

## **Minutes from 2020 Meetings**

January 8, 2020

May 13, 2020

July 8, 2020

September 9, 2020

November 11, 2020

*Bridging the Community* was held on January 08, 2020 at YoungMoms Communities, 111 Marshall St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thirty-six spirited community members attended the 129th Bridging meeting on a chilly, windy January night.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at Friends Home, 147 West State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Phone: 610-444-8785**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com) or there is a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Joan Holliday invited a moment of silence for world peace.

Jeanne Searer shared Bridging's Framework and Joan Holliday shared the Guiding Principles. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) & [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy/spirit - *peaceful, progressive, inclusivity*.** "Bridging" promotes this living philosophy for each and every day.

**Vision:** Kennett Square: Every day a better place to grow up in and grow old in

**Guiding Principles:**

**We will come from the heart---not an obligation**

**We will work for community---not personal agendas**

**We will focus on the potential side---not the issue side**

**We will keep it a process---not a program with infrastructure**

**We will value each person's contribution, as each has a role to play--not focused on hierarchy**

Linda Mercner (ED of YoungMoms) told us that they moved to the current location in April 2019. Their Mission: YoungMoms inspires and equips young moms to build thriving futures for themselves and their families. They provide supportive services to pregnant and parenting young women ages 21 and younger who live in Southern Chester County, PA. They provide a comprehensive support program that empowers young women to complete their goals of education, obtaining vocational training, becoming financially secure, and achieving goals that improve their lives and lives of their children. They have Club Night once a month in Kennett and in Oxford. They also have a mentoring program. At Club Night they need volunteers to provide meals, child care and transportation. They also have a mentoring program, which matches a mentor volunteer with a young Mom. Email: [linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.com)

Dave Haradon facilitated the meeting and asked each of us to think about the vision we had for 2020 as we were sharing. Email: [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**New Attendees introduced themselves:**

Kate Martin (The Garage Youth Center) told us that she is the Development Director. The Garage is an after-school program that helps middle and high school students develop relationally, spiritually and academically. They are looking for intern opportunities with agencies/businesses that will help students receive hands-on experience. Through the Compass program, they pay the salary of the student. They need volunteers at the Center and tutor volunteers. Email: [Kate.martin@garageyouthcenter.org](mailto:Kate.martin@garageyouthcenter.org)

Betsy Bryant (Friends Home) told us that she is the Program/Activities Director. She plans activities for the community life at Friends, which has independent, personal care and skilled nursing care. Volunteers are invited to visit and join in the fun of engaging the wise seniors. Email: [bbryant@fhKennett.org](mailto:bbryant@fhKennett.org)

**Christine McDonald** (ED Friends Home) told us that they would be open to having student interns from The Garage Youth Center and they also have a kitchen that residents can bake, so maybe could bake for events. Email: [CMcDonald@fhkennett.org](mailto:CMcDonald@fhkennett.org)

**Alexa Hart** (Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) told us that she develops public educational programs and field trips. They have 318 acres. She has forms to pass out for summer camp scholarships and also is looking for Junior Counselors. BRCA offers a variety of scouting programs. Alexa even developed a pre-school Mud Kitchen for children to get out in nature. Email: [ahart@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:ahart@brandywineredclay.org)

**Brian Weisenberger** (Kennett) told us that he and his wife Alicia recently moved to Kennett. They previously lived in Germany for three years. He works at GP Morgan Chase with cyber security and **Alicia Weisenberger** is a photographer. They are looking for ways to volunteer and become involved in the community. Email: [thewisefamily4@gmail.com](mailto:thewisefamily4@gmail.com)

**Denise Michel** (CCIU) told us that she works on Family Engagement through the Early Learning Resource Center. She helps families with resources and programs. They have an office at the Pennock Bridge Campus in Jennersville and a person available once a week. Email: [denisemi@cciu.org](mailto:denisemi@cciu.org)

**Julia Smagorinsky** (Community) told us that she has a vision to create a permaculture agriculture cooperative, helping the community access healthy food. Email: [Julia\\_kolanosta@yahoo.com](mailto:Julia_kolanosta@yahoo.com)  
Also, you may contact her friend, **Rev. Carin Bonifacio** [summersun33@verizon.net](mailto:summersun33@verizon.net)

**Nancy Peffer** (Community) told us that she recently has retired and wants to find a way to make a difference in the community.

**Jean Burke** (Community) told us that she is a YoungMoms' mentor and although she went into the experience to make a difference in someone else's life, the mentee has made a difference in her life. She promotes YoungMoms and the opportunity to mentor. Email: [jeanburke214@gmail.com](mailto:jeanburke214@gmail.com)

#### **Other attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and requests:**

**Dr. Laura Gonzalez** (Community) told us that she is now offering Holistic Health Coaching for women, especially the vulnerable. She does individual counseling and does group workshops. She promotes healthy sleep and eating mindfully and has gifts of CDs she gives at the first visit.  
Email: [guzlzl@gmail.com](mailto:guzlzl@gmail.com)

**Esther Rochester** told us that her father, Charlie Johnson passed away two months ago. She misses him. She also turned 50 years old and her daughter gave her a surprise birthday party. She enjoys helping the community.

**Doris Rochester** told us that she works at Fran's Diner in town from 6am to noon three days a week. She likes to keep busy.

**Claudia Turner** (Pathstone) told us that she is the Education Coordinator at the McFarland site, which is being remodeled. They have 2 Pre-K Counts classrooms, Migrant Headstart, Supplemental Headstart, a Migrant Daycare and now they have 20 slots for infants to 3 years old. Looking for referrals. They also welcome volunteers. Email: [cturner@pathstone.org](mailto:cturner@pathstone.org)

**Lauren Piotrowski** (Family Services) located in West Chester. Has counseling services along with other family programs. She is the ZOOM Transportation Coordinator and is looking for ideas of how to recruit

more volunteers for drivers to medical appointments. The sign-up is on line and volunteers may choose the best times to help; it is all flexible. Email: [lpiotrowski@familyservice.us](mailto:lpiotrowski@familyservice.us)

**Joan Holliday** (Community) told us that the Kindergarten Readiness Project has been going well these past two years with many partners joining to have a collective impact on helping families prepare their child for school. This year they will be exploring programs and community processes that will help families get out in nature with their preschoolers. There will be a meeting at Mary D Lang Kindergarten Center, 409 Center St., Kennett on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 from 4pm to 5:15pm. Anyone with ideas of how to help this effort is welcome to attend. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

