



HAVEN HOUSE/BRIDGES, INC.

***PROVIDING HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR
OVER 40 YEARS***

HHB would like to thank our dedicated staff and Board of Directors who serve as the Agency foundation and help to make a difference in the lives of our residents.



Richard Bonanno, Joh H. Ruiss, Kay Posillico, Bruno J. LaSpina, CEO, Mary Beth Griffin, Gary Lomardi

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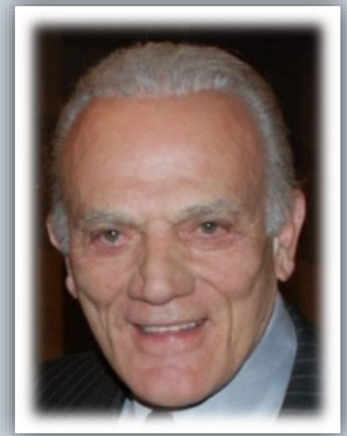
Rebecca Bonanno, PhD,
LCSW Member

Rebecca Bonanno joined the Board of Directors in 2022. Rebecca is an Associate Professor/Mentor at SUNY Empire State College. She brings to the board a strong Social Work background.

Executive Update



Bruno J. LaSpina,
Chief Executive Officer



Haven House/Bridges, Inc. (HHB) has been committed for over 35 years to providing emergency housing shelters to homeless families in Suffolk County, NY. HHB has been fulfilling its mission of helping families increase their independence by assisting them with searching for and securing permanent housing.

Although this year our staff and residents were faced with unexpected challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced it with caution and care. Who would have thought wearing a mask in public, or more importantly, in private would be the hallmark of protecting our personal health and protecting the health and safety of those around us? The demonstration of determination from our Administration and Direct Service staff to protect the residents and those around us has been nothing short of commendable and admirable. Although the threat of COVID-19 has somewhat abated, the many subsequent variants dictate continued caution and care. Through determination and selflessness, staff of our Agency will continue to face the challenges presented by this deadly virus and its subsequent variants. We continue to implement and apply the many protective measures such as ensuring there is a sufficient supply of masks, gloves and disinfectant sprays readily available at all of our homes and office sites. Moving forward into 2022, with the unpredictability of this virus and its variants, our Agency will continue to vigilantly ensure the health and safety of residents and program staff.

Haven House/Bridges (HHB) operates 55 beds within five Emergency Shelters for homeless families who are referred by the Suffolk County Department of Social Services Central Housing Division for admission.

While their reasons for homelessness vary, the families entering HHB's shelters share one thing in common, the need for stable housing.

Support services include 24-hour staff supervision, life skill development assistance and referral services.



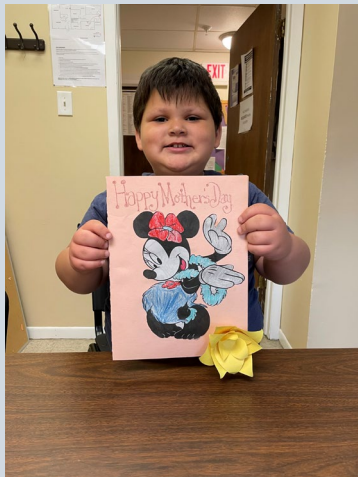
Haven House/Bridges, Inc. Shelter Program

The program assists residents to find permanent housing and develop life skills including:

- Socialization
- Self-Care
- Parenting
- Meal Preparation
- Nutrition
- Money Management
- Apartment Management

Residents also receive instruction in Fire Safety and Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH), Personal Safety Education, Smoking Cessation, Dieting, Exercise, Healthy Eating, Entitlement Education, Vocational Training and Education, and Community Integration.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY HHB'S HIGHLY SKILLED STAFF



HHB PROVIDED **48,801** MEALS TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN 2021

4 FAMILIES SECURED PERMANENT HOUSING

72 Families Received Services
78 Adults **103** Children

ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, WITH INCREASED ONLINE ACCESS AT THE SHELTER SITES.



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the HHB Emergency Shelter staff members continued to work with the residents to ensure their health and safety.



It is with great pleasure that we thank HHB staff for all that they have done, acknowledge their continued effort, and recognize their desire to continue to drive forward the mission of the Agency



SHARING OUR WHY...

Haven House/Bridges, Inc. (HHB) is a 501(c)(3) human service agency, which provides emergency shelter for homeless families and permanent housing with support services for low-income individuals and families with HIV/AIDS in Suffolk County, New York. Our goal is to enable participants to live in the community at the highest level of independence possible.

Interview With A Program Coordinator



Nicole Brown
60/66 Gibbs
Program Coordinator

Q: What led you to originally apply to work for HHB?

A: I have a BSW in Social Work and was originally employed by Project Redirect. When the program closed, I was hired by Haven House/Bridges, Inc. (HHB) to work in one of the houses acquired by HHB. Subsequently I was promoted to the Program Coordinator for the two sites which are housed next door to each other. These two houses serve eight families.

“I have always wanted to work in a field where I was making a difference in childrens’ lives.”

Q: What do you like most about your job? What is the most challenging aspect about your job?

A: I like knowing I am in the position to help others. The challenging part is sometimes the residents are resistant to learning how to find the resources in the community and, at times, the lack of community resources also presents a challenge.

Q: What are you most proud of since you started your employment with HHB?

A: I feel the most pride when I see families who have succeeded in obtaining, and moving into permanent housing.

Q: What advice would you give to new HHB employees?

