A Message
from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Rev. William C. Snyder
Board Chair

Edith Yoder
Chief Executive Officer

Keeping Hope – this has been the focus of families facing homelessness and Neighboring Volunteers.

Keeping Hope amidst coronavirus, stay-at-home orders, staggering unemployment, challenging economy, physical distancing, and a whole new way of being in our world. Keeping Hope has sometimes been hard work here at Bridge of Hope.

Keeping Hope means serving 22 percent more families this year than the prior year. As we began to experience the economic and personal impact of the coronavirus, staff and boards of our 20 locations in 12 states quickly realized that families facing homelessness needed additional support in Keeping Hope in the midst of homelessness and pandemic. We are inspired by followers of Jesus who are Keeping Hope through Neighboring, financial support and food donations. You are an incredibly generous community of supporters! Thank you.

Keeping Hope became our focus as we made significant pivots in how staff worked, ensuring parents and children in Bridge of Hope were receiving the best possible support in an extremely difficult season. These changes included learning virtual formats to provide case management, Neighboring Volunteer training, and creative ways to build relationships between families and Neighboring Volunteers via Zoom, porch visits, and more.

In 2019, we received funding to convert our Strangers to Neighbors® Training to an optional online training format. Little did we know that, less than a year later, this would be an essential strategy. God was clearly working in advance of us, on behalf of homeless families! The online training made Keeping Hope possible as we equipped and connected new families and Neighboring Volunteers in the midst of quarantine! And special thanks to all who helped us complete our three-year Strangers to Neighbors Campaign, which has made so much possible.

This past year, Keeping Hope has also meant incorporating the work of our two founding counties, Lancaster and Chester Counties, PA, under our national umbrella of services. We welcomed new directors for both counties and are excited to watch more churches begin neighboring and serving more families.

Keeping Hope was evidenced in the emergence of a new affiliate in the Greater Baltimore Region (MD), with the core support of NFL player Matt Judon and a great group of founding board members. And Keeping Hope was exemplified by Bridge of Hope North Central Iowa, who received the “Top Benchmark Award,” achieving all six top benchmarks for services in their community.

To each of you, as donors and partners in ministry, continue Keeping Hope and, together, we can end family homelessness!
Our Mission: To engage Christian faith communities in ending family homelessness through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ’s love.

Network Program Annual Report 2019-2020

- 247 Women (and a few men) and children were served in 2019 – 2020
- 22% increase in the number of families served over last year!
- 20 Locations in 12 states
- 100% of families experienced caring friendship and helpful connections with their Neighboring Volunteers
- 49 days on average to find housing for a family
- 54 Neighboring Churches
- 400 Neighboring Volunteers

BY THE NUMBERS

100% increase in the number of families served over last year!

Bridge of Hope National Affiliates run by Bridge of Hope National

Bridge of Hope Program Sites
Bridge of Hope National Office
Bridge of Hope Affiliates
Bridge of Hope - Backlund, PA
Bridge of Hope - Center County, PA
Bridge of Hope - Chester County, PA
Bridge of Hope - Goshen, PA
Bridge of Hope - Hastings Area, PA
Bridge of Hope - Harrisonburg - Rockingham, VA
Bridge of Hope - Lancaster, PA
Bridge of Hope - North Central Iowa

Bridge of Hope - A Mother’s Hope, Fort Wayne, IN
Bridge of Hope - Bridge to Destiny, Maywood, IL
Bridge of Hope - Center for Transforming Lives, Fort Worth, TX
Bridge of Hope - Christian Caring Center, NJ
Bridge of Hope - Child’s Home Ministries, Tampa, FL
Bridge of Hope - Child’s Home Ministries, VA
Bridge of Hope - Child’s Home Ministries, VA
Bridge of Hope - Midland’s Open Door, MI
Bridge of Hope - Presbyterian Children’s Homes & Services, Austin, TX

OneChurch Sites
Bridge of Hope - Lighthouse Church SCV, Santa Clarita, CA
Bridge of Hope - University Christian Church, Hyattsville, MD

BridgeofHopeInc.org
“I feel strongly about ending homelessness, and Bridge of Hope has given me the opportunity to help with a family,” Peggy Brennenman said. “I appreciate Mother Teresa’s quote, ‘Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.’”

