

bridge of
hope® | NATIONAL

Supportive friendships for lasting impact

Vol. 16, No. 2

FALL
2016

OUR VISION:

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

They are in our lives, and they're not going anywhere.

*Megan and her 4-year-old son, *Brady, were four days away from homelessness.

She was working nights, so Megan was not allowed to stay in a shelter. Fortunately, shelters and the Salvation Army referred her to Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties (PA).

"Bridge of Hope saved our lives," Megan says. She and Brady feel secure in their "bright and happy" one-bedroom apartment where they've lived for a year. New Bridge of Hope mentoring friends helped them to get a sofa and a bed for Brady. Their Bridge of Hope social worker, Melissa, visits about every two weeks, often bringing a book for Brady.

In the past Megan attended St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, and Brady was baptized there. However, she and her Bridge of Hope mentors from St. Elizabeth were strangers when they met. "They didn't know us then, but now they love us and we love them."

Megan enjoys that the mentors can come to her home, and she and Brady can go to their homes, especially for Sunday dinner – which is a new experience for her and Brady. She explains that because her mentors have gone through things she is experiencing, they are a resource – including advice and wisdom about parenting.



*Jan, who was a single mom, and *Tom have kids that play with Brady. Another mentor, *Kim, is a secretary at the parish school and helped with financial aid and introducing Megan to other parents (as Megan volunteers at the school).

Megan's goal was for Brady to attend the parish school – and he started kindergarten there this month! Brady is excited about school and loves his BB-8/Star Wars backpack which Bridge of Hope provided.

"What I love most about Bridge of Hope," Megan shares, "is that I say what I want and set goals and Melissa (Bridge of Hope social worker) helps with resources and to make the goals possible."

Megan has worked for Main Line Health for 9 years, has been pursuing a bio-chem degree, and recently started working days instead of night shift. Bridge of Hope helped her to find scholarships for a Medical Lab Technician program. Once she has her MLT certification, her employer will help to pay as Megan finishes her degree to be a clinical scientist.

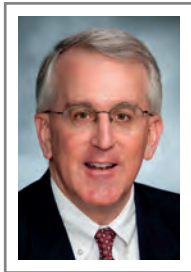
One other big thing Megan loves about their Bridge of Hope mentoring friends is that "they are in our lives, and they're not going anywhere."

**names changed*

Reflections on the Past Year

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

Innovating to Best Serve Homeless Families



Bill Hartman

Bill Hartman,
Board Chair

As Bridge of Hope approaches our 30th anniversary in 2018, we recognize that the face of homelessness has changed. While we as a nation have made great strides in ending homelessness for veterans and the chronically homeless, the number of homeless families with children has grown. The typical family facing homelessness is a single mother with two children. The homelessness crisis is particularly harmful for children, half of whom are under the age of 6.

The majority of homeless children today have experienced or witness violence, have few supportive adults in their lives, and have mothers who are dealing with significant trauma.

Within the Bridge of Hope network, a Core 4 Innovation Team has been working at programmatic changes to position us to respond to current cultural challenges in order to best serve homeless families in the years ahead.

As we follow Jesus in responding to our homeless neighbors, it is exciting to see new possibilities emerging! Thank you for what you made possible last year and all that is possible for homeless families in the years ahead.

In fiscal year 2015-2016, the Bridge of Hope network:

- Served 272 women and children
- 84% of families exited the program with permanent rental housing
- Trained 716 mentors from churches across our 21 locations in 12 states and Canada
- Launched 3 new locations in Detroit, MI; Safe Harbor, NC; and Browns Mills, NJ
- Partnered with 767 supporters like you who are helping end homelessness at a national level

Our goals for 2016-2017 include:

- To deepen our Cultural Humility to best serve the diversity of homeless families
- To make innovative program changes, through our Core 4 Innovation process, that position Bridge of Hope for a strong future. This includes re-imagining program language (including the word “mentoring”), benchmarks, principles, and standards to address cultural changes and engage more Christian faith communities in ending homelessness for women and children.