**Dr. Antoinette Gomez** (Harmony Counseling Services) is a Marriage and Family Counselor and also for Victims of Crimes or Domestic Abuse. She is a Play Therapist for children, who have experienced trauma or behavioral issues. She has evening hours and is bi-lingual. Offices in Lincoln University and in Kennett. Phone: 484-746-3112. Email: [harmonycounseling709@gmail.com](mailto:harmonycounseling709@gmail.com)

**Keith Smithyman** (Community) told us that he is still repairing old campers/ RVs for the homeless. He has found a Camp Park at the border of Chester County near Octorara that will accept the campers during the winter and then they are considered campers in the summer. Always in need of finding more old campers/RVs and materials. Email: [Keithsmithman@gmail.com](mailto:Keithsmithman@gmail.com)

**Jeanne Searer** (Casa Guanajuato) told us that Cinco de Mayo will take place the first Sunday in May. They also are looking at ways to expand the Senorita Event to include the boys as contestants. She also told us that the American Legion will hold a fundraiser line dance on 6/7/2020 from 1 to 4:30pm. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Kelly Quant** (Wings for Success) told us that they have their new site in the New Garden Shopping Center. Come visit and tour the site. They provide apparel, advice and advocacy for employment and internships. Clothes may be donated by calling ahead of time at--610-444-1446. *Managing Your Mindset Workshop*. This will take place on Thursday, January 16 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM and pre-registration is required: <https://wingsforsuccess.org/events/workshops/> They are looking for Spanish speaking volunteers. The Flash will host a fundraiser on 2/13/2020 with Better Than Bacon Improv Group. Please come and enjoy the fun and help Wings for Success. Email: [kelly@wingsforsuccess.org](mailto:kelly@wingsforsuccess.org)

**Lea Gummey** ((Land Conservancy of SCC) told us that their mission is the perpetual preservation & stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands in SCC. They currently have 2,000 acres preserved. (Web site: [www.tlcforscc.org](http://www.tlcforscc.org)) They have programs for all age groups and encourage people to bring groups to their events. For more information contact Lea Gummey at: [education@tlcforscc.org](mailto:education@tlcforscc.org)

**Amanda Blevins** (LCH) told us that she is their Community Engagement person. They provide health care, dental care, social services and GED and ESL classes. They now have a pediatric office in West Grove with two pediatricians. They also have started support groups for prenatal clients, who are expecting their baby at the same time to build relationships and support. Come visit the sites. Volunteers welcome. Email: [ablevins@lchps.org](mailto:ablevins@lchps.org)

**Jessie Cocks** (Community) told us about the Hadley Season Events, which are free to all community members. They support and promote the MLK Breakfast on 1/20/2020; BURNT SUGAR, The Arkestra Chamber Performance will be at The Kennett Flash on 1/24/2020 and at The Garage earlier that day; THE LAST STONE, a conversation with Mark Boden, author of Black Hawk Down will be at Kennett Friends Meeting on 2/16/2020; and IMITABLE WINSTON CHURCHILL, Lecture by Professor Elliott Engle on 3/22/2020. Email: [jessiecocks@gmail.com](mailto:jessiecocks@gmail.com)

**Cathy Brison** (MLK Advocates) told us about the MLK CommUNITY Breakfast to be held on 1/20/2020 from 8am to 10am at the Red Clay Room. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Harold D. Trulear, National Director Healing Communities. Theme: "Building a Beloved Community in the Face of Adversity." There also will be a community choir. Tickets \$25. Call 610-444-6020 x108. She has tickets to sell. Email: [Cabrisonmm@aol.com](mailto:Cabrisonmm@aol.com) Online purchases visit: [www.MLKCommUNITY.org](http://www.MLKCommUNITY.org)

**Karen D'Agusto** (Girl Scouts) told us that she helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver (80hrs) or gold (100hrs) medals. Ideas for projects are always welcome. She also works with the new organization, Youth Community Forward, which provides Rights Cards to protect against profiling. Finally, she is encouraging community members to sign a petition to return the right to a driver's license to all families in PA, even the undocumented. The right to mobility, to move freely, is inscribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Petitions can be brought to CATA, 220 Birch St., Kennett Square. They have a small emergency fund for legal needs and work with other agencies on this. Karen's email: [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com)

**Ron Turner** told us about *Listening Through Differences* started by Grayfred Gray, who introduced the idea last March at a Bridging the Community meeting. They started a group and will continue with their process after being encouraged by the response of one person they listened to that had opposite political views as the group. Please let Gray know if you would like to join this effort. Email: [g.b.gray1956@gmail.com](mailto:g.b.gray1956@gmail.com)

**The group then mingled and "bridged." Following are the "bridges" that were shared:**

- Cathy Brison "bridged" with Linda Mercner about Mitchell Brison preparing a meal for Club Night for YoungMoms. She also sold MLK Breakfast tickets to several attendees.
- Marcy Trubey (ELRS) who provides support to child care providers received the promise of donated children's books from one of the attendees. She also takes information given at Bridging meetings to the providers.
- Joan Holliday "bridged" with Denise Michel and Lea Gummey about attending the Kindergarten Readiness meeting on 1/15/2020. She also "bridged" with Keith Smithyman about meeting with KACs new director about his restored campers for the homeless men in the area.
- Karen D'Agusto "bridged" with Brian Weisenberger about him offering an opportunity around cyber security for a Girl Scouts Gold award. She "bridged" with Lea Gummey about programs for the Girl Scouts and received 3 signatures for the petition around driver's licenses.
- Bridget Hahn from Maternal Child Health Consortium "bridged" with Dave Haradon about helping as a counselor with the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy. Dave will send her more information.
- Linda Mercner "bridged" with Dr. Antoinette Gomez about her services for YoungMoms and Dr. Laura Gonzalez about her coaching services.
- Christine McDonald "bridged" with Claudia Turner about a resident at Friends Home, who taught Montessori with the idea of having her visit the Pathstone Center. She "bridged" with Dr. Antoinette Gomez about accessing her counseling services for her residents. She "bridged" with Kate Martin about Friends Home residents baking goodies for The Garage youth.
- Julia Smagorinsky "bridged" with Laura Gonzalez about working together on the community gardens.
- Kelly Quant "bridged" with Linda Mercner about providing dresses/outfits for YoungMoms for Valentine's Day.

