



Christian Counseling & Mentoring CONNECTION

Welcome Tom Cassady

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

Have you found God to be a "promise keeper" to his word? It is with a grateful heart that I write to you today. On July 25th, I was privileged to watch God answer our prayers for a new Executive Director. The way in which Tom Cassady found out about our need for a new leader could appear as "happenstance". However, as the Apostle Paul states in his letter to the church in Philippians, God is in the business of caring for and directing the work that He starts.

For the past 17 years, Bridge Builders has reached out in compassion to the "orphans and widows" in our Blue Water Area with the Good News of God's special love for them. Tom comes to us with unique skills in the area of administration and marketing, and desires to expand the support for this ministry throughout the business and faith communities.

A recent report published in the Times Herald states that 34% of all children in Michigan are living in single parent homes (National Kids Count Program). Thanks to faithful supporters over the years, we have been able to impact 970 family units since our beginning in 1994. Our records indicate that each family has an average of 3 children resulting in BBC&M touching the lives of 3,880 in our Blue Water Area.

Many of you have been praying with us for wisdom as we reach out to more and more families. Thank you for helping us begin a new chapter in the history of Bridge Builders.

With your help, we invest your gifts wisely into the lives of one-parent families. We are "confident...that he who began a good work in (us) will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus".

*Dan Lundblad, Founder,
Chairman of the Board of Directors*



From the Executive Director

Proverbs 19:17 from The Message Bible reads: Mercy to the needy is a loan to God, and God pays back those loans in full.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary regarding this verse states: God has chosen the poor of this world, to be rich in faith, and heirs to His kingdom. This is what Bridge Builders Counseling & Mentoring Inc. is all about. We are God's servants doing His work through your donations and gifts to serve the community by offering counseling and mentoring to single parent families. I have been with Bridge Builders for just a few short weeks and I already feel a part of the vision and mission of this agency.

I am so looking forward to meeting and working with you, the contributors, volunteers and mentors. I did have the privilege to meet some of you at our fund raiser concession stand at the 54th Annual Francis J. Robinson Memorial Tennis Tournament. If you

volunteered I so much appreciate you!

I would like to thank Founder and Chairman of the Board, Dan Lundblad as well as our Board Members: James Charron, John Romine, Emily Klein, Kristyn Secory and Laurie Wilson for the confidence they have shown by selecting me as Executive Director. I look forward to working with Bridge Builders as we communicate His vision through Gods Word, life application and networking.

*Tom Cassady
Executive Director*

So far this year, Bridge Builders counselors have provided professional counseling to 76 families. This number includes 30 brand new families who just heard there was affordable help for them here. We have counseled scared little 3-years-olds in play therapy and listened to a room of angry adolescents searching for answers. We've counseled great-grandparents, guardians, non-custodial parents from out of state, as well as biological single parents, all wanting to help their children grow into responsible adults. Thank you for not turning your back on them when things get rough, when words are sharp, and when their needs seem to swamp us all. It's worth it.



Since 1994, Providing:

- Christian counseling services for one-parent families
- Mentoring relationships for boys being raised without fathers and mentoring for single mothers
- A network of agencies and the faith community to reach out to one-parent families



Dan Lundblad, *Founder and Chairman of the Board*
Tom Cassady, *Executive Director*
Sherry Young, *Clinical Director*

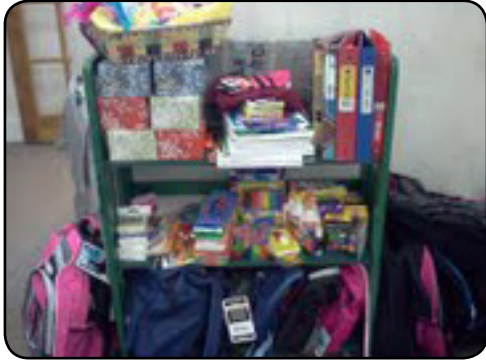
Our Vision:

"No one should have to raise a child alone."

www.bridgebuildersinc.org

Dancing with the "Real" Stars

Back to school, back to routine, back to a schedule... all music to a parent's ears. But for a single mother going to Baker College and working part time at Burger King, living in Dulhut Village public housing, buying groceries at Save-a-Lot with a Bridge Card, it's more than music. It's a delicate dance of survival.



