



## Bridge of Hope

Transformation is at the core of healing, yet transformation doesn't happen overnight. It's a process.

Healing takes time and begins to happen as we expose our anger, shame, guilt, flawed thinking, and addictions, into the light of God's forgiveness; forgiveness of self and others.

As we heal, we experience personal growth, gaining new perspective about ourselves, and others which provides hope for a brighter future.

Aline R. Wildes is the Creator and Program Director of *Bridge of Hope*, a volunteer, faith-based, prison re-entry ministry focused on supporting women in and coming out of the Massachusetts's Essex County Correctional System. Aline is an active member of First Congregational Church of Hamilton. She has been married to her wonderful husband, Andy for 25 years and together they have two adult children, Julian 23 and Eliza 20.

Professionally, Aline works full-time with nearly 25 years of experience as an executive search consultant. She is owner and President of *FPC of Cambridge*, a search firm specializing in the placement of scientists in the Biotech and Pharma industries. She holds a BA in Interpersonal Communication from UMASS, Amherst and Certifications in Executive Coaching and Organizational Leadership from the Townsend Institute for Counseling, Organizational Leadership and Executive Coaching.



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## Bridge of Hope

A re-entry ministry on Boston's North Shore

**The VISION of Bridge of Hope** is to see women transformed on their journey of recovery with the goal of successful re-entry





*And hope does not put us to shame,  
because God's love has been poured out into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.  
Romans 5:5 (NIV)*

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of **Bridge of Hope** is to provide women, who have been newly released from prison, a consistent, weekly mentoring program that is faith-based, transformative, and on-going to support them on their journey of recovery with the goal of successful re-entry.

*Front panel: Bridge of Hope Team (left to right) Kimie Kester, Tricia Payne, Aline Wildes, Melissa Addis, Jeanine Birdsall, Kathy Szatkowski*

## What does our program consist of?

A small group of mentors visit *Loretta's Place* in Salisbury, once a week for a scheduled time together of 1.5 hours to include the following:

- Bible study and prayer
- Time to share struggles, challenges, and successes
- Job readiness and other life skills
- Other support services:
  - GED Tutoring
  - College course tutoring
  - Encouragement in attending a local church



Bible study is a key part of the *Bridge of Hope* ministry.

## Who is eligible to be a Mentor?

- Track record of helping those in need in a healthy and encouraging way (non-judgmental, good boundaries)
- Willing to go through training
  - Recommended books to read:  
*Groundwork, Toxic Charity, Beautiful Boy, Boundaries*
  - Recommended meetings to attend:  
One to two *Learn to Cope, ALANON* or *AA* meetings
- Willing to go the distance (commitment of one year)
- Consistency, highly committed - every week
- Spiritual maturity (relational qualities include: good judgment, compassion, ability to listen, and a non-judgmental attitude)
- CORI check completed and approved



Those who experience unconditional love with one another are willing to be more vulnerable.