



**CHURCHES RESPOND.
HOMELESSNESS ENDS.
HOPE BEGINS.**

Are you opening doors?

September 2017



Dear Friends,

My only memory from my first day of 11th grade at a new high school is how impressed I was that students opened and held doors for each other. It seemed significant compared to my previous high school experience. It was the first thing I told my mom when I got home. I felt a sense of respect and kindness. And I was wowed by it!

Opening doors is a way of showing respect and kindness to others. And it is one small way we can love our neighbors.

No matter where you live, whether in a well-populated neighborhood like I do in Philadelphia, or in rural Iowa with lots of cornfields around you, Jesus says we all have neighbors. Whoever is marginalized, alone and in time of need is a neighbor to those of us who call ourselves Jesus-followers.

As the people of God, neighbors to families facing homelessness, we can open doors. Figuratively speaking.

Families facing homelessness do not need our pity, our second-hand stuffed animals or our left-overs. They need our relationships, our connections, and the networks we live and walk in every day. "I know someone who..." J.D. Vance, in "Hillbilly Elegy" calls it "putting your thumb on the scale" for another person. At Bridge of Hope, we call it "opening doors" and building social capital. Watch this [brief video](#) to catch the vision for how opening doors can build social capital and bring hope and necessary resources to a family facing homelessness.

Opening Doors – it's the theme of our Bridge of Hope Conference coming up on October 5-7. And it's what Bridge of

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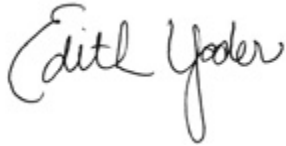
What's New in our Network?

- Open doors to children facing homelessness as they head back to school. A [gift of \\$25](#) can open doors for a child. The average age of a

Hope uniquely brings to bear on behalf of families facing homelessness.

Are you finding ways to open doors for your neighbors who are homeless? Rev. James Forbes once said that to get into heaven, the faithful are going to need a letter of reference from the poor. Maybe it's time to keep building your letter of reference!

Join the neighboring movement with Bridge of Hope. Open doors – and make a difference!



Edith Yoder
Executive Director

child in Bridge of Hope this past year was 6.9 years of age (typically entering 2nd grade).

- Our Bridge of Hope Conference next month features keynote speakers Dr. Carmela DeCandia (previous director of the National Center on Family Homelessness) and author Margot Starbuck. Learn more about our conference at <http://bridgeofhopeinc.org/about-us/annual-conference/>.



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