

Bridges Ministry

Overview of the Ministry

Welcome to Bridges, a home for women who need assistance with getting their lives stabilized. We created this non-profit organization because we saw a need in our community for a safe place for women to live. Maybe you've tried finding a job, but can't afford to live on your own or maybe you're hurting and want a safe place to live. Whatever your story, we want to help.

Our staff is composed of counselors and volunteers who are ready and willing to help you "get back on your feet". The beauty of this transitional home is, you can stay as long as you want as long as you abide by the house rules. We do encourage residents, parents, families, etc. to donate to our ministry as God blesses them financially.

What You Can Expect

Our ministry is a part of Finger Lakes Christian Fellowship, a church who graciously provided us with our home so we could help women in need. Bridges is a faith-based ministry but it is not required for you to be a Christian/become a Christian while living in our home. Please read, "What if I'm not a Christian?" for more clarification.

When you first move in we don't expect you to be employed – and that's not a problem with us. We believe it's best to use your time of unemployment wisely, so here's an idea of what your day would look like:

8AM: Prepare for day; breakfast

8:45AM: Pick-up by volunteer 1; help at church

12PM: Volunteer 2 pick-up; lunch & clean-up

1-4PM: Volunteer 2 teaches life-skill/volunteer at pre-approved site/job search

4-6:30PM: Volunteer 3 prepare dinner & clean-up

7:30-8:30PM: Counseling homework/Counseling session

8:30PM: Relax/bed

10:30PM: All guests out of house

This schedule is not set in stone and will be different depending on your needs. But you can expect a variation of that schedule.

Counseling at Bridges

We believe the Bible has the answers we need when we encounter hardships, but we also understand not everybody desires biblical counseling. Regardless of whether or not you want to receive biblical counseling you can expect to be counseled on:

- Selflessly serving others
- Forgiveness and repentance
- Budgeting – once you get a job your counselor will work with you to develop a budget plan that fits your lifestyle
- Creating a Individual Service Plan
- Setting up goals to achieve while you're living at Bridges
- Building and maintaining relationships

Please read, “Counseling at Bridges” for more clarification.

Life Skills

While living at Bridges you can expect to learn a variety of life skills:

- Job searching
- Communicating effectively
- Gardening
- Sewing
- Organization skills
- Couponing/shopping
- Cleaning/Sanitation
- Cooking lessons

Volunteers, who have sacrificially given up their time, will lovingly and patiently teach you some or all of these skills. You will also have the opportunity to serve alongside our volunteers at other non-profit organizations, such as the House of Concern.

Costs

We exist because we know there are women in our community who need a safe and affordable home and we don't want the cost to hinder you from moving into our safe home.

Our counseling services are free of charge – you will never pay a cent for your weekly sessions. We do not anticipate you to have a job when you first move into our house and that's okay with us. We will give residents a grace period that extends to two months – meaning you won't pay rent for your first two months if you are without a job.

Once you find a job your counselor will help you create a budget, which will include cost for living at Bridges. Your rent will be dependent on your income – remember, we want to help you save money, not take it.

We do ask that our residents participate in our major fundraising events. Those funds will ensure that we can keep our house running if we want to continue to serve in this way.

Finger Lakes Christian Fellowship

Bridges Ministry exists because of the support from the people at its home church, Finger Lakes Christian Fellowship {FLCF}. It is required for you to attend services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. In the event that you have a different home church, you will still be required to attend FLCF for the first few months you are living at the house. We think it is so important for you to get to know the people who are giving so much to keep our home running.