



# The Bridge

16<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Sleepout

## 24-hour Fundraiser

Dear Friends,

We thank you for your partnership with us as together we make a difference in the lives of those in need in the Valley community since 1987. Now we need your help in our annual fundraiser, the **Sleepout**, which is aimed at raising funds and awareness of the need in our area and our ministry. The Sleepout this year will start at 3pm the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 23, and continue until 3pm Saturday, November 24, 2018, at our new location, the parking lot of the Guthrie Desmond Street Practice (formerly Newberry's).

We are challenging every church to support the Sleepout by **sponsoring a one-hour block of time** and sending a group of representatives to weather the cold in our makeshift house with a Bridge board member in support of those who will suffer this winter without heat. These representatives from the church could be a family, youth group, women's group, men's group, support group, choir, club or other interested individuals. If every church sends one group, each of our 24 hours will be blessed with a Christ-centered love and compassion for those in need in our community! Please help us to make that happen!



We are also asking that each member church **educate** their congregations on the need in the community and the ministry of The Bridge. To that end we have written 6 bulletin inserts which we recommend being used in the 6 weeks leading up to the Sleepout starting Sunday, October 14. The 1<sup>st</sup> provides info on a challenge to participate in the Sleepout, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bridge accomplishments in 2017, 3<sup>rd</sup> our voucher emergency assistance program, 4<sup>th</sup> the Clothes Closet & Helping Hands ministries, 5<sup>th</sup> Kids at Risk, and 6<sup>th</sup> the Valley Food Pantry. In addition, we have enclosed a flyer that can be posted in your church and places of interest.

As an added feature this year, we have issued a **school district challenge**, called “**Socks in a Box.**” Each school district will be decorating a large appliance box and collecting socks for Kids at Risk. The winner of the contest, the one with the most socks collected, will receive a perpetual plaque for the year which will be passed to the winner of the next year's challenge. The decorated boxes will be located in each school district from November 1 through November 21 and then be at the Sleepout until its conclusion. This is a fun way to challenge the districts served by Kids at Risk as the socks will be shared with students in need in the 3 school districts.

See the next page, “The 5 W's of *The Bridge's* 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleepout” for more information. For questions or to secure your one hour time slot, contact Kim at 570-867-2628 (call or text) or [dpaulfamily@gmail.com](mailto:dpaulfamily@gmail.com).

Please help us make this the most effective Sleepout to date!

Sincerely,

The 2018 Sleepout Committee: Joe & Jennifer Joyce, Waneta Warner, & Kim Paul



## The 5 W's of *The Bridge's* 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleepout

**WHO can participate?** Anyone who would like to support the ministry of *The Bridge of the Penn-York Valley Churches* and those in need in our community.

**WHAT can I do?** Bring excitement, energy, and awareness to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sleepout. Here are ways to help:

- Pray for the Sleepout, the ministry of *The Bridge*, and those served.
- Sponsor a one-hour block of time during the Sleepout with others from your church.
- Bring your choir, chorus, band, ensemble, puppeteers, youth group, women's group, men's group, support group, or drama group to the Sleepout and sponsor a one-hour time slot. See the Sponsor Form as a way to collect sponsors.
- Help raise awareness by using the provided bulletin inserts (6) in the 6 weeks leading up to the Sleepout starting October 14.
- Encourage donations to the Sleepout, either beforehand or at the Sleepout.

Donors will be recognized on our website, on Choice 102, and in a special display at the Sleepout unless requested otherwise. Levels include:

Diamond - \$2,500 and over	Voucher - \$300
Platinum - \$1,000	Silver - \$250
Gold - \$500	Bronze - \$125

- Ask your employer to support and participate in the Sleepout.
- Participate in the "Socks in a Box" school district challenge by encouraging the drop-off of socks for students K-12 grades during the Sleepout.
- Contact us to get involved in the year-round ministry of *The Bridge*.

**WHEN do I sign up?** Sign up today to get your desired one-hour time slot. Contact Kim at 570-867-2628 (call or text) or [dpaulfamily@gmail.com](mailto:dpaulfamily@gmail.com) to secure your spot!

**WHERE is the new location?** The parking lot of Guthrie Desmond Street Practice is located on the corner of Desmond Street and West Packer Avenue (formerly Newberry's).

**WHY does it start on Black Friday?** For the past 15 years, *The Bridge's* annual Sleepout has started on the day after Thanksgiving. This time was chosen in 2002 because it follows a day of plenty, when most people have eaten enough, if not too much. It is a time when many people will be spending too much money on Christmas gifts. The visibility and bustle of the Sayre Christmas parade has been important for the Sleepout allowing visitors to see our makeshift home, observe volunteers shivering in the cold air, and recognize that in this time of excess, many people in our community do not have full bellies, full shopping bags or a warm home.



The **Sleepout** is a fundraiser where Bridge board members, groups from member churches and local businesses sign up to weather the cold in a makeshift home without heat for one hour blocks of time with the purpose of raising funds and awareness of the needs of the community and the ministry of *The Bridge*.