



Christian Counseling & Mentoring CONNECTION

Dear Friends,

We are happy to announce that through God's provision and timing we are again beginning the search for an Executive Director. God has been ever faithful during this economic downturn to sustain Bridge Builders in its ministry to our community's "orphans and widows" (James 1:27) We have a strong, unified board and an expert clinical director. Our administrative assistant and office team have seamlessly maintained the highest of standards for our clients and the community.

"A 22% increase in counseling clients occurred in 2010, pointing out the importance of BBC&M's valuable ministry to single-parent families."

We believe that God has refined us as a ministry and that He has now given us the "go ahead" to put an Executive Director again in place. We are announcing this to local churches as well as other faith-based institutions and Christian Colleges. We believe that God will direct us to a Godly man or woman to help us continue to lead this vital ministry to low income one-parent families.

We have been humbled and encouraged through this 17 month transition, as God has used so many churches and believers in the community to uphold this ministry. We thank you for your part in this and ask that you would keep us in prayer during our search.

Further details about our ministry to low-income one-parent families can be found at our new website at www.bridgebuildersinc.org.

Sincerely,

Dan Lundblad, LMSW, LMFT
Founder and Chairman of the Board

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

Family Link, Lock & Love Workshops

Women's Life Chapter 807 sponsors this event.

"Thump, thump, thump..." Smiles widen as quick feet pound up the narrow stairs and excited, childish voices break the thoughtful discussion. Laurie Wilson, the Mentoring Moms' Coordinator, closes her notebook as little bodies bounce in the upstairs conference room, knowing that "adult" conversation is over. "Guess what, Mom?!?" Connor says eagerly as he pulls himself into his mother's lap, and deftly shoves the remaining bit of his mother's dessert into his mouth. "I learned that I'm special cuz God made me," he announces triumphantly, in between mouthfuls of vanilla cake. His mother's eyes soften as she recalls the recent discussion between the women that centered on that very truth. "How different life would be if I really believed that..." The other children, clamoring to share the new songs and games they had just enjoyed, interrupt her musings. "Mom, will you help me learn a verse for next week? I can earn a cool prize," ten year old Netanya shyly whispers to her mother. Her mother's eyes widen with amazement as she confides to one of the children's workers, "Netanya is so shy she never talks to anyone, even at school. How in the world did you get her to join you?"



Welcome to the Link, Lock & Love Mentoring Workshops on Monday nights. Clients bring their children, enjoy a healthy meal, and an hour of uninterrupted (minus the children's laughter floating up the stairs) teaching and discussion. Discussion topics are centered on God's Word, designed to meet the practical, and oftentimes difficult issues that they face as single moms. Meanwhile, the children are being instructed on a similar theme from God's Word, applicable to their age level, along with singing, games, and a whole lot of fun.



At the end of a whirlwind hour, the children tromp up the stairs, single-file, to join their moms in a family pledge and closing prayer. Within a few minutes, coats, hats, and gloves are on, somewhat askew, papers to work on for the next week are clutched by little fingers, and snatches of "Bye!" "See ya next week," and "Mom, Mom, look what we did!" float back as the door of Bridge Builders closes behind them. The house seems strangely silent as the workers gather random juice cups, take down tables and chairs, and reflect on the evening's events. It has been another full, yet rewarding evening, knowing that life-changing truth from God's Word has been spoken in the lives of young and old alike.

