CENTER FOR
Life Transitions

ENRICHING lives.

EMBRACING change.

INSPIRING hope.
Center for Life Transitions is a place, a program and a philosophy.

The philosophy that guides the Center is that all people deserve support and resources for deepening their “center,” faith, and sense of purpose while managing transition. Each person’s center is unique, personal and individually defined. The Center for Life Transitions exists to encourage people to draw on their center along with all their gifts in order to embrace change... find hope... and enrich their lives.

The book of Ecclesiastes says there’s a time and a season for everything, which means we’re always growing towards something new — and uncertain. As we face new seasons, there is opportunity to find new meaning, new success, and new joy in our lives.

“Life is difficult.”*

Our life journey is continual change and development in matters of family, jobs, career, relationships, aging, and faith. Transitions can be difficult and disconcerting — often bringing feelings of isolation. Knowing where to turn for support, guidance and information is challenging.

*The Road Less Traveled, M. Scott Peck
Mission

The Center for Life Transitions is dedicated to serving people at “crossroads” in their work/career lives. We develop and deliver leading personal, print and web solutions for work/career transitions across the lifespan — internships/college through retirement — which are integrated with opportunities for spiritual exploration and growth.

The Center brings together the best professional and spiritual resources. The Center:

• Supports the value of individuals and relationships
• Inspires each to move forward in meaningful transition and transformation
• Enables individuals to be heard, helped and healed
• Encourages the exploration of faith and spirituality as a significant resource for life transitions

We affirm the hope that a fragmented life can be made whole through a combination of faith, support, and inspired work.

“It’s sensational what direction can do. The beauty of the human condition is the magic people are capable of when there’s direction.”

— Dan Burr

The Center works in two primary ways:

--- ONE ---

By developing and delivering:

• Confidential, individual counseling/coaching services
• Group programs, workshops and retreats
• Web-based tools, resources and communities for life transitions

--- TWO ---

By collaborating with individuals and organizations through imaginative initiatives which help people in transition.
Career and Work Transition Counseling/Coaching

“Don’t go it alone” is core advice for anyone going through transition. Support, structure and proactive, proven strategies are necessary for success.

Career and Work Transition Counseling/Coaching is a combination of advising, teaching, guidance and in cases, therapy which promote intelligent decisions and goal accomplishment. Exploring spirituality/faith can be important in this transition process. Richard Bolles, author of What Color is Your Parachute advises that “when you are in transition and you have an old faith hanging in the closet, it’s a good time to bring it out and dust it off.”

Life is about facing and managing change. People in transition need a vision and useful language to describe career and life objectives. They also require effective strategies for presenting themselves in the marketplace and communicating how their strengths and skills make a difference for employers. Participants will use a variety of means to engage work transition issues while receiving support and guidance from a trusted expert.

Individual and Group Services

The Center offers a variety of programs and services from its headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which are also available through partnerships with sponsoring organizations throughout the country. Program offerings vary according to organizational need and can include:

- Conferences and retreats
- Seminar series
- Half or full day workshops
- Individual consulting, counseling, coaching
- Web-based workshops/courses

Partnerships in Mission

The Center for Life Transitions desires to work with organizations and individuals to enhance and expand Center mission. Proposals of no more than two pages on ideas, programs, or processes for collaboration are encouraged. Matching, shared and creative funding are potential options. The Board of Directors meets regularly to review proposals.

The Center also supports partnerships with churches, synagogues, temples, places of worship and any organization for the purpose of providing customized services to individuals and groups at reduced costs.
The idea of a Center which integrates counseling and career psychology, family therapy and spirituality in practical programs, services and resources was shared by the two founders when they first met in 1990. In 2002, Ethel Kienz approached them with a proposal to provide an endowment for the Center. She contributed to the incorporation process and served on the Board of Directors until her death in 2003. Ethel led several ministries for the elderly at North Branch Reformed Church in North Branch, New Jersey. The Center honors its primary benefactor by supporting outreach and education to the elderly as part of an overall mission.

“The Center for Life Transitions operates from the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care located in St. Francis, Wisconsin. The mission of the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care is to provide community-based health and educational services for children and frail adults and to serve as a resource and support for caregivers. The Center for Life Transitions has supported a variety of their ministries over the years, including the Buddy Program, Benevolent Touch, and the Hospice Care Program.”

— Ethel Kienz, May 2002
Co-Founder

Thomas Bachhuber, Ed.D.  President, Board of Directors

Responsible for overall Center leadership, strategy and service delivery.

Tom is President of the Board and Executive Director of The Center for Life Transitions, Inc. His individual coaching/counseling, writing and workshops/retreats focus on career transition over the lifespan. His LifeShift: Work and the Christian Journey retreat incorporates leading career planning ideas with spiritual formation. He was Director of the Career Development Center at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 2003 to 2011 and also started the UWM Career Transitions Center for adult career changers in Milwaukee where he delivered individual coaching/counseling services and taught a variety of classes: PathWays to a New Career, Horizons: Discovering Your Next Work, The Art & Science of Job Hunting, Ponderings on Spirituality for Transition and LifeSwing: Planning New Work for Retirement. He presently holds an Adjunct Faculty position in UWM’s Educational Psychology Department.

As Managing Director for Management Alliance Group and Senior Vice President for National Corporate College Consultants, his work with both universities and corporations has been extensive. He provided training, research and recruitment strategies to several Fortune 500 companies including Merck, Pfizer, Kraft Foods, Schering Plough, Nabisco, Hallmark Cards, Deloitte & Touche and Goldman Sachs. His background in publishing at Ziff Davis/University Communications as Editor/VP for University Resources includes working relationships with over 100 major universities throughout the country.

Tom was the tenured Director of the Career Development Center at the University of Maryland and Assistant Dean/Director at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Dr. Bachhuber’s publications include 14 articles in professional journals and books, Directions: a Guide to Career Planning (Houghton-Mifflin), A Parent’s Guide to Helping their Children with Educational and Career Decisions (Abbey Press) and three editions of the The Best Graduate Business Schools (Macmillan/Simon Schuster).

Tom was an elder at North Branch Reformed Church in North Branch, New Jersey, designing and leading adult education and prayer initiatives. He also led workshops at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He was a student and board member for KAIROS: School of Spiritual Formation in Wernersville, Pennsylvania.

His Doctorate and Masters in Counseling are from the University of Virginia.