A: I would tell new employees not to get discouraged when you think you are not making a difference. You are making a difference in the lives of the people who are living in our homes.

Q: What do you do to destress outside of work?

A: My husband and I play video games. I watch true crime shows with my daughter and my family and my best friend go fishing at the beach.

Nicole is a dedicated employee and works to ensure the staff who work in HHB and the residents who live in HHB succeed in their jobs and in their goal of obtaining permanent housing. She is and remains committed to assisting those facing homelessness.

The Haven House/Bridges, Inc.
Frank McCaughey
Emergency Family Shelter Program
Newly renovated with a grant from HHAP



HHB' S Permanent Housing Program:



HHB's Permanent Housing Program provides permanent housing to low income, homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS. The program assists residents to maintain their status in the community while managing the effects of a chronic disease.

This program provides both housing and case management to its residents. Small caseloads ensure that residents receive intensive and individualized support services. Staff provide residents with necessary resources and education on the management of substance abuse, mental/medical health issues; transportation, obtaining childcare; entitlements training; HIV/AIDS education and crisis intervention.

Program Outcomes

In addition to the routine successes the HHB program participants make in completing daily tasks to maintain health, finances, household maintenance and overall well being, many achieved additional accomplishments while residing in our Permanent Housing Program.

- One resident's partner returned to work after being laid off due to COVID-19.
- One resident satisfied her debt and paid program fee arrears.
- Five residents continued to maintain their employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- One resident continues to attend all scheduled medical appointments in order to maintain a chronic health condition.
- One resident developed his assertion skills and is able to confront and discuss issues with his roommate.
- Three residents have continued to maintain their employment during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In addition to resident fees, the Permanent Housing Program receives funding for personnel services and program operations from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) via the New York State Supported Housing Program (NYSSHP) and Operational Support for AIDS Housing (OSAH), respectively.

SHARING THEIR WHY...

“I never thought, in my wildest dreams, I could have imagined living in a permanent house, living independently and enjoying the comforts of a clean and peaceful home and life.”

Mark (a pseudonym) has been living in the Permanent Housing Program since March 4, 2010. Prior to entering the program, Mark resided in the TSLI Summit Supportive Housing Program. Prior to entering Summit, he reported that he had been residing in a crack house.

Mark suffers from memory loss as a result of his extensive substance abuse history, and brain trauma due to a motor vehicle accident. He is currently medication compliant and has not had any recent hospitalizations. Mark manages his depression and anxiety through medication, and attending his therapy and psychiatry appointments. Mark has been sober for 17 years and is active in Narcotics Anonymous.

Mark reports that consistent housing gives him a feeling of safety and constant support. HHB staff have reviewed strategies to reduce his feelings of being overwhelmed.

One of Mark’s recent goals is to obtain his GED through Adult Education; he is currently working online to achieve his math goals.

“The HHB staff have given me the means to stay organized and focused. They have helped me to make changes in my life and continue to strive to make changes.”

HHB Homeless Prevention Program



On October 1st, 2019, the Homeless Prevention Program began assisting Suffolk County individuals and families to remain in or obtain permanent housing. The Homeless Prevention Program entered its third year in October 2021. Eligible Individuals must meet the At-Risk of Homelessness or Homeless criteria and income guidelines.

The Homeless Prevention Program offers rental assistance, financial assistance with securing housing and benefit/entitlement advocacy for participants and is made possible through a grant funded by the NYS OTDA Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP).

Prevention Program Outcomes

In 2021 there were 128 Referrals, including re-referrals.

Participants:

- 23 households participated in 2021; 30 of the individuals served were minors; 32 were 18 and older.
- All the heads of household engaged in case management services.
- 4 households obtained SSA benefits.
- 3 head of households obtained employment.
- 12 households were assisted with maintaining current housing.
- 3 households were assisted to maintain the housing they obtained in 2020.
- 1 household obtained alternative housing out of state.

19 Participants successfully graduated the program!

Of the 19 graduates:

- 12 maintained housing.
- 4 obtained alternative housing.
- 3 dropped contact at their request.

Thank you for your support.

Amcors Cares
Atlantic Floor Covering
Bill & Amy Handwerker
Chase Bank
Craig, Fitzsimmons & Michaels, LLP
CUE Brokerage Corp.
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Pius Family Foundation
PPC
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TSINY
United Veterans Beacon House
Zoom Drain

PROVIDING SERVICES TO OUR RESIDENTS IN COOPERATION WITH & GRANTS AWARDED BY...



WITH OUR THANKS...

Haven House/Bridges, Inc. thanks the following corporations, small businesses, schools, and private citizens for the gifts of their time and thoughtful donations throughout the year.



Home Depot

Through the Home Depot Foundation, the Bay Shore Home Depot crew chose Haven House/Bridges to be the recipient of an Operation Surprise Award.



Pajamas for Peace

The Pajamas for Peace service project, giving back, teaching kindness and promoting peace are the founding principles of their mission.

- CLEAR VISION OPTICAL * HUNTINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT *
GATHERING OF THE LIGHT – HUNTINGTON STATION *
HUNTINGTON STATION LATIN QUARTER * NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE *
SKILLS UNLIMITED – OAKDALE * M & M ANGELS * TEMPLE BETH EL *
• EAST MEADOWS SCHOOL * GATHERING THE LIGHT *

The generosity of the Long Island community enables HHB to continue to provide needed assistance to the residents in our housing programs. We thank you again for your support of HHB's mission and look forward to your continued support.

