

Bridging the Community meeting was held at PathStone, 421 McFarland Rd., Kennett Square, PA 19348 on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026**, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 168th meeting with 22 attendees.

Our next meeting will be at The Episcopal Church of the Advent, 401 N Union Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348 at 7:00pm.

Minutes of Bridging meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.org and there will be a copy of the minutes at Kennett Library in the Bayard Taylor Room. Bridging the Community meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Joan Holiday facilitated the meeting with **Trevor Pruitt**.

Trevor Pruitt led us in a moment of silence for all those doing caring and supportive work in our community.

Joan Holliday introduced the PathStone Hosts---Janet Cordova, Deputy Training & Employment Services, and Gabriella Perez, Campus Director/Day Care for PathStone Corporation non-profit. They also introduced PathStone employees; Emily Rosas and Crystal Molina. They welcomed everyone and offered light refreshments---fruit and vegetable trays.

PathStone is a community development and human service organization serving Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Puerto Rico, Maine, Virginia, and Vermont. They deliver quality career and employment services that enhance the skills, performance, and potential of individuals leading to meaningful employment in desired career paths.

In Kennett, they operate the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP.) They assist local farmworkers, youth, and their families with employment and educational services. One example: PathStone trains people in CDL, a \$6000 value for agricultural workers.

They operate Child Care services for agricultural workers, Pre-K and HeadStart programs at this site. They currently have about 70 children and have openings. They provide food, diapers and assistance to families in need.

PathStone hosts a Food Pantry every Wednesday at noon that serves about 50 families, produce, eggs, pasta, milk. Living in Southern Chester County is the only requirement.

Trevor Pruitt shared the structure of a Bridging meeting: 1) Sharing needs and resources first by newcomers, then the rest. 2) Mingling about the group and making "bridges." 3) Come back to large group and share bridges that were made.

Joan Holliday asked for accounts of bridges that have been made due to attending a previous Bridging meeting.

- Deni Tobin from Crime Victim Center said that an article Joan wrote in the Daily Local was helpful in getting the word out about their services.
- Joan Holliday shared that a West Chester University Intern from Chester County Hospital, who attended the last Bridging followed up by giving a Hands Only CPR class and use of the AED at the Kennett Community Coffee Klatch.
- Cierra Walker said she made a bridge two years ago when asking for a room to meet to start-up a Queer Recovery Support Group and Susan Rzucidlo, the mayor of Avondale offered a free room. This group is celebrating two years of that meeting with the same space.

Cierra Walker and Trevor Pruitt dynamically shared the framework and principles

Framework for Bridging:

Ground: Come from the heart;

Goal: Build Community/Miraculous Mushrooming of Care

Instrument: Each has a role to play--not focused on position or title.

Vision: "Kennett Square every day a better place to grow up and grow old.

Living Philosophy: Peaceful, progressive, inclusivity

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 have no infrastructural burden---no officers, membership, dues.

There is no organization to support, it's all volunteer.

New Attendees Introduced themselves and made their requests or shared their offerings:

NAME: Joe Greco, Family Physician and Chief Medical Officer at LCH. Kate Wickersham from LCH attended and helped facilitate Bridging meetings in the past; she is now CEO of Chester County Community Foundation. Dr. Greco came because they are a community health center and wanted to hear what is going on. They are launching an addiction and mental health treatment program and are working with an addiction specialist, social workers, intake coordinator and state licensure. Will begin in October with this new program to meet a need in SCC community.

NAME: Justin Moss

Just got peer support certification and next month for recovery specialist training.

NAME: Cailey Oehler

Works at OIC adult workforce education and reintegration organization in Coatesville. They have spaces in classes in many Chester County locations. Adult training in the Exton branch of the Chester County Library looking for volunteer tutors and classroom tutors. She works as an interpreter for Chester County Intermediate Unit.

NAME: Crystal Molina

Working for PathStone for three years. Her parents are agricultural workers, and she worked in mushroom house when she was younger.

NAME: Emily Rosas

Working for PathStone for one year as a Case Manager.

NAME: Judit Kedvesi

Here because she would like to be involved in the community. Recently retired.

NAME: Matthew Kedvesi

Matt, Judit's husband, works in Radnor but is available nights and weekends and was interested in what the group is doing.

Previous Attendees shared their resources, needs and new ideas

NAME: Jan Michener

Arts Holding Hands & Hearts/AHHAH has helped 11,600 children receive books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Now bi-lingual books will be available. 61,000 children in Pennsylvania are receiving a book monthly through 5 years of age. AHHAH also created and stocks the pop-up book stations in the Kennett area, and they work with youth affected by incarceration.

A new program called "Baskets of Love" (Which will showcase a different non-profit each month for a year has the goal of demonstrating non-profits working together as a collective) will host a Family Fun Day on the Farm on October 24, 2026, from 10am to 1pm. It will be held at Baily's Dairy at Pocopson Meadow Farm, 1821 Lenape Unionville Rd, West Chester, PA 19382. Families attending, please bring books for the lending library or a nonperishable food item for the Kennett Food Cupboard.

