



What is Bridge?

The Bridge Program continues to offer gender-responsive, client-focused, specialized community-based case management for 13- to 18-year-old youth.

Focusing on the presenting needs of the client and focus areas identified by the referring agency, Bridge Program staff develop and implement a case plan with identified goals and assist the client through the creation and achievement of action steps towards goal achievement.

Through a variety of therapeutic interventions and practices, such as Motivational Interviewing, this relationship-based program meets the clients at their current level of understanding and acceptance, while developing the skills and tools necessary to take greater ownership of their successful transition towards becoming a positive, productive community member.

Measurable outcomes during program participation include:

- ❖ Improvement in problematic school attendance / behavior
- ❖ Obtaining employment, if applicable
- ❖ Participation in community service, if applicable
- ❖ Contributions towards fines, costs, and restitution, if applicable
- ❖ No new charges / reduction in recidivism
- ❖ Reduction in problematic behaviors, as reported by parent / guardian and referring agency

The Bridge Program has over **75 YEARS** of combined experience working with youth in various settings and programs



MEET OUR STAFF....



Rob Kivlan, Program Manager

Rob Kivlan

Rob Kivlan has served in a variety of roles for Diakon Youth Services for over 15 years, including program development and implementation of the award-winning Flight Program.

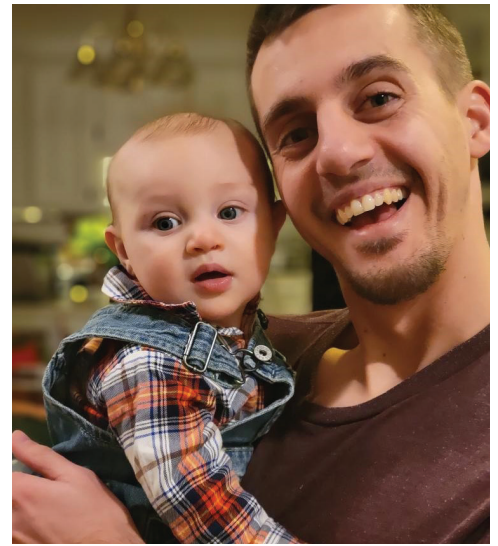
As a foster-adoptive parent, Rob is passionate about assisting teens and young adults with significant trauma histories, and initially created the Flight Program to assist youth who have “aged out of the system.”

He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Organizational Leadership, with a nonprofit concentration, from Central Penn College. He is often accompanied by Rio, his rescue German Sheppard, who provides a calming, therapeutic presence for clients of the Bridge and Flight Programs.

“I have been blessed to witness countless youth make amazing transformations over the years, and it all starts with development of positive, therapeutic relationships.”

Chad Barnett

Although new to Diakon, Chad brings with him a good deal of experience, having spent 10 years in the social service field helping kids and teens with autism and trauma. Chad is a graduate of Messiah College with a degree in Psychology with a counseling concentration. He is married and lives with his wife and young son. He loves to play sports and often plays volleyball as well as softball during the summer.



Chad Barnett, Case Manager



Michele Einig, Case Manager

Michele Einig

Michele Einig recently joined Diakon Youth Services’ Bridge Program as a Case Manager dedicated to bringing Independent Living Skills to youth in Cumberland County.

As a former substitute teacher and Independent Living Coordinator for youth in Juniata County, Michele has almost 10

years of experience working with young people in home, school and community settings.

Personal experience raising her own three children has provided her with the first-hand knowledge and expertise necessary to assist youth in transitioning to successful adulthood.

Michele believes in the power of positive relationships to help young adults realize their full potential and become confident, productive citizens.

Michele holds a master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from Millersville University. She is a certified Hatha yoga instructor with additional training in trauma informed yoga for youth.





Marvin Butts, Case Manager

Marvin Butts

Marvin Butts has over 15 years of experience working with youth at the Diakon Wilderness Center—even more if you count the years he spent there as a youth himself.

He has previously held positions or supported every program at the Wilderness Center and is proud to now serve as the Director of Wilderness Services. Acting in this position, Marvin oversees all aspects of wilderness programming and activities that take place on (and off) campus.

Marvin credits the Wilderness Center and its staff for helping him grow and shaping him into the adult he is today and values the opportunity to now offer that same guidance and support to youth facing circumstances similar to those that first brought him to Diakon.

Describing his own life as a “roller coaster ride,” Marvin believes that his success comes from being fortunate enough to have had people who believed in him and showed him that he

could be of value and importance, and he uses his position to “pay it forward.”

Prior to serving the Wilderness Center, Marvin worked for the University of Pittsburgh’s Child Welfare Resource Center as a Youth Quality Improvement Specialist, where he oversaw the statewide Youth Advisory Board. Marvin worked diligently to ensure that youth in the child welfare system were provided the necessary tools, resources and connections to enable them to find the path to their own successful futures, and to help them feel empowered to embrace their voice and autonomy in a system that can often leave them feeling helpless.

Marvin has extensive experience educating youth on various topics such as life-skills, social skills, emotional management, decision making, and moral reasoning.

Additionally, Marvin is extremely well-versed in all areas of therapeutic wilderness education which includes utilizing adventure experiences as a “hands-on” metaphor from which participants can draw parallels to in their own personal situations.

Marty Elvin

Marty Elvin has worked at the Diakon Wilderness Center for 25 years. Beginning with the Residential Program, she also worked with the Weekend Alternative Program, and the 31-Day Wilderness Course Program.

Marty believes the most important part of her work is building



Marty Elvin, Case Manager

trusting relationships with the youths. She does this by engaging in activities that utilize art and working with animals. She also likes taking young people for hikes in the woods so that they can experience the peace and beauty that can be found in nature.

Marty earned an associate degree from North Idaho College. She also studied Northwest Coast Native Art at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska, and attended Shippensburg University for a few years, taking classes in Social Work.

Marty relates, “I feel the most valued experience I have comes from the youth and the knowledgeable colleagues I have worked with over the years.”

(Staff section continued, p. 4)





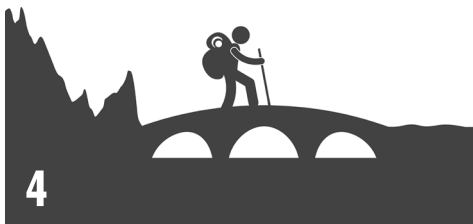
Grayce Heckman, Case Manager

Grayce Heckman

Grayce Heckman, a Case Manager with Bridge Program relates, “I love working with the youth in order to help them reach their goals!”

She recently graduated from Shippensburg University with a masters degree in social work.

Currently, Grayce works full time at Holy Spirit Hospital. She resides in Harrisburg, PA. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, and hiking with her dog.



Independent Living Criteria

- ❖ Assess the needs of each youth individually to determine the nature and scope of intervention necessary to eliminate deficits in independent living skill areas.
- ❖ Provide one-on-one individualized support in building independent living skills in the areas of daily living, educational planning, interpersonal relationships, health and wellness, housing and money management.
- ❖ Enhance learning and personal growth opportunities through the development of a supportive relationship with youth, providing guidance and mentoring.
- ❖ Promote experiential learning in the delivery of independent living services through the use of real-life activities whenever possible, demonstrating the connection between a learned skill and its application in the adult world.
- ❖ Incorporate best practices in delivering independent living skills training in the home, school and community.

OUTCOMES ❖ April – June, 2021

CENTRAL BRIDGE	Percentage of youth discharged with no new legal charges	83%
	Percentage of youth whose positive school attendance was maintained or problematic attendance was improved	91%
	Percentage of youth whose families were engaged in the program as measured by achieving a family-based goal	86%