

HOTEL INFO

BERLIN GRANDE HOTEL

- All rooms & suites feature a microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, and locally made Amish mattress with plush bedding
- Indoor heated saltwater purified pool & jacuzzi
- Fitness Center
- Located near bakeries, crafts, shopping, and dining
- Mini Grande Shop open 24/7
- Well-lit and ample concrete parking
- Outside areas for relaxing, including outside pavilion

Hotel Phone: 1-877-464-2448
www.berlingrandehotel.com



“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

**ROMANS 5:3-4
ESV**

SCHEDULE

Friday, September 5

3:00-6:45pm	Check in
7:00-9:00pm	Dinner on your own
9:00-10:30pm	Evening program
	Relax and optional activities

Saturday, September 6

6:30-9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am-Noon	Morning program
Noon-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-7:00pm	Free time, chair massage offered, dinner on your own
7:00-9:00pm	Evening program
9:00-10:30pm	Relax and optional activities

Sunday, September 7

6:30-9:00am	Breakfast
9:00-11:30am	Morning worship and program
11:30am-Noon	Check out



CONTACT INFO

For more information or any questions, you may call, text, or email: Paula Gates
330-417-9646
paulasgates@gmail.com



5455 Market Ave N. Canton, Oh 44714
www.firstfriends.org 330-966-2800

Sponsored By:
First Friends Church, Canton, OH

Adoptive, Foster, & Kinship **MOTHERS' WEEKEND RETREAT**



The Journey from Adversity to Strength, Hope, & Healing

**Friday, September 5–
Sunday, September 7, 2025**

Berlin Grande Hotel
4787 Township Road 366
Berlin, OH 44610



SPEAKERS



VELMA BRIDGES

Pathway Caring for Children was founded in 1973 by Velma and her late husband, Jim Bridges. Years later, Velma helped to start the counseling program at Pathway. Velma provided counseling services and foster parent training. In addition, Velma has direct experience as a birth, foster, and adoptive parent. For the last 11 years, she has been providing kinship care for her grandson. This journey of caring has provided purpose, meaning, and joy in her life. However, Velma has also experienced many difficulties and trials. She has learned to trust our good God, who loves all of His children, for guidance and encouragement along the way.



PAULA GATES

Paula worked for Pathway Caring for Children for 33 years. She developed services to support adoptive and kinship families. Her passion has been teaching parents to connect for trust relationships in their families. In 2023, after Paula retired from Pathway in 2021, she started a support group for adoptive, foster, and kinship mothers through her church, First Friends in Canton. She helped her church build a ministry to support adoptive, foster, and kinship mothers from 2010-2020. She is now in the process of rebuilding this awareness and support after covid. As Paula looks at her own journey of pain, suffering, and trials to find God's purpose and joy in His presence, she encourages mothers to lean into Jesus' presence as they examine what He has for them in their journey. Dan, her husband of 50 years, and Paula have raised 3 birth sons who are adults now.



TINA REIMAN

Tina is a mom to three biological and two adoptive children, and Gigi to three. She is a medical technologist, a licensed science teacher, and exercise instructor, and a published author. Tina has walked with Jesus since she was eight years old and has found Him to be faithful even in her darkest times. She loves to tell and retell stories of how God has led and cared for her and her loved ones.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 5-SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

WEEKEND THEME

The Journey from Adversity to Strength, Hope, & Healing



Join us for a time of:

- Refreshment and fun
- Connection with other moms who understand
- Hope and inspiration
- Feeling valued and validated
- Healing and growth



R Resilience: Introduction and a look at underlying pain

E Encouragement Towards Peace: Shame, confession, and forgiveness

N New Mind: Transforming negative thoughts

E Enlightenment: Seeing beauty and purpose in your life

W Wholeness: joining hearts with God and others



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cost: \$240

Meals Provided: Saturday breakfast & lunch and Sunday Breakfast

Sleeping Arrangements: Two mothers to a room

Registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 1.

2025 Adoptive, Foster, & Kinship
MOTHERS' WEEKEND RETREAT

REGISTRATION



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I AM A(N) MARK ALL THAT APPLY:

___ ADOPTIVE MOTHER

___ FOSTER MOTHER

___ KINSHIP MOTHER

PLEASE MARK THE AGE(S) OF YOUR CHILDREN:

___ 0-11 ___ 12-17 ___ 18-ADULT

ROOMMATE PREFERENCE:

FOOD ALLERGIES: _____

SATURDAY LUNCH CHOICE:

___ HAM SANDWICH

___ TURKEY SANDWICH

___ SALAD WITH CHICKEN (GF/DF)

COST: \$240

___ CASH ___ CHECK

Registration form and payment may be brought or mailed to:

First Friends Church
attn. Nancy Petroff
5455 Market Ave N.
Canton, OH 44714

OR SCAN TO
REGISTER
ONLINE