Thank you for joining us in making possible the journey from homelessness to permanent housing and transformative friendships.



Edith Yoder

Edith Yoder,
Executive Director

Special Thanks for Your Gifts*

IN HONOR OF:

Doris Burkhart Sandy & Tim Smoker
 Leslie Homer-Cattell and Becky Noll Ben & Laura Cattell Noll
 Pam Cooke Marian & Dave Gingrich
 Grace Horst Joyce & Ronald Leaman
 Jim Lapp Rhoda & Ora Mast
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IN MEMORY OF:

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 Leona C. Showalter Beverly & David Beiler
 Dorothy Swartley Deborah Stauffer
 Ethel Witmer Linda Witmer
 Edwin Zimmerman Marjorie Zimmerman

BY:

**Tribute gifts received after August 15 will be in the winter newsletter.*

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.



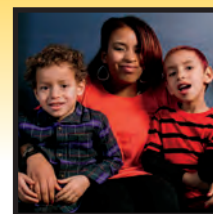
THE 8TH ANNUAL BRIDGE OF HOPE DAY OF PRAYER

is November 17, 2016. Visit our Facebook page or web site for info and join us in prayer for homeless families.

272
women & children
facing homelessness



Journey from Homelessness
to Permanent Housing
& Supportive Friendships



Network Program Annual Report 2015 - 2016

average # of kids = 2
average age = 6.9

average age of mom 32

Experienced:

domestic violence 60%
childhood trauma 39%
mental health diagnosis . . . 38%
substance abuse 14%



21

locations in
12 states & Canada



716

Bridge of Hope
trained mentoring friends
from local Christian
faith communities

average group = 8 mentors



Bridge of Hope
social workers

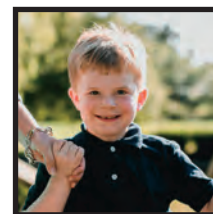
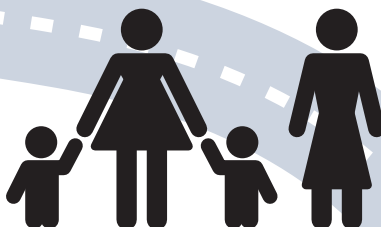


average service = 16.4 months
average rental assistance = \$5,157 over 12 months



84%

of families exited with
permanent rental housing.
Many also had a significant relationship
with one or more mentoring friends.



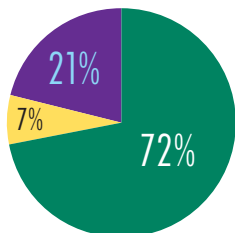
124 Leaders of Hope
(gifts of \$1,000+)



18 Legacy of Hope
(planned gift)

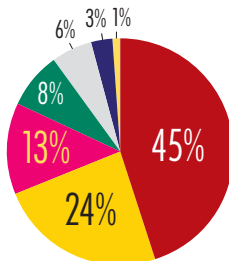


767 total donors
from **33** states



EXPENSES: \$552,848

Program	72%
Admin	7%
Fundraising	21%



INCOME: \$560,733

Individuals	45%
Special Events	24%
Foundation Grants	13%
Location Fees & Conference Registration	8%
Donated Services & Materials	6%
Corporate Giving	3%
Church Support & Other Income	1%

To view a full copy of our audited financial statements, go to: bridgeofhopeinc.org/about-us/public-accountability



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Bridge of Hope Inc. 311 National Road Exton, PA 19341



Inside...

- They are in our lives, and they're not going anywhere.
- Innovating to Best Serve Homeless Families
- 2015-2016 Highlights

Visit bridgeofhopeinc.org/public-accountability to view our **full Annual Report!**

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BRIDGE OF HOPE NATIONAL

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BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Wayne County Family Center, Westland, MI, tjame@samaritas.org

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MIDLAND REFORMED CHURCH and St. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Midland, MI
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, Hyattsville, MD