



Newsletter

Winter 2006

BUILDING BRIDGES

Here we are in February 2006. Bridges of Long Island continues to move forward making tremendous changes in the lives of so many on Long Island. Not only in our communities, but in our families as well. Paul Ammendola has come aboard as Associate Director and Anthony Catarelli is The Bridge House Manager as we continue to move into the future. Our clients are not "Strangers"; they are fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, relatives and friends. There is still a great need to reach more of the Least, the Lost and the Lonely and there are many battles ahead, but BLI is now on the lips of every Judge on Long Island. We have become the present and future of Transitional Rehabilitation Services in just two short years, with the goal of ending revolving door jail systems and their tremendous financial burden on Long Island tax payers. Our goal is to stop this cyclical epidemic and begin to create new life after addiction — PERMANENTLY!!! We thank all of you for your tremendous prayer and support. Without your help, we wouldn't have made it this far and could not continue further. It has required a strong, committed and determined group of people to see this work through. But with God, all things are possible. Please take some time out of your busy schedule to reflect on the important and necessary work of Bridges. If you would search your heart and commit to sponsor a room, a bed, 'bridge the gap' or make a consistent donation to help Bridges continue to grow and meet our current budgetary needs, we would be blessed. We are always honored by your help in mending broken lives. Below you will find a commitment/donation card. Please cut it out, fill it out and mail it back. If you decide to make a consistent commitment we will send you further documentation within 10 days. If you know others in the private or corporate world who would like to contribute and get involved please pass on our information. Now that we are reaching from eastern to western Long Island, we will need to continue building bridge houses. Please consider becoming a consistent giver to the vision of a better Long Island, because without your help it would be impossible. Many blessings to all of the wonderful people we at Bridges forever call family. Blessings, Dn. Brett Crompton

Many of you are aware of the tremendous generosity of Bishop Frank Costantino, President of Bridges of America. It was his support which made our first transitional house a possibility and the house is dedicated to his name. It is the work of this faithful man that was the inspiration for Bridges of Long Island and we ask that you join us in prayer for Bishop Frank's current health situation.



**Bp. Frank Costantino House
Freeport, Long Island, NY**

Special points of interest in 2006:

- 4th Annual Bridges of Long Island Golf Classic Monday- June 12th
- 1st Annual Bridges of Long Motorcycle Run
- 2nd Annual BLI Dinner Cruise
- 2nd Annual BLI Christmas Dinner
- Volunteers Needed for Office and fundraising events
- Specific Donations needed: Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Roofers, Landscapers, Building Materials, Linens, Dressers & Beds



Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsor a Room for 12 months \$3600 Per Year \$300 Monthly	Sponsor a Bed for 12 months \$2400 Per Year \$200 Monthly	Bridging the Gap for 12 months \$1200 Per Year \$100 Monthly	General Bridges Support \$75, \$50 or \$25	Other Donation
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Amount of Donation: \$ _____, per year _____, per month _____ (or) one time _____

Make Checks Payable to: Bridges of Long Island 290 South Ocean Avenue Freeport, NY 11520

Or use Paypal via www.bridgesoflongisland.org, (516) 608-9975, Donations are Tax Deductible

Changed Lives at the Bridge

Dane Donovan

By Paul Ammendola



Dane Donovan, 20 years old, came to us on September 7, 2005 from the Nassau County Correctional Center's DART Program. Dane was struggling intensely with Heroin addiction and a long family history of drug abuse and severe depression. He didn't know how or where to turn to get away from the dark cloud of his past and it followed him daily. When he first came into the Bridges of Long Island Transitional Program he was depressed and had a negative attitude, finding it very difficult to share the things he needed to share in order to recover from his addictive past. He took his recovery very seriously and aggressively went into intense outpatient treatment, attended AA meetings twice a week, Bible study and Group therapy. Dane has also dedicated himself religiously to the Overcomer's Group (a twelve step program from a biblical

perspective) that meets every Monday night at the Church of the Intercessor in Malverne. The Group, which is headed up eloquently and dynamically by Eddie Pirro, was one of the keys to his recovery. There Dane discovered that he was powerless over his addiction and the only way he was going to recover was to give it over to God. As Eddie Pirro put it, "He had to fire the manager and hire a new one". Dane did this and slowly began to develop relationships with the other men in the house and with those of us at Bridges. Under Deacon Brett's fine leadership and encouragement; He, Myself and Anthony Catarelli, our house manager would meet with Dane and lead him through difficult times. Dane attended The Church's Men's and Overcomer's retreats; He believes both were key life changing moments in his process of recovery. He even chose to be baptized at the 2005 Men's Retreat by Bishop Craig Bates. Quite an emotional moment we all had the honor of witnessing.

Well my friends here is some "Good News" that you won't hear on television or read in the newspaper!!!!

Dane just recently celebrated a year clean and sober. He has a positive attitude and has begun speaking at meetings about his recovery. He is beginning to give back to

others like him, in need. He has become a strong positive force in the house. After 6 months in the program, taking one day at a time, he now has a brighter outlook on his future and is graduating up in counseling. He will be attending Nassau Community College in the fall as well as joining the Church of the Intercessor's Drama Ministry. He stated that "The key to my growth was getting honest with myself while going through the 12 steps, really getting to the root of my past pains and then uprooting them. Only through building a strong, deep relationship with God and others have I been able to do that. I want to plant both my feet into the Church, give back and continue to walk out God's plan and purpose for my life, Thank God for Bridges of Long Island". I can personally attest that Dane is a smart and talented young man with tremendous potential and the ability to do anything. I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know him and am looking forward to seeing him go to school, find his gifting and become the man God intended him to be.

My friends, this is the very reason we do the work we do at Bridges of Long Island and must continue, because one life saved, one sheep recovered from the grips of the addictive wolf is absolutely, eternally priceless. Thank you for your time and support. God Bless you!

Mailing Address Line 1
 Mailing Address Line 2
 Mailing Address Line 3
 Mailing Address Line 4

www.bridgesoflongisland.org
 We are on the Web

Creating Life After Addiction

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