- Lauren Piotrowski “bridged” with Dave Haradon around the Longwood Rotary helping recruit drivers for ZOOM. She “bridged” with Joan Holliday about ideas for her three children to volunteer on MLK Day of Service and also about attending the next SCC Opportunity Network meeting to work with the Transportation group.
- Lea Gummey “bridged” with Nancy Peffer about volunteering at the SCC Land Conservancy. She also “bridged” with Alicia Weisenberger about engaging her photography at the Center.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Lea Gummey about the Outdoor Concert Series taking place at the SCC Land Conservancy, as Anson B Nixon Park is taking a year off.
- Grayfred Gray “bridged” with Joan Holliday who offered to continue to help set-up meetings for the *Listening Through Differences* project.

*Bridging the Community* was held as a zoom meeting on May 13, 2020 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We were scheduled to meet at Wings for Success, New Garden Shopping Center, 345 Scarlet Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348, so we had a virtual tour of the site. This was our 130<sup>th</sup> meeting with 50 attendees adapting to a new form of communing.

(We cancelled March 11, 2020 meeting due to COVID-19 which was scheduled at Friends Home, and the first meeting cancelled since *Bridging* began in 1998.)

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St, Kennett Square if possible for our annual picnic. If not permitted—then, a zoom meeting.**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com) or there will be a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library when it opens again. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community. (Until we have quarantine requirements lifted, we will continue to showcase a new site on each zoom meeting.)

**Dave Haradon** welcomed everyone and provided a 101 tutorial around mute buttons and process for a zoom meeting. He then led us in a moment of silence for healing from the COVID-19 pandemic. Email: [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**Joan Holliday** shared *Bridging's* Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) & [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

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**Kelly Quant** from Wings for Success provided a virtual tour of the new site at 345 Scarlet Rd. She told us that they provide apparel, advice and advocacy. During this time, they are donating medical scrubs for health care workers. They accept used clothing donations, but at this time they need financial donations. They will have a fundraiser, Wine & Wings on Thursday, 5/14/2020 from 6:45 pm to 7:30 PM on Facebook for their virtual event! **You do not need a Facebook account to participate. Link with details:**

<https://wingsforsuccess.org/events/wine-with-wings-2020/www.sccnetwork.org/community-resources>. Check on the website to see if they will be open the first Saturday of June for general donations. They also provide workshops online in preparation for job readiness. **Email:** [kelly@wingsforsuccess.org](mailto:kelly@wingsforsuccess.org)

**Kate Daneker (Kennett Square Roots)** told us that she has been facilitating Southern Chester County Opportunity Network zoom meetings every Thursday from 8am to 9:15am to help provide a unified network around providing social services during COVID-19 during the past 8 weeks. The web site provides a complete update of who, where and what is being donated and needs for donations. See: [www.sccnetwork.org/community-resources](http://www.sccnetwork.org/community-resources) Kate also will post any of your information on the site related to social services. Email: [kdaneker@ksroots.com](mailto:kdaneker@ksroots.com)

### **Attendees Were Invited To:**

**1) Present a need; 2) Provide information about a resource; or 3) Tell a story of “miraculous mushrooming of care.” 4) Share a concern or new idea**

**Sarah Whitesel** (Friend of Kate Daneker) is re-entering the job market after graduating with her Masters in ESL. She has an extensive background in adult education and is looking for an opportunity in the ESL/workforce instruction. Email: [swhitnun@udel.edu](mailto:swhitnun@udel.edu) or [esswhitesel@gmail.com](mailto:esswhitesel@gmail.com)

**Karen D’Agusto** (Girl Scouts) told us that she helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver or gold medals and that there has been a “miraculous mushrooming of care from the Scouts). During this time over 40 Troops and 500 girls provided Girl Scout cookies for Operation Drop (To overseas service persons.); cookies to the local essential workers and 4,000 masks for local Dupont Hospital and Pocopson Home and others. They also are writing letters to Extended Care residents, Friends Home and Shut-ins and delivering them along with paper flowers. Girls from 5years to 17 years are involved. Email: [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com)

**Kate Martin** (The Garage Youth Center) told us that she is the Development Director. The Garage is an after-school program that helps middle and high school students develop relationally, spiritually and academically. They have provided over 850 boxes of essential household supplies needed during this time at no cost and served over 500 families in the broader community. They also are providing their mentoring and tutoring services online. Email: [Kate.martin@garageyouthcenter.org](mailto:Kate.martin@garageyouthcenter.org)

**Brett Dolente** (League of Women Voters)

Things for all voters to know [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) can show you the candidates on your ballot.

[votes.com](http://votes.com) check your registration , apply for mail in voting

[chesco.org](http://chesco.org) also provides sample ballots at polling location information

Anyone can reach me at: [brettdolente@gmail.com](mailto:brettdolente@gmail.com) or 610-960-2759 with any voting questions

**Rev. Marvin T Williams** (Pastor of 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church) told us that they are hoping to have their Mother’s Day event in August. They have a person celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He explains that it is difficult to not meet in person and have the church community supporting each other. He provides virtual services. Email: [drwilliams9812@gmail.com](mailto:drwilliams9812@gmail.com)

**Cecilia Arce** (CCMCHC/The Family Center) told us that they are dropping off items at their 100 family’s homes and are giving education online. They also provide help with applying for food stamps, signing-up and renewing for health insurance. They are open to providing support to the broader community with these services. Call: 610-344-5370. Email: [carce@ccmchc.org](mailto:carce@ccmchc.org)

**Liliana Guzman** (CCMCHC) was thanked by Joan Holliday for organizing and executing the gardening project for preschoolers with seedlings and supplies provided by the Chester County Food Bank. Liliana is working with the Kindergarten Readiness Project/Nature is Our Teacher. Email: [lguzman@ccmchc.org](mailto:lguzman@ccmchc.org)

**Beverly Bach** (Community) wanted to recognize and thank the teachers, who are being asked to work online. She is a volunteer at Greenwood Elementary and is aware of the many different levels of learners that need to be addressed. She encouraged us to write them a note of thanks. Email: [beverlyb123@verizon.net](mailto:beverlyb123@verizon.net)

