



Who is a neighbor who has meant a lot to you?

December 2016



Dear Friend,

I have a distinct memory of a snowy childhood Christmas morning when I showed off my new toys to our next door neighbors (a couple in their 50s with their young adult daughter, Fannie), from our living room window, across the snow, to their living room window 50 yards away.

I also remember, as a 4-year-old, waking up one morning and calling for my mom but hearing our neighbor, Fannie, answer my cry. During the night, my mom had miscarried and my dad took her to the hospital. Fannie came in the middle of the night to stay with my sister and me.

It was Fannie and her parents who bought a wading pool for my sister and me when we were toddlers. And it was Fannie and her mom who cried with us on the day we moved out of the neighborhood.

On the road of life – we all need good neighbors!

As Bridge of Hope approaches our [30th birthday](#), we have been talking a lot about neighbors.

With the full support of our network of [21 locations](#), I am pleased to share that last week our [national board](#) unanimously approved changing our language, over the next 2 years, from **mentoring to neighboring!**

I hope you'll take less than 2 minutes to watch our [newest video](#) that announces this change.

So the secret is out! Over the next two years, all our locations will transition to this new language of neighboring.

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Check out this [video](#) which introduces the language change - from **mentoring to neighboring!**



Jesus says that the 2 things that matter most in life are loving God and loving our neighbors. And Jesus was clear that our neighbors aren't limited to those who live on our street or in close proximity to us.

In Jesus' story of the [Good Samaritan](#), Jesus makes it clear that none of us can make it alone. At Bridge of Hope, we believe that everyone needs the support of a community and no family can make it alone in today's world, including families facing homelessness. We all need others around us, especially in times of crisis or difficulty.

This Christmas season, I hope all of us expand our acts of neighborly to include women and children facing homelessness.

When we stretch our boundaries – and open wide the door to our hearts and homes – our neighborhoods are expanded, our relationships are deepened, and for a moment we are more Jesus-looking. And isn't that the beauty of this Christmas season?

May God bless you deeply in this season of joy.

What's New?

- Join me in welcoming [Kristi Kubicki](#) to the staff of Bridge of Hope National as our Program Curriculum Specialist to focus on curriculum writing and resource development for program staff and [neighboring volunteers](#). Kristi has extensive experience of successfully implementing Bridge of Hope from serving as Family Resource Coordinator for [Bridge of Hope @ Hannah's House](#) (IN) for 4.5 years.
- Save the Date: Our [Gala Luncheon](#) is May 12 at [Doubletree Lancaster](#) featuring author [Jennifer Grant](#). Give one of her [books](#) as a Christmas gift, and invite your friend or family member to join you for our Gala - to help #EndFamilyHomelessness.
- We'd be glad to send a Christmas card to your friend or family member (or to you to give to them) if you [make a gift](#) in their honor - to help a mom and children facing homelessness.

Blessings,



[Email us](#) if you'd like to purchase a Bridge of Hope running belt - for yourself or as a gift.



Edith Yoder



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