children.

Kathleen's love for mothers and babies flourished from her 12 years working in a pediatrician's office. So upon retirement, she was immediately drawn to volunteering at Bridge. "It's important to give back," said Kathleen. These are the words her mother always stressed and the motto she tries to live by.

Coming to Bridge makes me feel like I'm living out my motto. "Volunteering is very rewarding. At the end of the day, I feel like I've done something to help the people around me who really need it," she expressed.

Irina heard about Bridge in 2010.

Hearing about all the good works we were doing, she felt compelled to help. Busy with work and other responsibilities, thoughts of Bridge remained in her mind and heart.

In 2015, she retired and immediately began volunteering. She began by coming in two days a week, and just doing whatever was needed. Then one day, as she tells it, she got "promoted" to help out in the boutique and was thrilled. The boutique area are racks in Bridge which hold casual and work attire to help provide our mothers with clothing. Irina and other volunteers assist the mothers in finding clothing, shoes and accessories which fit them perfectly so that they feel and exude confidence in themselves.

Irina now comes in faithfully. All week long she finds herself looking with anticipation to coming in. "Volunteering makes me happy because it makes me feel, like I'm doing something to help my neighbors in my community. It's extremely fulfilling," Irina explained.



URGENT

Items Desperately Needed

We have an urgent need to restock our winter baby clothes sizes 12 months through size 6.

We especially have a short supply of girls clothes.



One Young Man...

(cont. from pg. 1)

brand new baby clothes, diapers etc. that they purchased.

Nicholas exclaimed, "Babies are important!" Then with his sweet disposition, he gently removed the items from the bags, folded them and placed them in the appropriate bins. "Now there's some new stuff for the babies when they come in next week," he said.

Proudly, his father told us, "Nicholas would rather help the babies than spend the money on himself." Robert then proceeded to give Bridge a check to purchase some of other needed essentials. Nicholas said, "Donating and helping people makes me feel good because I'm helping my community."

Anyone who meets Nicholas will immediately be drawn to his good nature and beautiful attitude towards life. He wants to be a doctor when he grows up. For now he's happy just taking care of his two younger brothers. He's looking forward to going to Holy Trinity Academy next year and is eager to spread the news about his time at Bridge.

His father couldn't be more pleased with his son. He expressed, "It has been such a great experience coming to Bridge. It feels good to do something local, for those in our own community."

Suddenly Nicholas interrupts with excitement, "Hey dad, can we come here next week when I'm off from school and volunteer?"

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

larger. We were blessed, for the very first time in history to have the standing president, President Trump address the crowd in person. The enthusiasm was palpable! I was also grateful to be able to attend a law summit sponsored by the Thomas More Society as well as a pro-life forum attended by over 3500 young people.

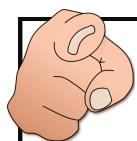
We've made wonderful connections with our community outreach. We were invited to speak to 1500 students at Xaverian High School (below) who participated in the school-wide acknowledgement on the sanctity of life. We were well received and established a relationship.



There is much to pay attention to in the up-coming elections. We could lose all the pro-life strides we have made with the present administration. Elections have consequences. All politics are local. Please pay attention, and vote for life!

Catherine Donohoe, MS, RN.

Board President



We Need Your Help! We have to relocate our Flushing office as our lease ends May 2021. If you know a space we can purchase or rent long term, please contact the office.



**THE BRIDGE
TO LIFE**

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