NAME: Susan Rzucidlo, Mayor of Avondale

Oct 10, 11-2— at Borrough Hall, 110 Pomeroy Avenue, Avondale, PA 19311 family day, free pumpkins, games, dancers

Grow with Avondale — looking for people to adopt sections of a pollinator garden in town come spring. Hoping to get ideas and grants. Asking people to adopt 10-foot plots. Contact MayorSusan@avondaleboro.net

NAME: Deni Tobin

Went to a family heart camp in Indiana, One Big Circle teaching families non-violent communication. They are hoping to open a camp on the east side of the country for a

week-long event, and he is looking for possible camp sites in the area. Crime Victim Center is hiring two advocates, preferably bi-lingual

NAME: Joan Holliday

There is a Kennett Community Coffee Klatch held every Thursday in the Oak Room at the Kennett Library from 10:30am to 11:30am. This community group is made-up of inter-generational attendees who are interested in being informed about community activities, volunteer opportunities and time to dialogue about common topics of interest. The group is open to each and all attending. You may come once, come in-and-out or attend regularly.

Joan writes a weekly article for the Daily Local News, so she appreciates the ideas and organizations she learns about at Bridging meetings. If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact Joan.

NAME: Rev. Marvin Williams

On Oct. 10, 2026, at 3:00 pm there will be a spectacular musical program at 2nd Baptist Church at 132 S. Willow Street next to the library. Different choirs and professional singers will come and perform. Please join this extraordinary event-- a free-will offering.

NAME: Susan Long

Talked about the SILO (a non-profit in Oxford that cares for the low-income families struggling with food insecurity and fear of ICE) They have a large community garden and are always looking for volunteers. All the vegetables are put out by the side of the road for anyone to take. And they also deliver to some people. The SILO non-profit has free community dinners monthly. Lots of events at the park — Sip and Paint, and band and lots of fun stuff. They are always looking for volunteers.

NAME: Laura Gonzalez

She is interested in saving trees and planting more trees in the town of Kennett Square, especially on State Street where many trees are dying. She wants to talk to the borough about the health of the trees and ask to help fulfill the need. She invites others to join her.

NAME: Esther Rochester

Krapft's Bus Company needs bus drivers and will pay for training. All the school districts are concerned about a shortage of bus drivers.

NAME: Cierra Walker

Owner/Operator of Conscious Connection, a Recovery Coaching Center. She works with a recovery house in Southern Chester County and provides education for individuals and the community. Recovery is something the entire community is responsible for. She started Coatesville Voices last year, a program of belonging. Looking for grant funding.

NAME Trevor Pruitt

On Saturday at 6 pm a visitor from the Eastern Short Permaculture Project will be visiting. Works as a clinical herbalist. Contact Trevor if you'd like to attend.

Attendees mingled and the following “bridges” were made:

Judit Kedvesi “bridged” with Susan about the Silo garden and to develop better understanding of SILO’s non-profit mission and work.

Joan “bridged” with Deni about Camp Dreamcatcher’s Patti Hillkirk as a contact for learning about camps in the area for the program that he would like to bring to the area.

Joan” bridged” with Jan Nichener about the Basket of Love for a newspaper article and with Susan Rzucidlo for another newspaper article about West Chester Urban Planning interns coming to Avondale at no cost to give ideas for Avondale community.

Jan Michener “bridged” with Joan Holliday with above information and Cailey Oehler and the OIC connection and with Susan Rzucidlo, Betsy Ballard and PathStone employees to assure all the children are getting the bi-lingual Dolly Parton books.

Laura Gonzalez “bridged” with La Comunidad Hispana and Cierra Walker about sharing information regarding substance abuse studies. Laura is an anthropologist along with her husband, studying this area for 30 years. Her husband passed away in the past year; she would like to continue the work.

Susan “bridged” with Trevor Pruitt about plants and Cierra Walker about grants. And with Laura Gonzalez about voter registration.

Trevor talked with Joe Greco who has an amazing garden, and with Cailey Oehler, who is a secret garden nerd, and with Deni about gardening.

Justin Moss bridged with Cierra Walter and Tina Skinner about their work with people in recovery.

Joan Holliday announced that there will be a Facebook page launch to give reminders of our next meeting and location and to share bridging stories in the next month. Thank you Stephanie D’Amico for your administrative help. Feel free to send videos of “bridges” you are making to: bridgingthecommunity@gmail.com

Email Addresses

Joan Holliday dochollisv@aol.com

Emily Rosas erosas@pathstone.org

Crystal Molina crmolina@pathstone.org

Esther Rochester erochester24@gmail.com

Trevor Pruitt trevorLPruitt@gmail.com

Cierra Walker cierra89walker@gmail.com

Tina Skinner tina.skinner@rocketmail.com

Marvin Williams drwilliams9812@gmail.com
Susan Rzucidlo mayorsusan@avondaleboro.net
Betsy Ballard joyfulspirit2007@yahoo.com
Cailey Oehler coehler@cc-oic.org
Joe Greco jgreco@LCHservices.org
Justin Moss justin.moss1990@gmail.com
Laura Gonzalez gnzlzlr@gmail.com
Jan Michener jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.com
Susan Long susanlongaetna.comcast.com
Deni Tobin denit@cvcofcc.org
Judit Kedvesi judithkenvesitma@gmail.com
Matt Kedvesi judithkenvesitma@gmail.com
Janet Cordova jcordova@pathstone.org
Gaby Perez gperez@pathstone.org

Absent:

Rana Sakr---Core Team rana.sakr.salem@gmail.com
Jeanne Searer---Core Team jeannecrew492@hotmail.com
Tom Hoehle---Core Team tomhoehle@yahoo.com
Nefta Erroa---Core Team. N.erroa@resvpmc.org
Liz Lawson---Core Team lizlawson96@gmail.com

Minutes submitted by Tina Skinner on 9/9/26 and edited on 9/10/26