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 & iacuzzi
- 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



CONTACT INFO

For more information or any questions, you may call, text, or

Paula Gates 330-417-9646



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



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 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

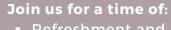
Tina is a mom to three biological and two adoptive children, and Gigi to three. She is a medical technologist, a licensed science teacher, and exercise instructor, and a published

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



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



Resilience: Introduction and a look at underlying pain

Encouragement Towards Peace: Shame, confession, and forgiveness

New Mind: Transforming negative thoughts

Enlightenment: Seeing beauty and purpose in your life

Wholeness: joining hearts with God and others



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:
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LMAIL.
I AM A(N) MARK ALL THAT APPLY:
ADOPTIVE MOTHER FOSTER MOTHER
KINSHIP MOTHER
PLEASE MARK THE AGE(S) OF YOUR
CHILDREN:
0-11 12-1718-ADULT
ROOMMATE PREFERENCE:
FOOD ALLERGIES:
SATURDAY LUNCH CHOICE:
HAM SANDWICH TURKEY SANDWICH
SALAD WITH CHICKEN (GF/DF)

COST: \$240

__ 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