Joy Stouffer

Dan Lundblad,
Founder and Chairman of the Board
Sherry Young,
Clinical Director

Our Vision:

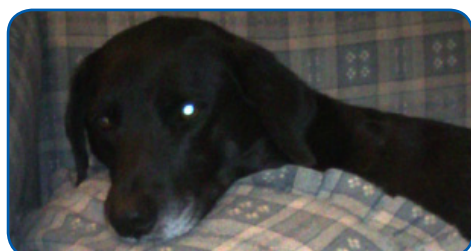
"No one should have to raise a child alone."

www.bridgebuildersinc.org

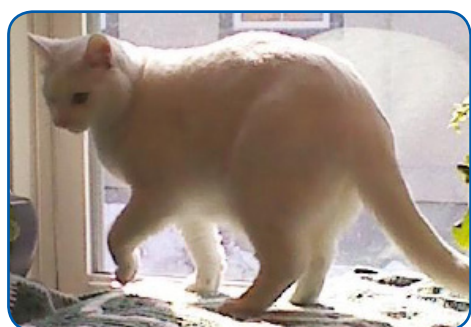


Don't Say a Word

The Bridge Builders counseling rooms are not always sad places to be. Here at BBC&M we have a wonderful Black Lab named Buddy who visits us now and then. He is a dog who knows how to change the mood in the room instantly. Many times our "therapy dog" knows just when to cuddle up, plop down, cover his face with a paw or yawn at just the precise moment. He's changed the mood and lightened a load many times for single parents as well as for their children. And he never says a word!



This counselor can learn from him! Sometimes I want to correct, advise or clarify so bad in a session, I bite my tongue. That's not as important as listening to a client, watching and waiting with a little one, or encouraging them to say more. It's not what's said that's important sometimes. Often I find it's just being present, being patient, and giving unconditional love that brings healing in the midst of a tough confession or a play therapy revelation.



Also a regular in the BBC&M office is our one-eyed cat named Roman. He doesn't take up as much space as Buddy but he has no problem making his presence felt. He has been known to occupy a lap, wrap around the back of a chair and crank

up a purr that can be heard across the street. His one-eye handicap is often a stepping off point for our discussions about loss, his cranky disposition sometimes shows us more about ourselves than we care to reveal and his luxurious stretches remind us to enjoy the moment. And Roman has never said a word.

Our Lord is so very patient with us. He speaks a language of love animals often can convey better than our loved ones can. I wonder if Jesus is reminding us through animals to live in the moment, relax, and never refuse a treat. I'd like our Bridge Builders' parents and their children to learn that. It's not all about pleasure seeking and naps, but it is about acceptance and trust. Buddy and Roman know that. Even when the world is cold and gray our animal friends show us there's probably a sunny window somewhere in the house. And sometimes we don't have to say a word.

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

Black Pants & White Shirt

Recently I was privileged to assist 8 other men who volunteered to serve as waiters at the 24 luncheon tables set up for the women who had registered to attend the LINK, LOCK & LOVE conference on Saturday, February 26th. I've always wanted to wait on tables in a fancy restaurant, and this was a great start to fulfill one of the items on my "bucket list".

QUESTION: What happens when 200 women, who are filled with energy and passion, come together to raise finances for a non-profit ministry?

ANSWER:

- A lot of compassion for low income one-parent families
- A lot of creative power unleashed to make a conference FUN
- Delicious food
- A lot of laughter and tears

as speakers shared their testimonies

- Many unbelievable prizes donated for a drawing at the end of the conference

This was the 2nd annual conference and they were already taking reservations for the 3rd annual conference in 2012. I kept on saying to myself, "Can this event get any better?" I can assure you that if you plan now to attend next February 25th, 2012 you will not be disappointed. The black pants and white shirts will be there again, and this time, we may even require that all men find a black bow tie too!



Ann Penn (Counselor at Bridge Builders, Laura Burrell (Co-Director SONS), & Julie Gutierrez (Mentoring Mom at Bridge Builders)

Our family of financial supporters continues to grow, and oh how necessary this is for this economic crisis we are going through. Thanks to the love of many faithful men and women, we are able to provide professional counseling for an average of \$2 - \$4 per session to moms and dads who raising their children on an average family income of \$12,000 year. Thanks for helping us pass out MANY "cups of cold water" to exhausted and discouraged single parents who we are privileged to serve.

Dan Lundblad, LMSW, LMFT

**Check out
our new
website!**

www.bridgebuildersinc.org

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:
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