This explains, in part, why on any random day you might find Peggy texting a woman, who is younger than her own granddaughter, to see if she’s free for a porch visit. As a Neighboring Volunteer, Peggy and five other volunteers recently committed to supporting the 22-year-old single mother of 3-year-old twins as she transitions from homelessness to long-term stability.

Like it did for so many activities, the COVID-19 pandemic affected training for the Neighboring Volunteers this spring. The Neighboring Volunteers met via Zoom and collected household goods at their church, and then on June 6, finally met the family when they helped them move out of a local shelter and into their own rental home. For Peggy, the role of a Neighboring Volunteer has been a comfortable fit. She relishes the experience of purely being a friend, just stopping by to chat or to drop off homemade cookies for the children. “As a Neighbor, my job is simply to support, listen and help out where I can.”

Peggy has enjoyed an easy relationship with the young mother from the start. Peggy raised her family in a row home in the same neighborhood the woman is now raising her family, and at one point, Peggy’s daughter was also a young single mother in need of a home. The five decades between Peggy and the mother seem irrelevant when they’re together. They recently made plans to transform the family’s overgrown tiny backyard into a colorful, flower-filled garden. “This woman is a loving and caring mother, and her children are the most important thing to her. If, as a mother, you don’t feel you can provide for your children adequately, that’s hard,” Peggy said. “So, if I can do one little piece that makes her life easier, that makes my role as a Neighboring Volunteer very satisfying.”

Racial diversity of families served, as self-identified by each family:

- Caucasian .................. 49%
- African-American .......... 27%
- Latina ........................ 13%
- African/Black ................ 6%
- Multiracial ................... 3%
- Pacific Islander .............. 1%
- Middle Eastern ............... 1%

They say that numbers speak for themselves. In 2019-20, Bridge of Hope served 247 single mothers, a few fathers, and children; 83 households were supported by 400 Neighboring Volunteers. Those numbers may impress or not, but it’s really about hope. These 400 volunteers didn’t sign up for a service day – they volunteered to bring hope to families through relationships. Relationships that cross the usual socioeconomic, racial, cultural, and religious differences, and now a pandemic. 400 Neighboring Volunteers helped to locate housing, collected furnishings, and assisted on move-in day. They provided transportation, meals after surgeries and the births of babies, and childcare while parents worked. They addressed plumbing issues, celebrated milestones, took kids to the pool, went for walks, delivered groceries, offered a listening ear when the load felt heavy, and they prayed.

In the first quarter of the new fiscal year, 66 new Neighboring Volunteers helped a dozen new families keep hope in the midst of the pandemic. While new economic challenges loomed, families lost jobs and income, children were schooling at home and everyone was social distancing for personal safety, more volunteers stepped up. They joined virtual training, met families via Zoom and are finding amazing ways to be deeply present to them. For these families, it’s not about the numbers … it’s about Keeping Hope.
We thank these members of the Leaders of Hope Society for helping to end family homelessness by engaging Neighboring Volunteers from within Christian faith communities!

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$25,000+
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High Foundation
John L. Mulvaney Foundation
Dorothy Pulcher
Bryan and Heather Zeamer/Men of Iron/PennStro Leasing, LCC/SUPPLY/Utility Keystone Trailer Sales

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$10,000 to $24,999
BB&T Bank, now Truist
Rick and Joyce Haller
Kathryn P. Nelson
Edgar Stoesz
Glenn and D. Anne Weaver
Terry and Joan Gotwals Yoder

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Agri-Basics
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John and Carol Anne Doering
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Wendy and Leon Snyder
The H.O. West Foundation
Willow Valley Associates
Edith Yoder and Garth Scott

Leaders of Hope
2019-2020
Leaders of Hope is an annual giving society based on giving $1,000+ for Bridge of Hope National’s fiscal year, April 1 - March 31.
**Leader of Hope - Young Donor: Those age 30 or younger join Leaders of Hope Society with a gift of $500.**
We thank those who have named Bridge of Hope National as a beneficiary in their retirement funds and/or estate planning.