**Annalie Korengel** (Pastor of Unionville Presbyterian Church) told us that she has virtual services and attends the weekly SCCON meetings to help her parishioners learn about donation and volunteer opportunities. She is also Chaplain for the Kennett Police and SCC this week is National Fallen Officer Memorial Week, so there are several online services and efforts to recognize. Email: [lorgusfamily@verizon.net](mailto:lorgusfamily@verizon.net)

**Dr. Antoinette Gomez** (Family Promise of SCC) Homeless Prevention and Move-In Assistance Program Family Promise National two-year program, applies to rental assistance, either for prevention (unpaid rent) or for moving in (rent security deposit). It does not cover utility bills (either unpaid or deposits). Applications can be requested by calling our office at 610-444-0400. An application will be emailed to you. I am the case manager and can answer questions about the program by email or arrange by email at time for a call to agencies with potential referrals or actual clients. I am working remotely as we shelter in place due to the Coronavirus. Applications in Spanish will be distributed after April 13th. You can be placed on the list to receive one by email once we have released the translated application. Email: [agomez@familypromisescc.org](mailto:agomez@familypromisescc.org) Phone: 720-495-9282

**Lynn Cohen** (Senior Recruiter American Red Cross) There is a great need for blood donations and Lynn is encouraging the SCC to continue to offer a 2,500 to 3,000 square feet space for a drive. Looking for volunteers for temp taking and Greeters. There will be a drive on Sunday, 7/7/2020 at Assumption B.V.M. Church if anyone wants to donate. Also, St. Cornelius, Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA on 5/28//2020. Email: [lynn.cohen@redcross.org](mailto:lynn.cohen@redcross.org)

**Grayfred Gray** (Kendal) encouraged us during this time of isolation to remember the persons in mental health facilities and also prisons. He provided the following as some areas to make contact to learn of how to provide letter support:

- Mental Health Partnerships (formerly MHA of Southeastern PA), 215-751-1800 , 1211 Chestnut St., Suite 1100, Philadelphia, PA 19107; [mhp-org.squarespace.com](http://mhp-org.squarespace.com); Michael "Mike" Brody, Pres., CEO.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness NAMI
- Chester County NAMI chapter: 484-947-5643, [namichesco@comcast.net](mailto:namichesco@comcast.net), 825 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380
- PA Prison Society. Chester County Prison contact is: Doris Halley.

Grayfred Gray also told us about Google Meet, which is designed to lead one to use components of the G Suite Service, which is free until 10/01/2020. It can accommodate larger groups and for longer periods of time.

[https://support.google.com/meet/answer/9545619?hl=en&ref\\_topic=7306097](https://support.google.com/meet/answer/9545619?hl=en&ref_topic=7306097) Email: [g.b.gray1956@gmail.com](mailto:g.b.gray1956@gmail.com)

**Ann Barr** (Open Hearth) provides online services for those looking for employment. She is a Work Force Navigator. Email: [abarr@openhearthisc.org](mailto:abarr@openhearthisc.org)

**Jeanne Searer** (American Legion Women's Auxiliary) told us that the Line Dancing fundraiser's date that was planned is being changed. TBA. Remember our veterans with letters and phone calls. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Amanda Blevins** (LCH) told us that she is their Community Engagement person. They provide health care, dental care, social services and GED and ESL classes. They now have a pediatric office in West Grove with two pediatricians. They also have started support groups for prenatal clients, who are expecting their baby at the same time to build relationships and support. Come visit the sites. LCH is working with Latino population to educate around COVID-19 precautions; masks, distancing and testing clients for COVID-10 with respiratory symptoms. They also help with employment search. Volunteers welcome. Email: [ablevins@lchps.org](mailto:ablevins@lchps.org)

**Lara Herman**, (Lead Respite Coordinator at Child and Family Focus) is a local children's mental health agency. Child and Family Focus is still providing mental health services through tele-health, in case any of you know of any families who need mental health support check out [www.childandfamilyfocus.org](http://www.childandfamilyfocus.org). They have programs for Chester, Delaware, Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. Email me with questions. Email: [LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org](mailto:LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org)

**Joan Holliday** (Community) asked if anyone knew if there was help being provided to Kennett Copy & More, which had a devastating fire this week. Following is a GoFundMe account that was provided by an attendee. Kennett Copy & More Relief Fund:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/kennett-copy-amp-more-fire-relief-fund>

**Joan Holliday** also shared the "miraculous mushrooming of care" that has taken place between the Chester County Food Bank and the Agricultural arm with the Kindergarten Readiness Project. Over 100 families have received seedlings, seeds and pots to plant gardens with their preschoolers, learning about nature and growing their own food. Next round in two weeks. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) or Raina Ainslee at: [rainslee@chestercountyfoodbankc.org](mailto:rainslee@chestercountyfoodbankc.org)

**Luis Tovar** (ACOLA) told us that on April 20, 2020, The Borough Council of Kennett Square approved ACOLA's five priority areas for creating a quality of life for the Latino members of our Kennett area community:

- 1) Housing—Support rental inspection metrics and accountability.
- 2) Jobs—Increase more skilled job opportunities and attract companies that will offer these jobs to local residents.
- 3) Drivers Licenses---Endorse driver's license rights for undocumented PA residents

- 4) Cross-cultural outreach—Provide trainings for borough employees and local organizations for better understanding.
- 5) Standing with refugees—Request for the borough to pass a resolution.

Email: [tovarle54@gmail.com](mailto:tovarle54@gmail.com)

**Janet Zeis** (Chester County Food Bank) told us that she has taken on the role that Phoebe Kitson, Director of Agency and Community Partnerships was performing. She praised SCCON for distributing more food than any other area of the County and the networking/collective impact approach to providing services. She is inviting community members to also sign up for SNAP if they qualify, as it will help long-term. Email: [jzeis@chestercountyfoodbank.org](mailto:jzeis@chestercountyfoodbank.org)

**Brian Castillo** (CCMCHC) told us that he is a parent educator and is attending the meeting to learn about the resources in SCC. He is conducting classes online/facetime. This is his first meeting. [bcastillo@ccmchc.org](mailto:bcastillo@ccmchc.org) Other CCMCHC attendees: Bridget Hahn; [bhahn@ccmchc.org](mailto:bhahn@ccmchc.org); and Amanda Vega; [avega@ccmchc.org](mailto:avega@ccmchc.org)

**Elizabeth Garduno** (CCIU & Mighty Writers ) told us that she is working with Mighty Writers providing lunches at The Garage in West Grove. They distribute meals for any families in need every Monday and Wednesday from noon to 1:30pm for breakfasts and lunches. Food pantry on Fridays from noon to 1pm for. Serving They also have diapers.

