



Covered Bridge Therapeutic Communities, Inc.

"A Residential Substance Abuse Aftercare Program"

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Dear Friends,

It's wonderful and encouraging for me to realize that I'm able to begin the majority of these monthly letters with the statement, "**I have exciting news to share with you**". After all, with a bit of reflection we should ALL be able to say that, with God's leading, His care and His provision for our deepest needs—**IT IS EXCITING!!** At times, it's the excitement of not being able to quite see how God will bring things together or how He's working in a particularly challenging circumstance. But, I can say that, knowing that we're relying on Him and doing our part, **IT IS EXCITING** to see how God's will and purpose unfolds!

We now have more help as Tom Hood, who has been providing respite help for us, has moved into the house in order to assume more direct responsibility for helping with the day-to-day needs of the house. We see that a team is truly being built for the ministry at Covered Bridge. We've been blessed to have Larry & Reenie Bergeron provide us with respite support, former resident (2004-05) Bill Beaulac has been assisting with clerical tasks, overnight respite help and other direct ministry help. We believe that God has been building this team and it is exciting to see and to realize how God's been bringing this about as we respond to His leading! Knowing that so many of you have been praying specifically for this brings us to say, "Thank You" for your faithfulness in prayer! We are very grateful for your support—donations, notes, cards, phone calls and emails. **It's evident that God knows we need cheerleaders!!**



Here's a note of introduction from Tom:

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus! It is truly a blessing and an honor to be a part of the ministry at Covered Bridge. It was my pleasure

"Reconciliation To Community By Building Bridges Of Restoration"

after spending a season as a respite person, to accept the invitation to become a full time residential staff member at Covered Bridge.

Having recognized the call on my life for ministry to what Christ called the least of these (those homeless, hungry, and incarcerated to name a few) many times called street people, I have filled my time reaching out to these individuals. There was a feeling in my heart that there were ways to be more effective and to be involved more productively. When Pastor Carmen Menard initially approached me about doing some respite coverage at Covered Bridge, I was not immediate in giving her an answer of certainty beyond saying that I was interested, but in reality my heart leaped for joy at the opportunity. I knew in my heart that this was definitely in keeping with the desires God had placed within my heart.

After praying and seeking the Lord for confirmation and hearing the input of my church leadership, I accepted confirming intention with Pastor Carmen and contacted Pastor Steve Clark. After spending a weekend at Covered Bridge, I was sure that I wanted to be further involved and spoke with Pastor Steve and Lorie Clark about making myself available for more times. Upon fulfilling the dates we had spoken of, I still wanted more. I knew for sure that Covered Bridge was where God wanted me to be. I was blessed to the core of my being when Pastor Steve and Lorie extended the invitation for me to become fulltime at Covered Bridge.

I love what God is doing with this ministry to rebuild broken lives. I am embracing this opportunity of working as a part of the Team at Covered Bridge and being an ongoing part God's plan to bring healing to the participants of the program.

I know this will be a wonderful time of growth in...and service unto the Lord.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Hood, II

5th Annual Walk-A-Thon & Prayer-Walk

As many of you know, our Walk-A-Thon is swiftly approaching. With this wonderful stretch of beautiful weather (Today is Day 11 of SUNNY SKIES and early summer temperatures!!), we pray for a repeat on May 17th. But.....RAIN or SHINE, we're walking and praying around and through the street of St Johnsbury.

Will you join us? If you can't....will you pledge for another walker or maybe even get donations for someone who is walking? You can get our map and pledge sheet online at www.covered-bridge.org. Click on "SUPPORT" and you'll be brought to a page with those links.

This will be our 5th year (WOW!) and we've been blessed each year with enthusiastic supporters.

All money raised goes to help pay for **direct ministry expenses** that are not funded by grant money that we may receive for general housing expenses.

We count it an honor to be here and we want each of you to know how grateful we are for your faithful support. We would not be here if you didn't respond to the Holy Spirit's leading. We know that there are MANY ministries that are worthy of your support and we want you to know that we strive to be good stewards of this ministry to which we've been called. Thank you for your faithfulness...

~In His love & ours,

Steve & Lorie Clark

Join us at the 14th Annual Prison Ministry In Vermont Conference on May 3rd at Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly!!

Please pray for:

- ❖ *Our Walk-A-Thon prayer walk & fundraiser on May 17th*
- ❖ *Wisdom for our Board of Directors*
- ❖ *The work on our building's renovation throughout this summer*
- ❖ *Favor with GOD & man*
- ❖ *Our cooperation with God in the work of family restoration*
- ❖ *Men who will be arriving at Covered Bridge*