

A Bridge From Youth Homelessness To Prosperity

Quincy's Jacqueline Medina Staff Member For Bridge Over Troubled Waters



JACQUELINE MEDINA

An estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults experience some form of homelessness in the United States each year, including 11,000 aged 14-25 in the Boston area. Those sobering statistics amplify the importance of Bridge Over Troubled Waters and their mission.

The nonprofit provides effective and innovative services to runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth and young adults ages 14-24 to prevent a lifetime of dependency on social services and guide youth towards self-sufficiency and a path to fulfilling, meaningful futures.

Bridge Over Troubled Waters offers a variety of vital services including Counseling and Support, Education and Career De-

velopment and a Transitional Day Program, where youth can get a bite to eat and a safe place to spend the day. Their proactive approach includes Street Outreach and Mobile Medical Van teams that connect with youth in the community and provide information about Bridge's services. Temporary housing services include their Emergency Residence, Transitional Living Program, and Single Parent House, the latter being the only one of its kind in Boston. All these programs are designed to offer different levels of support depending on the needs of the individual.

Staff member and Quincy resident Jacqueline Medina plays a key role in assisting area homeless and

at-risk youth.

Medina is an invaluable member of Bridge's residential team and works with youth experiencing homelessness in dormitory-style housing, the Emergency Residence, and the overnight space, the Welcome Center. There, Jackie helps prepare three course meals for youth as well as arranges special theme nights, such as Paint Night, Vision Board Night, and movie night. In doing so, she builds rapport with the youth and becomes someone they can count on and confide in.

Medina also helps youth connect with each other and build bonds with their community. She also teaches the youth life skills such as food shopping, cooking and meal prep, cleaning, apart-

ment hunting, self-care, and healthy relationships skills. Finally, Medina is responsible for maintaining and delivering the holiday wish list for the youth in her care. In 2024, she wrapped 101 gifts by herself all for youth. Jackie is truly a hero and a role model for youth, making them feel safe and special during this difficult time in their lives.

"We are proud that Bridge Over Troubled Waters has the ability and resources to be the only organization in the area to offer the multitude of services we provide to youth and young adults," said President & CEO of Bridge Over Troubled Waters Elisabeth Jackson. "We assist those we serve throughout the process allowing for consis-

tency and stability, two elements many of these youths lack and crave in their lives. Homelessness among youth and young adults is a major crisis in this country and our dedicated staff work tirelessly to help so many in dire need of assistance."

The origins of Bridge Over Troubled Waters began in the late 1960s. A dedicated group of members of the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Boston began reaching out to disaffected and often drug-involved youth in areas of Boston and Cambridge, which had become gathering places for young people with no place else to go. Bridge Over Troubled Waters was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1970 under the pioneering leadership of Sister Barbara Whelan, Sister Marie Keough and Sister

Barbara Scanlon.

Bridge Over Troubled Waters is the largest agency in Greater Boston providing a full continuum of services to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. The nonprofit provides programs and services to more than 2,000 youth annually and offers a comprehensive range of survival, health, educational, career, and housing services to encourage the formation of a healthy, productive, and fulfilling adulthood. Visit www.BridgeOTW.org for more information.

Bethany Congregational Church

Bethany Congregational Church, 18 Spear St., Quincy, invites the public to Easter Sunday service April 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Miriam Theodore is preaching. Stay afterwards for coffee, snacks, and conversation.

Holy Week will be celebrated with a somber Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Good Friday service will take place at 7 p.m. with Glad Tidings Church.

The Bethany Thrift Shop is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursday evenings 4 to 7 p.m. Come in and find some bargains. Easter supplies are stocked and Spring/Summer clothing is out in our clothing room.

The Chess Club meets every Wednesday evening at Bethany Church for gameplay from 6 to 9 p.m.

There will be a Yard and Craft Sale on May 17. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors wanted, contact Margaret at 617-773-1543 if you are interested in renting a table.

Broad Horizons Preschool is open and accepting students both full and part-time. To inquire and/or fill out an application, go to the website at Broadhorizonsbethany.com or call 617-471-0022.

Bethany Congregational Church website is: bethanyconchurch.org. Email address is: bethanyconchurch@yahoo.com. Telephone number is: 617-479-7300.

United First Parish Church Easter Service Sunday 10:30 A.M.

The United First Parish Church (UFPC), a Unitarian-Universalist congregation in Quincy Center, invites members and the public to attend its Easter Sunday service on April 20, beginning at 10:30 am.

UFPC minister, Rebecca Froom, will deliver a sermon titled, "The Rising Sun."

"This Easter, we will turn to wisdom from earth-based

traditions, as we reflect on the possibilities of joy, hope, and love that can be found beyond death and fear," said Froom. "Spring bursts forth all around us with the promise of new life."

The guest musician is Anne Howarth, principal horn chair with the Lexington Symphony and Plymouth Philharmonic, and member of the woodwind

quintet, Vento Chiaro. Howarth will perform works by Dunker, Glazunow and Schumann.

