



BRIDGE OF HOPE NETWORK FACT SHEET

- **The Bridge of Hope program was developed and tested in Lancaster and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania.** Bridge of Hope began to serve the first mother and her children in **1989**.
- After more than a decade of successful work locally, **Bridge of Hope National was established in 2002** to end and prevent homelessness for women and children across the United States and Canada by calling churches and Christian Faith Communities into action.
- According to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress and the National Center on Family Homelessness, **239,000 families will be homeless in our nation tonight.** Every year these families spend at least one night homeless, sleeping in shelters, cars or abandoned buildings; this includes 1.6 million children. 1 in 30 children experiences homelessness in America each year.
- **The Bridge of Hope network currently includes 19 locations in 11 states and 1 Canadian province.** Bridge of Hope National has received requests for information about starting a Bridge of Hope from people throughout the U.S. and in a number of Canadian provinces. We also hear every week from single mothers who are homeless or facing eviction in communities across the country.
- Bridge of Hope forms a **Neighborhood** for each homeless family served – with the purpose of ending homelessness and exemplifying Christ’s love. Each Bridge of Hope Neighborhood is comprised of a **family facing homelessness** (primarily single mothers with children), 6 to 10 trained **Neighboring Volunteers** from a Christian Faith Community, and a Bridge of Hope **Case Manager**.
- Bridge of Hope families **successfully exit the program** with safe and sustainable housing, improved financial position (including through employment and budgeting), and an extended Neighborhood of support from within a Christian Faith Community. In fiscal year 2015-2016, **84%** of Bridge of Hope families exited with permanent rental housing.
- **Bridge of Hope National helps local groups by:**
 - **equipping them** to start a Bridge of Hope
 - **providing ongoing consultation** for local Bridge of Hope leaders
 - **training leaders for excellence** in the management of Christian nonprofits
- Those wanting more information may visit www.bridgeofhopeinc.org or call (toll-free) **866-670-HOPE**.