Email: [ElizabethGa@cciu.org](mailto:ElizabethGa@cciu.org)

### **Bridges That Were Made on Zoom:**

- Kate Martin is seeking persons who speak the Guatemalan languages of Mam and Kiche, who will help create videos for this population, and “bridged” with Amanda Blevins from LCH, who has a translation service.
- Janet Zeis is on the Board for Volunteer English and “bridged” with Sarah Whitesel around a job at the Volunteer English program. Web site: <https://volunteerenglish.org/>
- Lara Herman “bridged” with Sarah Whitesel about job opportunities at Child and Family Focus organization. Email: [LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org](mailto:LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org)
- Information for the Go Fund Kennett Copy & More was given. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/kennett-copy-amp-more-fire-relief-fund>
- Kate Daneker “bridged” with the group, offering to post any information in the social service area on the SCCON website. Email: [kdaneker@ksqroots.com](mailto:kdaneker@ksqroots.com)
- Joan Holliday received more detailed information by email after the meeting, which is included in the above minutes. We ended the meeting singing the Bridging song.

## **BRIDGING COMMUNITY**

**Bridging Community  
Building the Kennett family  
A better place to live in  
Where each and all are free**

**We live our land's philosophy  
Peaceful, progressive, inclusivity  
Our spirit comes forth from the land  
Inspiring unit**

**We are guided by our principles  
The starting point will always be community  
We freely go about our work  
With no infrastructural burden**

**Cause "coming from the heart" is free  
We each have a role to play  
Our eyes are on potential  
We are Bridging Community**

*Bridging the Community* was held as a zoom meeting on July 08, 2020 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We were scheduled to meet at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA for our annual picnic and meeting, so we had a virtual tour of the site with Tina Butcher and Bobbie Newman.. This is our 131<sup>th</sup> meeting with 24 attendees adapting to a new form of communing. (Some could not get into the meeting.)

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 09, 2020 at 7pm at The Kennett Creamery, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. If large groups still are not permitted---then, we will have another zoom meeting.**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com) or there will be a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library when it opens again. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community. (Until we have quarantine requirements lifted, we will continue to showcase a new site on each zoom meeting.)

**Dave Haradon** welcomed everyone and led us in a moment of silence for healing from the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciation for our community. Email: [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**Joan Holliday** shared Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) & [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy/spirit - *peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.*** "Bridging" promotes this living philosophy for each and every day.

**Vision:** Kennett Square: Every day a better place to grow up in and grow old in

**Guiding Principles:**

**We will come from the heart----not an obligation**

**We will work for community---not personal agendas**

**We will focus on the potential side----not the issue side**

**We will keep it a process---not a program with infrastructure**

**We will value each person's contribution; each has a role to play--not focused on hierarchy**

**Bobbie Newman** told us about His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. You may watch the interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llwEmpUIPM8&feature=youtu.be> They serve men only and have strict rules to follow, expressed with love and caring to help the homeless men get back on their feet. His Mission was started by Bobbie Newman and Tina Butcher's mother, Margaret Valentine in 1993 and they continue the good work through donations from churches and community members. Donations are always needed so, please consider sending a donation to the above address.

**Attendees Were Invited To:**

**1) Present a need; 2) Provide information about a resource; or 3) Tell a story of "miraculous mushrooming of care.**

**Melanie Weiler** (CC Food Bank) told us that the Food Bank has been effectively getting food out to the entire County. She is appreciative of the SCC process of distribution. Currently, she is especially concerned about home evictions, as the freeze on evictions will be lifted at the end of this week. (Later changed to the end of August by Governor Wolf.) Email: [melweil@yahoo.com](mailto:melweil@yahoo.com)

**Jeanne Searer** (Community) told us that she has been in contact with The Kennett Area Senior Center ED, Stephanie D'Amico, who reports that she will be putting on a zoom meeting to educate how to use zoom effectively. Let her know if you are interested. Check out the Kennett Area Senior Center web page for information. The Center will also be providing a hot meal and frozen meal for Seniors to be picked up or delivered..

Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com), or [sdamico@kennettseniorcenter.org](mailto:sdamico@kennettseniorcenter.org)

**Karen D'Agusto** (Girl Scouts) told us that she helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver or gold medals and that there has been a "miraculous mushrooming of care from the Scouts. During this time over 40 Troops and 500 girls provided Girl Scout cookies for Operation Drop (To overseas service persons.); cookies to the local essential workers and 4,000 masks for local Dupont Hospital and Pocopson Home and now for The Family Center. They also are writing letters to Extended Care residents, Friends Home and Shut-ins and delivering them along with paper flowers. Girls from 5 years to 17 years are involved. They are collecting women undergarments for Wings for Success. They also have 200 activity books for 5-6 years old's in Spanish and English, to be handed out.

**Youth Community Forward** has also donated \$1,000 to KACS. Email: [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com)

**Joan Holliday** (Community) told about a "miraculous mushrooming of care" from Kendal residents who have contacted her about helping the community. They said that they did not want to be forgotten and have many resources to give. They now are making educational and art packets for the Study Buddies on East Linden Street. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

**Nolan Morris** (Community) told us that he is involved with community food growers, who are farming without chemicals and pesticides. They would like to donate fresh locally grown vegetables to the community and need a venue. Email: [morrisnj1010@gmail.com](mailto:morrisnj1010@gmail.com)

**Kelly Quant** (Wings for Success) told us that they provide apparel, advice and advocacy for the underserved, who are seeking employment. Currently they are helping women, who are starting restaurant jobs. They are in need of black sneakers and black pants. They will have a donation drop-off from 9am to 12pm on 7/11/2020. They have started with appointments, with one client at a time and that has been going well. She thanked the Girl Scouts for their current project of donating undergarments. Email: [kelly@wingsforsuccess.org](mailto:kelly@wingsforsuccess.org)

