



Bridges to You

DECEMBER 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- In Darkness Comes the Light
- Fishers of Men
- Pictures of Repaired Ceilings
- Support The Bridge House for Free
- NEW ONLINE GIVING TOOL

In Darkness Comes the Light

December is the darkest month of the year. Winter solstice, the darkest day of the year, arrives this year on December 21.

As if to offset this, many faiths celebrate light.

Many festivals of light come during this month. Menorahs will be lit, Christmas trees will be adorned with diverse lights. Candles will hang in windows, and houses and buildings will be lit up.

It is a time of greatest hope. This once-a-year celebration of the same old songs mingled with a few new ones accents the joy and altruistic feelings many express.

That is the work we are involved in at The Bridge House all year round. Men come to us in their darkest hour. After years of

addiction which has exiled our men from friends, family, work, church, and society, they come with a sliver of hope for positive change. We endeavor for that sliver to grow into real change and a robust new life.

As a Christian, I believe that In Him (Jesus Christ) was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. John 1:4

Thank you for your support, prayers, and gifts which have been used to help so many

struggling with drugs and alcohol. Your help spreads the light.

May God bless each of you this holiday season.

Dave

By the way, if you want to donate, our website receives money online.

See Back Page!



Fishers of Men

What does it mean to be fishers of men? Remember the good thief. To the last minute, Christ searched for lost souls.

At its best, the simple goodness of a warm home, bedding, and meals coupled with caring friendly counselors makes the Bridge House a heavenly kingdom for men accustomed to harsh

street life, cut throat drug dealers, and trading bedding and food for a fix. In a system engineered to lift a man through detox, counseling and transitional service support to give him 30 days of sober footing before he enters the Bridge House – *on one level the men come to us.*

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Fishing of Men—(continued)

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Arrival is another level. Here we can find a man whose potty mouth would make a platoon Sargent blush, and that's just when he is saying "Good #S% morning." He may present with some unattended mental and/or physical problems. One man showed up with a broken foot. Today, having graduated over a year ago, that same man walks in our doors regularly to share his story of success. Most men have no particular religious schooling and/or they may (or may not) have a god or gods they believe in. Others, out of insecurity, will quote scripture and make professions. Hearing we are a Christian program – they want to please us. Sadly, in truth they are worried that otherwise they might have to go back to the street. It takes time for love and care

to calm down their survival instincts and allow a deeper honesty of faith about to emerge.

We do not proselytize. Meeting men where they are, we expose them to Christian love and caring by exemplifying manners (no swearing) and introducing spiritual support (including prayer) before meals. Visiting Church friends (of varying denominations), at times linger after dinner to hang out with those who want to spend time with Church people. Everyone is free to come and go as they please. We respect differences of faith, but do not hide our own belief under a basket.

For men who embrace or want to learn more about Christian faith, we offer an open weekly Bible study. Some weeks none show up. Other weeks we may

have as many as four residents attend. Yet, there is always a movement of the Holy Spirit throughout the Bridge House. Right now, a couple of our residents (who do not attend our weekly Bible study) attend a prayer group at a former resident's apartment.

What does it mean to be fishers of men? For one, it means to not throw them back when they arrive foul-mouthed and broken. It means to let the Holy Spirit lead. And remember the good thief. Some things take time – even to the last minute.

God Bless you for caring,

Tim P on Behalf of

*The Staff of the
Bridge House*

Pictures of the Repaired “Fix-the-Leaks” Offices

Now that we have had the big snow storm and a couple of rains before that, the verdict is in. The repairs to fix the roof and subsequent remodel of the two offices have not seen any leaks and look better than before. Thank you!!



Support the Bridge House for Free

There are a number of quick and easy ways to give to the Bridge House without actually sending in a check to the ministry.

If you use the internet and a search engine or if you shop on the internet here is how to do it:

Raise money for New England Aftercare Ministries just by searching the Internet or shopping with www.GoodSearch.com (powered by Yahoo), or shopping online with www.GoodShop.com or

shopping online at Smile Amazon at : <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Just choose New England Aftercare Ministries as the benefactor.

Click on either or both websites to set up your toolbar to search the web and support us at the same time!

Thanks for thinking of us and raising money to help people in recovery from substance abuse disorders!



THE BRIDGE HOUSE

A Ministry of New England Aftercare Ministries

18 Summit St.

Framingham, MA 01702

www.thebridgehouse.org

Admissions/ intake: 508-872-6194 ext. 105

dave@thebridgehouse.org

Help is at hand:

Emergency Assistance: 911

State of Massachusetts Addiction Helpline:

1-800-327-5050

Support for Care Givers:

Learn to Cope: learn2cope.org

Allies In Recovery: alliesinrecovery.net

The Bridge House has been serving adult men with substance abuse problems for nearly 30 years. As a state-licensed residential home The Bridge House brings dedicated staff to serve the men.

New England Aftercare Ministries, as a faith-based Christian entity the mission is to:

PROVIDE A MEANS FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST TO OFFER RECONCILIATION TO GOD AND TO SOCIETY FOR PERSONS WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS;

PROVIDE A STRUCTURED, LOVING ENVIRONMENT, BY WHICH THOSE WHO ARE SINCERELY MOTIVATED MIGHT SUCCESSFULLY REENTER SOCIETY;

AID IN BUILDING INTIMATE AND SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHURCHES AND RESIDENTS IN THE PROGRAM;

MINISTER TO THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM;

BE A GOOD WITNESS TO THE LOVE AND POWER OF GOD IN THE COMMUNITY;

ESTABLISH A CENTER OR CENTERS IN WHICH THIS WORK CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.



*Reconciliation
to God and Society.*



New Online Giving Tool for End-of-Year Giving!

We have a new donation tab on our website, if you want to donate electronically you may

1. Go to www.thebridgehouse.org
2. Click on the Donate or Donate Now Button
3. Select whether you want to make a donation one time or be a regular monthly donor.
4. Fill out the payment information
5. Select the donate button

Thank You!

Thank you for your support !!