

The Bridge House Program offers “keys to success”



The healing journey to a safe home begins here.



SafeNet

Domestic Violence Safety Network

Erie’s only accredited domestic violence program.

A member of the
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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**SafeNet Programs: Counseling, Education,
Legal Advocacy, Hospitality House
Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing
& Early Links to Safety**

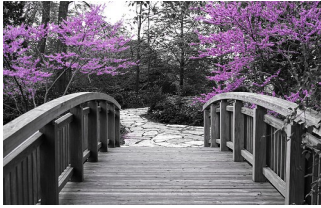


SafeNet's Bridge House Program



For
Women and Children

Bridging the Gap



The Bridge House Program was established in 1986 to provide safe and affordable transitional housing for women who had become homeless due to domestic violence.

Today, the commitment to offering a supportive living environment, designed to empower women and children as they rebuild their lives, is the foundation of the Bridge House Program philosophy.

Meeting the Need

Fully-furnished apartments provide residents with the privacy and comfort of a secure home base. During her residency each woman has the unique opportunity to reside in a nurturing atmosphere as she strives to achieve a self-sufficient lifestyle. Staff and peer support help to ease the transition from a dependent situation to a life of emotional and economic stability. Family relationships are strengthened as positive patterns of communication develop in a safe setting.



Breaking the Cycle

Participation in ongoing educational programming enables residents to improve self-esteem and gain a renewed sense of purpose. As women and children recover from the effects of their involvement in family violence, services which promote empowerment and wellness enhance the healing process. The following resources are available on-site for Bridge Housing residents:

- ◆ Individual counseling
- ◆ Support groups
- ◆ Case management
- ◆ Referrals
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Supportive listening
- ◆ Domestic violence education
- ◆ Legal options counseling
- ◆ Parenting classes
- ◆ Life skills instruction
- ◆ Personal growth workshops
- ◆ Tutoring
- ◆ Craft classes
- ◆ Recreational activities
- ◆ Vocational guidance
- ◆ Housing search assistance
- ◆ Follow-up services



Confronting the Challenges



Trained staff members assist residents with goal planning and management of the demands posed by single-parenting. Increased awareness of available options and self-help techniques fosters personal development and healthy relationships.

Eligibility



- ◆ Women residing in Erie County who are homeless due to their involvement in abusive relationships may apply for Bridge Housing.
- ◆ Applicants must demonstrate motivation to actively pursue their goals and to follow residential program guidelines.
- ◆ Candidates should also have an established income and be willing to assume financial responsibility for payment of the monthly service fee.

The Bridge House Program

For additional information concerning the program application process, and volunteer opportunities please contact Bridge House staff at 455-1774 ext. 275