<https://wingsforsuccess.org/donate/donate-clothing/> And, they also have a Purse Raffle, use this link::  
<https://wingsforsuccess.org/events/upcoming-events/>

**Arianna Denison** (CCMCHC) told us that she just started with Maternal Child Health Consortium as the Outreach Coordinator, working with community events and communication with the schools. She is happy to attend a Bridging meeting. Email: [adenison@ccmchc.org](mailto:adenison@ccmchc.org)

**Christine McDonald** (Friends Home) told us that she is expressing her thanks for all the caring gestures that have been extended to the residents from community members. The outpouring and concern with notes and decorations help the isolated seniors. Email: [CMcDonald@fhkennett.org](mailto:CMcDonald@fhkennett.org)

**Filomena Elliott** (The Kennett Library) told us that they are open for curbside pick-up from 9am to 5pm. They hope to be open next week for browsing for books inside. Check out their web site for that opening. Over the pandemic they gave away 300 bags of books with no returns. They have been providing virtual programming and the newsletter is now weekly. They also provide Hot Spots that can be rented for \$1/day for as long as 14 days. They have a 11am Children's Story Hours. Filomena coordinates the ESL program. They are always looking for tutors. They have one zoom ESL class a week. Email: [felliott@ccls.org](mailto:felliott@ccls.org)

**Cecilia Arce** (CCMCHC/The Family Center) told us that they are dropping off items at their 100 family's homes and are giving education online. They also provide help with applying for food stamps, signing-up and renewing for health insurance. They can provide these support services to the broader community. They are holding Zoom Parenting Classes every Wednesday night led by Luis Benites. . They are taking referrals for children 0-5 years old Call: 610-344-5370. Email: [carce@ccmchc.org](mailto:carce@ccmchc.org)

**Brett Dolente** (League of Women Voters)

Things for all voters to know [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) can show you the candidates on your ballot. [votes.com](http://votes.com) check your registration , apply for mail in voting [chesco.org](http://chesco.org) also provides sample ballots at polling location information Anyone can reach Brett at: [brettdolente@gmail.com](mailto:brettdolente@gmail.com) or 610-960-2759 with any voting questions. She also will send paper ballots to someone, if you email or call her.

**Fran Lutz** (SCC Opportunity Network) told us that this is the 11<sup>th</sup> week that they have packed the food from the CC Food Bank for 15 SCC different locations from a SCC warehouse. They have had volunteers from churches and groups helping. Now FEMA will be providing pre-packed boxes for July and August. If the group knows of any entities that need the food boxes, who aren't already receiving them, please contact Fran at [fran@truepathadvisorygroup.com](mailto:fran@truepathadvisorygroup.com)

**Janet Zeis** (Chester County Food Bank) praised the SCC community for the collective impact that has occurred around food distribution and other services that are being provided during the pandemic.. Email: [jzeis@chestercountyfoodbank.org](mailto:jzeis@chestercountyfoodbank.org)

**Stepahni.Walker** (Community Engagement and Partnerships for American Red Cross) told us they have 80 volunteers in Chester County and always are looking for more. These volunteers are receiving training right now for natural disasters, with hurricanes and fires being possibilities this summer and fall. Our current disaster status is: Steady State, Please contact her if the Red Cross can help with community needs. Email: [Stephani.Walker2@redcross.org](mailto:Stephani.Walker2@redcross.org)

**Keith Smithyman** (Community) told us that he continues to work on campers for temporary housing for the homeless in the winter. He is looking for campers like an Air Steam that has a rounded roof as the flat roofs don't work. Anyone know of one to be donated? Email: [Keithsmithyman@gmail.com](mailto:Keithsmithyman@gmail.com)

**Chris Anderson** (Berkshire and Hathaway) told us that she is a realtor helping home buyers and sellers navigate a crazy housing market. She appreciates referrals. Joan Holliday gave her a good reference. Email: [chris.anderson@foxroach.com](mailto:chris.anderson@foxroach.com)

**Marcy Truby** (Early Learning Resource Center) told us that the Early Learning Resource Center provides guidance and support for high quality child care to preschools and day cares. They help families enroll their children in available programs and help vulnerable families with resources. They offer resources virtually at this time and are helping child care centers follow the CDC guidelines for re-opening after the shutdown. For information about Child Care and child care resources for families and child care providers, visit their website at [elrc19chesco.org](http://elrc19chesco.org). The site is "divided" with a section for providers and one for families. Email: [mtrubey@phmc.org](mailto:mtrubey@phmc.org)

**Alejandra Colin** (Home of the Sparrow) told us that they have one-time assistance for Eviction Prevention of \$500. They also have a rental assistance program that involves a 3-12-month program, which helps with budgeting and planning for financial challenges. Email: [acolin@homeofthesparrow.org](mailto:acolin@homeofthesparrow.org)

**Bob George** (KACS) told us that Kennett Area Community Services has been hit hard with the demand for food and services over the last three months and continues to need food and money donations. Email: [georgert@gmail.com](mailto:georgert@gmail.com)

**Liliana Guzman** (CCMCHC) Liliana is a case manager for The Family Center. She and others educate families and preschoolers in child development. She is working with the Kindergarten Readiness Project/Nature is Our Teacher and said the plants that the children have planted from the Chester County Food Bank are producing fruit and the children are engaged in the process of caring for plants and excited about it. Email: [lguzman@ccmchc.org](mailto:lguzman@ccmchc.org)

**Lara Herman** (Child and Family Focus) We know mental health is more important than ever right now! Child and Family Focus has transitioned to telehealth, so their agency is still open and available to help families raising a child with a mental health diagnosis! You can visit [www.childandfamilyfocus.org](http://www.childandfamilyfocus.org) to learn more about their programs. Their hourly in-home respite care is still on hold at this time, but their Coordinators are still working full-time from home so we can assist families in submitting a referral, as well as still assist people who are interested in becoming a Respite Provider. Contact: [LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org](mailto:LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org)

**Kelsali** (The Garage Community and Youth Center) was introduced by Kelly Quant who said she is a Compass intern at Wings for Success Kelsali said she is so happy to be working there.