Thanks to many generous contributions from Mary Maxim's Fairy Godmothers and St. Paul's Protestant Church on Harsen's Island, our back-to-school giveaway area was huge.

I can't imagine how these single parents keep up the energetic pace. There is so much hanging on each note. From a financial-tango (or tangle) and a transportation-two-step (usually moving backwards), to child-care-rumba (or rumble), these parents know all the moves.

As the Fall school schedule begins, please pray for these parents as they secure safe day care for their children after school. Please pray that the family vehicles keep running without repairs. Please pray for energy to create quality time for healthy meals, completed homework, respectful conversation, and comforting bath and bed time. Fall is a delicate ballet for these low-income moms and dads who are "dancing solo" day after day. Decisions are made without a partner, unexpected purchases are made with money set aside for bills and nights are lonely when the music stops.

The staff and volunteers at Bridge

Builders really do count on you being our partners. Whether you help financially, bring back-to-school supplies in to share, pray specifically for the needs we tell you about, or bother to read our newsletter to the end... you're an important part of this "dance" and we know it. I watch these families "keep the beat" each year (and we've been providing "dance lessons" for 17 years now). I see them learn new steps in counseling each week... steps toward Jesus... the best dance partner of all.

*Sherry L. Young, MA, LPC, NCC
Clinical Director*

From Our Mannequin ...

Hello, this is Brad Greer from "Mannequins Making a Difference". Bridge Builders asked me to share a bit about myself and the experience of being the model that won the monetary grand prize for Bridge Builders during Port Huron's Boat Night 2011.

I am 20 years old, was born and raised on a farm in St Clair and was home schooled. My family owns and operates St Clair Greenhouses. I have worked with the public for many years in The Detroit Eastern Market. I am co-owner of BW Bicycles in Kimball Twp. with my brother, West Greer. I am an avid BMX rider, have been actively involved with CanAm for many years and have worked as a bicycle mechanic since 2006. Our BMX team, Team IROK, has put on many benefits for churches and local events. We enjoy encouraging the youth to stay fit and have fun naturally through working hard and having faith in God.

Bridge Builders spiritually enriches the entire Blue Water area and I have enjoyed the opportunity to support Bridge Builders by sacrificing a weekend, (on one of the hottest weekends this summer), for a greater community good. It was a great privilege for me to be a representative mannequin model for Bridge Builders. The experience and the warm fellowship the Bridge Builder's

team have shown to me since winning has been so supportive and encouraging that I am looking forward to helping them even more in the near future. I have been blessed to be part of it all.

Brad Greer



Francis J. Robinson Memorial Tennis Tournament



Linda Deman, Kayleigh Wilson, Grandma Tex aka Shirley Newton, Debbie Solomon and Crystal Mosher.



Picture at the Grill is Debbie Solomon and Grandma Tex with Ernie Eagle.

*Please send us
your email address
for future
newsletter updates!*

Join Bridge Builders Counseling & Mentoring For A Day:

- I commit to sponsor **1 Day** for \$38.81 each month **2 Days** for \$77.62 each month **3 Days** for \$116.43 each month
- I have enclosed \$465 for one year of support I will donate \$ _____ as a one time gift
- I commit myself to praying for BBC&M Inc. Please remove my name from your mailing list
- I would like to learn more about the BBC&M Mentoring Program (Mentoring Boys Mentoring Moms)
- I would like to volunteer my time, please call me.



Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

All donations are tax deductible as allowed for by the current tax law. Bridge Builders Counseling & Mentoring is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit corporation. No goods or services were provided in exchange for money given.

**Please make checks payable to: Bridge Builders. Please mail this form with your gift to:
1220 6th St., Port Huron, MI 48060 • For more information, please call: 810.987.8772 • Fax: 810.987.8706**