

From: Edith Yoder <Edithy@bridgeofhopeinc.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:00 AM

Subject: Decreasing the # of days to find housing is vital to how we are ending family homelessness

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

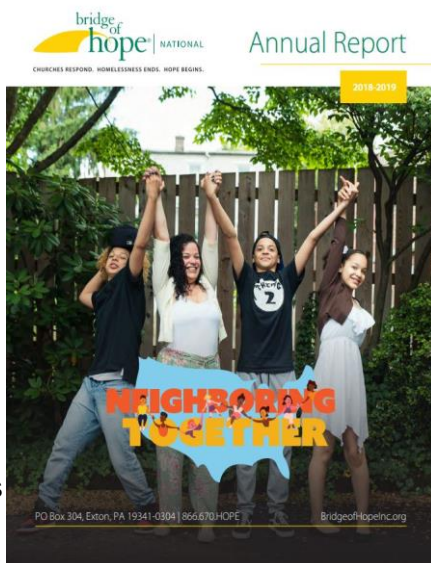
Decreasing the # of days to find housing is vital to how we are ending family homelessness

September 2019



Dear Friends,

Three years ago, as we approached Bridge of Hope's 30th anniversary, we began a deliberate process of innovating our services to meet the needs of homeless women and children today, as well as the needs of volunteers from churches. The process became known as our Strangers to Neighbors Initiative and it completely revamped our program, outcomes, benchmarks and language, while staying true to the [model](#) and [mission](#) of Bridge of Hope. Our goal was to create even better support and outcomes for the families we serve and the church volunteers, whom today we call Neighboring Volunteers (instead of mentoring groups).



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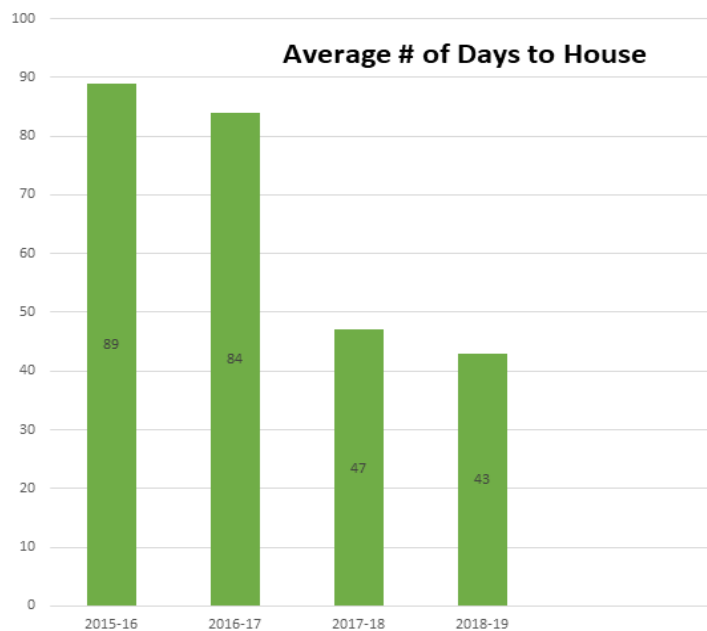
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The structure for implementing Bridge of Hope in Lancaster and in Chester County, PA – the birthplace of Bridge of Hope – has changed this month. To

Today I have great news to share with you. One of the most important goals in our Strangers to Neighbors Initiative included decreasing the number of days that it takes to find housing for a family facing homelessness to 60 days or less.

And the Bridge of Hope network has worked hard to make this important housing goal happen for the vulnerable families we serve! Bridge of Hope has achieved a **49% decrease in days to find housing**, from 84 days to 43 days! That's a 95% increase in efficiency! Congratulations to the staff and Neighboring Volunteers who are working hard to make this happen! You are bringing hope and stability more quickly to the families we serve!



It's all so worthwhile when you see families succeeding! I'm so grateful that we are now within **\$54,900 of finishing our \$1 million Strangers to Neighbors campaign**, that helped make this and so much more possible. We have a special matching challenge to finish off this campaign. It's not too late to help make it happen – your **gift now** or commitment by Sept. 30 will be matched dollar for dollar! Join us!

Wishing you joy on this neighboring journey,

read about this: <https://bridgeofhopeinc.org/important-update/>.

Hope is blooming in **Baltimore and Howard Counties, MD!** Matt Judon, linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, has connected with Bridge of Hope and through a generous gift will help to end family homelessness in the Baltimore region. Friends from Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church and others in this region are meeting on September 17 to take steps to launch a Bridge of Hope affiliate in this two-county region. Who do you know who might have interest and time to be involved in this founding board of directors? Contact AnneD@bridgeofhopeinc.org to help us spread the word or to join the Sept. 17 meeting in Howard County.

Read our [2018-19 annual report](#), hot off the press!

Take a moment to like our [Bridge of Hope National Facebook page](#) and watch for our Good Neighbor day posts later this month.



Edith Yoder

Edith Yoder
Executive Director



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