

# bridge of hope® | NATIONAL

*Supportive friendships for lasting impact*

Vol. 15, No. 2

FALL 2015

## OUR VISION:

*To end & prevent homelessness for women & children across the U.S. by calling churches into action.*



Ja'Nae's mentoring friends



## Blessed with a Second Chance

Do you remember a time in your life when you longed for a second chance?

Ja'Nae felt like she had been given a second chance when, at age 20, after a Memorial Day weekend vacation with her Grandmother, she recalls that "God revealed himself to me." That summer, she explains, "I learned God had so much for me. I was baptized and I was on fire for God."

Ja'Nae was attending community college and working at Enterprise Rent-a-Car. She had moved back home with her Dad and was rebuilding their relationship when she was surprised to learn that she was 26 weeks pregnant.

When Ja'Nae's father told her that she had to leave, she asked God to guide her so she could provide for her daughter who would be born in less than 2 months.

Ja'Nae found Mary's Shelter in Bethlehem (PA) in January and her daughter, Tyrah, was born in mid-February. When Tyrah was six-months-old, Ja'Nae was able to move to a transitional home in Reading (PA) where she continued to work full-time for the local Enterprise while attending Alvernia University full-time (thanks to a merit scholarship).

As the end of her time in transitional housing approached, Ja'Nae was scared about what she would do next. She was grateful to be accepted in Bridge of Hope Berks County. Temporary rental assistance allowed Ja'Nae to find an apartment while continuing work, schooling, and parenting.

Members of Christian Lighthouse Church offered mentoring friendship, and Ja'Nae says: "My mentors have truly become family, showing me and Tyrah the true meaning of unconditional love. What I love most about Bridge of Hope is that God is at the forefront of this program."



She continues, "I couldn't believe there was such an amazing program with such a wonderful people who truly wanted to help me and my daughter not just momentarily, but for the future and success of the rest of our lives. Never did I imagine I'd be able to live comfortably and raise my daughter the way she truly deserves to be raised. God has truly shown his grace and favor over our lives and Bridge of Hope has given me a second chance in life."

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

*Reflections on the past year:*

# KEYS TO HOME

**What is the key to ending homelessness?** Is it rental assistance for security deposit, first month's rent and often last month's rent – when homeless moms sign a lease? Is it case-management to provide supportive services and begin healing from the trauma of homelessness? Is it supportive friendships that make the difference between families in poverty who can maintain housing (often with the help of family and friends) and those who lose their housing?

What we know about homelessness is that all three of these are key to ending homelessness. And **each family in Bridge of Hope receives all 3 of these keys** – allowing lives to change and homelessness to end!

This past year, Bridge of Hope launched a new four-year strategic plan called “**Keys to Home**” – with the goal of expanding the number of women and children served by 75% from 2014 to 2018. The plan's name is a reminder that receiving the keys to a new home is the first step toward ending homelessness. **Keys also become a metaphor** in scripture for the kingdom of God and our own kingdom-building role.

In today's economy, rental housing in most of the communities served by Bridge of Hope is extremely tight and very expensive, making it more and more challenging to provide “keys to home” for the families we serve.

We are blessed to report that in the first year of implementing this plan, Bridge of Hope locations served 12% more families – 283 women and children!

The Bridge of Hope network trained and nurtured 814 mentors from churches across our 23 locations in 13 states and Canada. We launched 3 new locations in Denver, Colorado; Calgary, Canada; and Dana's Point, California.

Successful nonprofit work includes both successful program outcomes and successful stewardship of your financial dollars. Bridge of Hope National is pleased to do both of these **on your behalf**, as we engage with homeless single mothers and children and mentoring churches from many Christian faith traditions. We are grateful to God for you, for your care and compassion for homeless single mothers and children, and for your engagement with us in providing “**keys to home**” for more homeless families in the years ahead.



*James M. Lapp*

Rev. James Lapp  
Board Chair



*Edith Yoder*

Edith Yoder  
Executive Director

## *Special Thanks for Your Gifts\**

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Nicole Anderson  
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*\*Gifts received after August 5 will be listed in our winter newsletter.*

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### YOU CAN HELP END HOMELESSNESS

This year's annual appeal will be mailed in October. Make a gift to help end family homelessness. We invite you to designate Bridge of Hope National as your United Way or Combined Federal Campaign Donor Choice Gift option. Please use our full name and address.



**THE 7TH ANNUAL BRIDGE  
OF HOPE DAY OF PRAYER**

is November 19, 2015. Visit our Facebook page or website for info and join us in prayer for homeless families.



**283**

women and children served

**12%↑**  
increase

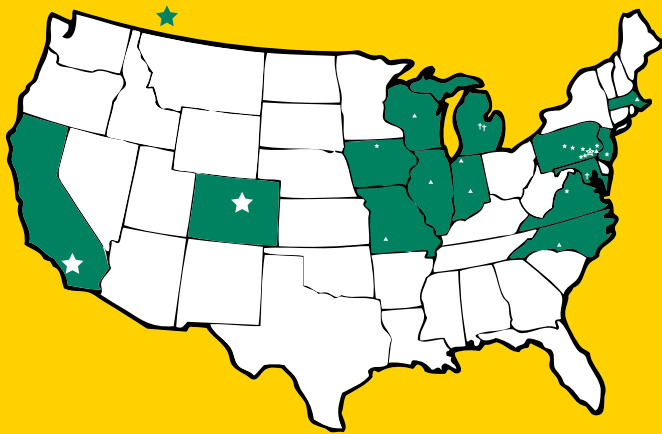
**814**

mentors from churches offered friendship to homeless families



**6.7** = average age of a child in Bridge of Hope

**3 New Locations**



Dana Point (CA), Calgary (AB), & Denver (CO)

**Areas with most improvement for women in Bridge of Hope:**

- Housing
- Money Management/Income
- Education / Training
- Transportation
- Support System

**FISCAL YEAR**

April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

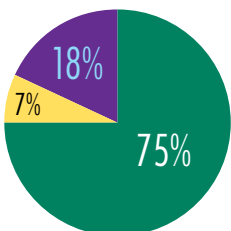
**106** Leaders of Hope (gifts of \$1,000+)



**16** Legacy of Hope (planned gift)

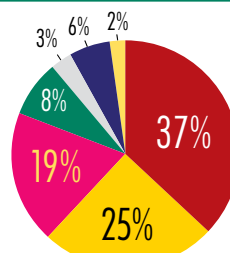


**763** total donors from **33** states



**EXPENSES: \$459,634**

- Program ..... 75%
- Admin ..... 7%
- Fundraising ..... 18%



**INCOME: \$479,963**

- Individuals: ..... 37%
- Special Events: ..... 25%
- Foundation Grants: ..... 19%
- Location fees & conference registration: ..... 8%
- Corporate Giving: ..... 6%
- Donated services & materials: ..... 3%
- Church Support & Other: ..... 2%

To view a full copy of our audited financial statements online, go to: [bridgeofhopeinc.org/about-us/public-accountability/](http://bridgeofhopeinc.org/about-us/public-accountability/)



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*Inside...*

- Blessed with a Second Chance
- Reflections on the past year:  
**KEYS TO HOME**
- 2014-2015 Highlights



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