**Dave Haradon** (Longwood Rotary) offered time, talent and treasure to the community from 100 volunteers. They have recently donated \$5,000 to the Business Community fund. They are having virtual zoom meetings every Thursday morning. You can view their wide variety of community presenters on YouTube by going to: [www.longwoodrotary.com](http://www.longwoodrotary.com)  
Email: [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

## **Bridges That Were Made on Zoom:**

- Nolan Morris and Melanie Weiler “bridged” around finding a way to distribute local produce to families in need.
- Fran Lutz “bridged” with Stephanie Walker about the need Family Promise has for housing during this pandemic period. Family Promise contact: [\(610\) 444-0400](tel:6104440400)  
[info@familypromisescc.org](mailto:info@familypromisescc.org)
- Cecilia Arce “bridged” with Karen D’Agusto about the activity books that she had available for 5-6-year olds.
- Brett Dolente again reinforced that she will help anyone register for an absentee ballot on line and she will bring us more information about voting drop-off ballot boxes and polling at the next Bridging meeting.
- Everyone will be looking for more “miraculous mushrooming of care.”

We ended the meeting singing the Bridging song.

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*Bridging the Community* was held as a zoom meeting on September 09, 2020 from 7:00pm to 8:20pm featuring The Kennett Creamery, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. This is our 132nd meeting with 26 attendees warming up to a new form of communing and “bridging.”

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm featuring the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd, West Chester, PA 19382.**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com) or there will be a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library when it opens again. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community. (Until we have quarantine requirements lifted, we will continue to showcase a new site on each zoom meeting.)

**Dave Haradon** welcomed everyone and led us in a moment of silence for healing from the COVID-19 pandemic and to unify the division in our country. Email: [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**Joan Holliday** shared *Bridging's* Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) & [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

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**Joe Mulry** presented photos of The Creamery on Birch Street, telling of its history and mission. In 1902 it was a Milk Company, sending processed dairy by railcar to Wilmington, DE. In 1930, it housed mushroom companies until 2003. It sat vacant until 2011, when Square Roots Collective purchased it and remodeled it keeping the “gorgeous bones” of the structure.

The mission: To create an inclusive community gathering place for all ages, income groups and diversity. It fits nicely with the living philosophy and principles of *Bridging the Community*. The Creamery is a place that is loosely modeled after a European Beer Garden. It opened as an experiment in 2016 and was highly successful as a community gathering place. The zoning has been changed to make the business permanent. Even though it is called The Creamery, it currently does not sell ice cream and it is not a restaurant, bar or game site as an identity. It is a community gathering place where beer, food are served and children can play.

Email: [joemulry@ksqroots.com](mailto:joemulry@ksqroots.com)

**BRIDGE** Joan Holliday will provide information for her about person to contact about tutoring. **Alejandra Colin** (Home of the Sparrow) told us that they help single mothers, who are facing homelessness. They provide rental assistance and other services. She continues to look for childcare for the mothers, while they work. Email: [acolin@homeofthesparrow.org](mailto:acolin@homeofthesparrow.org)

**Keith Smithyman** (Community) told us that he continues to pursue his mission of providing temporary housing for the homeless in the winter. He is looking for campers like an Air Steam that has a rounded roof as the flat roofs don't work. Anyone know of one to be donated? Email: [Keithsmithyman@gmail.com](mailto:Keithsmithyman@gmail.com)

**Dave Haradon** (Longwood Rotary) encourages us all to VOTE! The Longwood Rotary is having virtual zoom meetings every Thursday morning. You can view their wide variety of community presenters on YouTube by going to: [www.longwoodrotary.com](http://www.longwoodrotary.com). Email: [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**Alexa Hart** (Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) told us that she develops public educational programs and field trips. They now are having 12 individuals at a time meeting in person for events. Also, have in-person scout programs. At 1760 Unionville-Wawa Set Road, they have 318 acres and are open to the public for walks and enjoyment of the outdoors. Email: [ahart@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:ahart@brandywineredclay.org)

**Antoinette Gomez** (Family Promise) attended by phone. Family Promise continues to serve homeless families and are now taking families from their waitlist. They ask that parents are seeking work actively and/or employed. We ask that the families are from Southern Chester County. Call 610-444-0400 ask for Antoinette Gomez: Email: [agomez@familypromisescc.org](mailto:agomez@familypromisescc.org)

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**We are Bridging Community**

*Bridging the Community* was held as a Zoom meeting on November 11, 2020 from 7:00pm to 8:20pm featuring the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd, West Chester, PA 19382. This is our 133<sup>rd</sup> meeting with 22 attendees bringing their spirit to a new form of communing and “bridging.”

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm featuring La Comunidad Hispana (LCH), 731 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com) or there will be a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community. (Until we have quarantine requirements lifted, we will continue to showcase a new site on each zoom meeting.)

**We wished Dave Haradon good health as he is recovering from a surgery.**

**Jeanne Searer** welcomed everyone and led us in a moment of silence to honor our Veterans, who served in the US Armed Forces in all the wars. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Joan Holliday** shared Bridging’s Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) & [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

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**Alexa Hart presented information about the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance as our featured site.** This organization was started in 1940. They have 2 properties; one in West Chester and one in Coatesville. They work on preserving the Brandywine and Red Clay watersheds; provide environmental education to youth; and purchase land for preservation. She shared a video that highlighted the many ways they accomplish this work. They do clean-ups; manage the spotted lantern fly infestation; create Victory Gardens and then donate food to the CC Food Bank; restoration of Anson B Nixon Park and new stream restoration and more. Come take a walk on the property and contact Alexa for a tour. Email: [ahart@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:ahart@brandywineredclay.org)

**Attendees Were Invited To:**

- 1) Present a need; 2) Provide information about a resource. Raise your hand if you want to bridge with the speaker and create a dynamic “bridge.”**

**Karen D'Agusto (Girl Scouts)** told us that she helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver or gold medals. They are willing to offer Girl Scout programs virtually. They "bridged" with Family Promise and did yard clean-up and plantings.