Additionally, the UFPC Choir will perform several choral works, including "Easter Carol," arranged by Martin Shaw, with words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, and, from the 16th century, "Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers."

All attendees are invited to join in the Social Hour that takes place immediately after the service in the Parish Hall, behind the sanctuary.

UFPC ("Church of the Presidents") is located at 1306 Hancock St., across from Quincy City Hall. For more information, visit www.ufpc.org, or call (617) 773-1290.

Quincy Point Congregational Church

(Use the entrance closest to Brazilian Flavor Bakery).

- Good Friday (April 18): We will gather with the Interchurch Council for a noon service at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, 1 Linden St., Wollaston.

- Easter Sunday (April 20): Choose from two joyful

celebrations:

- 6 a.m. Sunrise Service at Wollaston Beach (across from the Original Clam Box), in partnership with Bethel Church of the Nazarene.

- 10 a.m. Easter Worship in the QPCC Sanctuary, followed by an Easter

Egg Hunt and special Coffee Fellowship. This Easter Sunday will be especially meaningful as we return to worship in our Sanctuary for the first time since construction began in the fall of 2024. We look forward to celebrating the resurrection of Jesus together.

Slavery & Freedom Lecture At Crane Public Library April 29

As part of the city's 400th anniversary celebration, the Thomas Crane Public Library invites the public to partake in an exciting year-long series of activities and events commemorating Quincy's remarkable legacy.

A lecture on Slavery & Freedom with Historians Kabria Baumgartner and Gabriel Raeburn will be held Tuesday, April 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the historic Richardson Building on 40 Washington St., Quincy. Baumgartner and Raeburn will present original research on the experiences of Black and Indigenous people who were enslaved in our community in the 18th century.

Baumgartner writes about the hidden and often forgotten lived experiences of African-descended people in New England and the

Atlantic World. She is the author of the award-winning book, "In Pursuit of Knowledge: Black Women and Educational Activism in Antebellum America" (New York University Press, 2019), and she has published scholarly articles and popular writing including most recently in *Newburyport Magazine*. Her research has been supported by grants and prestigious fellowships from the Spencer Foundation, the National Academy of Education, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and the National Park Service. She has consulted on and appeared in historical documentaries including most recently *Legacy of Courage: Black Change-makers in Massachusetts Past, Present, Future* (2022). She is a tenured faculty

member at Northeastern University and works with local historical organizations and nonprofit groups as a historian and curator.

Raeburn is a historian of American religious and political history, spanning the colonial period to the late 20th century. Currently, he is an Associate Fellow of the History Design Studio at The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University. Raeburn holds a PhD in Religious Studies and History from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was also a Dean's Teaching Fellow for Excellence, and a M.St. in U.S. History from the University of Oxford.

For more information visit the Thomas Crane Public Library website.

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88 Washington Street
Quincy, MA 02169

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<p>Thursday, April 17 6:00pm: Bethany Congregational Church 8:00pm: Quincy 400: Battle Road 250th Anniversary</p> <p>Friday, April 18 11:30am: LIVE: Currently in Quincy 12:00pm: LIVE: Good Friday Service</p> <p>Saturday, April 19 12:00pm: TCLP: History of the Boston Marathon 7:00pm: The Call</p> <p>Sunday, April 20 10:00am: Bethany Congregational Church 11:30am: Quincy Point Church Good News</p> <p>Monday, April 21 11:30am: AM Quincy: DOVE 8:00pm: TCLP: History of the Boston Marathon</p> <p>Tuesday, April 22 7-9:10am: LIVE: AM Quincy with Joe Catalano 7:30pm: LIVE: Whispers from the Other Side</p> <p>Wednesday, April 23 6:00pm: Quincy Point Church Good News 7:00pm: The Call</p>	<p>Thursday, April 17 4:00pm: Board of License Commissioners 3/25 5:00pm: Zoning Board of Appeals 4/8</p> <p>Friday, April 18 7:00pm: Aging Strong: Aging Advantage 8:00pm: Planning Board 4/16</p> <p>Saturday/Sunday, April 19/20 9:30am: For Your Health: Allergies 11:00am: At the Kennedy Center: Red Sox Day 12:00pm: City Council 4/14 2:00pm: Planning Board 4/16 4:30pm: Board of License Commissioners 3/25 5:00pm: Zoning Board of Appeals 4/8 7:00pm: City Council 4/14</p> <p>Monday, April 21 6:00pm: For Your Health: Health Addictions 6:30pm: City Council 4/14</p> <p>Tuesday, April 22 4:00pm: Board of License Commissioners 2/25 6:00pm: LIVE: Zoning Board of Appeals 4/8</p> <p>Wednesday, April 23 6:00pm: In the Know: Office of Healthy Homes</p>
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Programming is subject to change.

For a complete list of programs, please visit our website at qatv.org