



Community Bridge volunteers unload a tractor-trailer full of donations from the Kentucky-based Christian Appalachian Project, which has become a major supporter.

COMMUNITY BRIDGE courtesy photo

COMMUNITY BRIDGE

Outreach organization to host open house, looking to expand operations

By **AMANDA LARCH**
For HD Media

ST. ALBANS—Originally started by King’s River Worship Center to help kids in the community by organizing backpack giveaways, Community Bridge, a nonprofit outreach organization, also had a goal of bringing different churches together, according to King’s River Lead Pastor Chris Kimbro.

“We started doing that for several years and it kind of fizzled out,” Kimbro said. “We just left the legal organization Community Bridge in place and it kind of went dormant.”

Fast forward to 2020: The church received a large donation of clothing for foster children in the state. Through word of mouth, the community’s response and intake of donations increased, and Community Bridge quickly outgrew its initial 435-square-foot closet space.

“We said we can’t fix the foster care problem as one church; it’s going to take the whole community to be able to meet the need,” Kimbro said. “So we put it under Community Bridge and invited all the churches in the community to be a part.”

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ABOVE: During a tour of the facility on Feb. 21, King’s River Lead Pastor Chris Kimbro (left) speaks with Rep. Carol Miller, R-W.Va. (right), inside a classroom at Bridge to Hope Academy in St. Albans. **BELOW:** Visitors stand outside Bridge to Hope Academy at Community Bridge. Community Bridge is providing space in its facility for Bridge to Hope, which will be West Virginia’s first recovery high school.



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CHRIS KIMBRO, KING’S RIVER LEAD PASTOR




**LINDA
ARNOLD**
LIVE LIFE FULLY

People show you who they are

“When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.”

■ ■ ■

THIS QUOTE by poet and author Maya Angelou has stuck with me over the years. I’ll admit, though, that I’ve not always abided by it.

Like me, you’ve probably given those challenging people in your life a second chance – or a third or fourth. It’s only human nature.

I just ran across some research, though, that jumped out at me. Author Brianna Wiest, an expert in the area of emotional intelligence, has compiled some observations along these lines that are very thought provoking.

Coupled with my own professional experience, here are some insights that might strike a chord with you.

Gossiping

- Those who gossip with you will gossip about you.
- When a friend seems to have something negative to say about everyone they know, believe that they are treating you the same way behind your back.

Relationships

- As the author of several books, including “101 Essays That Will Change the Way You Think,” Wiest knows a thing or two about relationships:
- When someone tells you they “aren’t looking for a relationship” right now, believe them. That’s pretty much how people rationalize not wanting to commit.
 - If someone is irrationally judgmental toward other people, believe that those people have something they want very, very badly (and are completely convinced they cannot get).
 - Notice the way someone treats strangers — especially those who can’t do anything for them — because that’s how much they really respect others.
 - If someone tells you there’s a certain friendship pattern that always happens to them (always losing their best friends, for example), believe that it’s a warning.
 - When people don’t show up for you — especially for significant times and events — believe they’re not that committed to you. Everyone says they care. Those who show up actually do.

Communications

My background in communications has given me a heads up on red flags that can appear with friends, acquaintances and colleagues, as conveyed in the examples below. Wiest boils down a number of these points:

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