**Youth Community Forward** has funds to donate to a person who is seeking asylum.

She also has infant formula to donate. Email: [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com)

**BRIDGE:** Cecilia Arce would like to have the infant formula.

**Arianna Denison (CCMCHC)** told us that there will be a training on 1/13/2021 from 6-7pm with a \$25 stipend to learn how to be a Parent Mentor (Advocate) for promoting CCMCHC services of signing up for health insurance, kindergarten readiness and prenatal care. Anyone over 18 years, who would like to volunteer would help expand awareness of CCMCHC and resources that the community needs. Email: [adenison@ccmchc.org](mailto:adenison@ccmchc.org)

**BRIDGE:** Joan Holliday has a person in mind and will share information.

**Laura Gonzalez (Tertulias)** told us that she leads a community gathering in Spanish for community members, who want to learn more about the community and ways to become good citizens. She invites anyone to attend to help inform the Spanish community how they can become involved. Email: [gnzlzlr@gmail.com](mailto:gnzlzlr@gmail.com) or Phone: 972-896-5753

**BRIDGE:** Laura will share information about the Parent Mentor opportunity at her meeting.

**Amanda Blevins (LCH)** told us that they have bi-lingual medical, social, employment, mental health, dental and pediatric services in Kennett, West Grove and Oxford. They are open to receiving the whole community with insurance, sliding scale fee and turn no one away.

They will be conducting a coat drive on 12/3-4/2020. Anyone in the community may apply. Call: 484-899-0679 and an appointment will be set-up to pick up the coat by only one parent. 12/3 will be 3-7pm and 12/4 will be 10am to 2pm. The pick-up will be at 105 Vineyard Way, West Grove, PA 19392. Email: [ablevins@lchps.org](mailto:ablevins@lchps.org)

**Allison Bell (New London Counseling Services)** told us that they provide counseling services for children and families. They take insurance, sliding scale fee and turn no one away.

Email: [info@newlondoncounselingcenter.com](mailto:info@newlondoncounselingcenter.com)

**Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuto)** told us that Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration held on the week-end of Halloween and the following week-end at the Creamery on Birch Street was very well attended. Amazing artifacts of the Mexican culture were created in workshops and showcased. The event could also be viewed virtually. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Vickie Gehrt (Longwood Rotary)** told us that they meet by Zoom minus the three weeks they met at Anson B Nixon Park during warmer weather. She said they raised one-half their normal amount of funds through a Silent Auction. They are still open to grant requests for community needs. They will have a Surprise Fundraiser coming soon.

In her role as KCSD Board member, she explains that they follow the guidelines set by the CC Health Department. At this time the elementary schools go one-half day all week. The KMS and KHS are targeted to return to their buildings on 11/30/2020. This is subject to change. She feels the school employees have been outstanding in their response to this very challenging time.

Email: [vgehrt@verizon.net](mailto:vgehrt@verizon.net)

**Kelly Quant** (Wings for Success) told us that they provide apparel, advice and advocacy for the underserved, who are seeking employment. Their clothing is for all kinds of jobs---medical scrubs; professional; mushroom work etc. They need combat work boots for women with agricultural work. They provide workshops to help with employment and managing home budgets. They need a Spanish-speaking interpreter to help when a client is coming to try on clothes. Email: [kelly@wingsforsuccess.org](mailto:kelly@wingsforsuccess.org)

**BRIDGES** Carin Bonifacino's daughter speaks Spanish and she hopes to recruit her for the one-hour volunteer role.

Jeanne Searer suggested Gonzalo Cano from the KACS as a good contact to work on their budgeting workshop. He is bi-lingual.

**Carin Bonifacino** (Community) told us that she was attending the meeting to find out what was happening and ways to support. Email: [summersun33@verizon.net](mailto:summersun33@verizon.net)

**Jorge Duchini** (ACOLA) told us that he is Vice President on the Advisory Committee on Latino Affairs in the Kennett Borough. Currently they are working on housing issues related to COVID and inability to pay rent.

He is mentoring male youth, who are vulnerable to dropping out of school.

He encouraged us to promote more women going into Research as they have brains that are designed for this field. Email: [jduchini@gmail.com](mailto:jduchini@gmail.com)

**Esther Rochester** (Community) told us that she is a KCSD bus aide and enjoys this work. She encouraged us to order hoagies from now until 12/12/2020. They can be picked up at New Garden UAME on 12/12/2020 from 11pm to 1pm. She will share the order form with Joan Holliday, who will send it by email to anyone who would like to make an order.

Email Joan Holliday at: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

**Liliana Guzman** (CCMCHC) told us that they are still recruiting families for the Family Center services and fathers for their fatherhood program. They accept donated children's clothing and furniture. Their work is virtual at this point. Email: [lguzman@ccmchc.org](mailto:lguzman@ccmchc.org)

**Cecilia Arce** (CCMCHC) told us that they are supporting families with children 0-5 years with parenting classes. They offer these classes to any interested families. Email: [carce@ccmchc.org](mailto:carce@ccmchc.org)

**BRIDGE:** Amanda Blevins asked if their 300 children have Christmas gifts and the following link was provided for anyone, who would like to purchase gifts. (They prefer educational toys)  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/35EU9RHD07RRK/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/35EU9RHD07RRK/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist)

**Lara Herman** (Child and Family Focus) Respite Department has begun to provide respite services again - please note that our waitlist has grown significantly due to our program hold. We have a great need for f Respite Providers in our Chester County and Delaware County. If you know of anyone looking fora flexible, part-time caregiving position, please encourage them to reach out to me at Email: [LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org](mailto:LHerman@childandfamilyfocus.org)

**Denise Michel**, (Early Learning Resource Center/ELRC 19) Anyone looking for information or resources for early learning in Chester County contact: 484-593-5053 or [denisemi@cciu.org](mailto:denisemi@cciu.org)

**Joan Holliday** (Education Discovery Group) encourages anyone who would like to volunteer to help our students and families adapt to virtual learning, contact her for more information about how to become involved at: Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

We ended the meeting singing the Bridging the Community Song.

**BRIDGING COMMUNITY**  
**Bridging Community**  
**Building the Kennett family**  
**A better place to live in**  
**Where each and all are free**  
**We live our land's philosophy**  
**Peaceful, progressive, inclusivity**  
**Our spirit comes forth from the land**  
**Inspiring unity**

**We are guided by our principles**  
**The starting point will always be community**  
**We freely go about our work**  
**With no infrastructural burden**  
**Cause "coming from the heart" is free**  
**We each have a role to play**  
**Our eyes are on potential**  
**We are Bridging Community**