



# Walking Away is Not an Option

Rose got to know Veronica three years ago when a security guard at her company mentioned Veronica needed a ride home from the hospital and no family members were available to help.

Rose agreed to drive Veronica home, and that day they began a journey which would last long beyond the ride.

“I soon discovered I was taking her to an apartment that was bug ridden, and the landlord was insisting she pay a \$500 water bill, even though she was in the apartment for less than a month,” Rose recalled. “I just felt like I needed to help her get out of that situation.”

Over the next few months, Rose found a better place for Veronica and her three sons to live, work for her boyfriend, and new friends at Calvary Chapel, in Chadds Ford, PA. Several months later, one of those friends, Lauren, stepped up to help Veronica when she was assaulted by her boyfriend. Lauren provided clothes, babysitting, and—along with Rose—another reliable presence in Veronica’s life. The church also surrounded the family with support.

But the crises continued. Veronica’s sons had asthma-related emergencies, there were several brief reconciliations with the boyfriend, and additional stresses that accompany single motherhood which exhausted Veronica’s informal support system. Rose and Lauren realized they were in over their heads. Walking away, however, was not an option.

Recognizing that Veronica needed a sustainable solution, the church reached out to Bridge of Hope early this year to launch a formal Neighborhood of Support. Now with a structured plan and a team of Bridge of Hope-trained Neighboring Volunteers (Rose and Lauren among them), Veronica is moving steadily toward her goal of independence and long-term stability.

“When you neighbor with someone who has experienced trauma in their life in any way, you have to understand they need support and the example of Jesus, and what He has done for us,” said Lauren. “You don’t give up on them.”

“We’re the family she doesn’t have,” said Rose, her voice halting with emotion. “It has to be overwhelming to be a single mom, with three young boys, venturing alone on this road. I’m just so thankful for where we are at this point.”



Veronica's children playing in the car which was recently donated to the family.

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# The Light That Shines



*A note from the*  
**Chief Executive Officer,**  
**EDITH YODER**



When you sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem” this Christmas season, I hope you catch this phrase, *“Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.”* This contrast of dark streets and a light that never dims strikes me as the hope we all long for in these days leading up to Christmas.

And yet the families we are seeing at Bridge of Hope are carrying weights that feel overpowering. Coronavirus has simply added to the stress of their lives. Moms fleeing domestic violence, venturing out alone, so deeply wounded that hope feels like something outside of their grasp. Mothers who have lost their jobs, and then their housing, and are now left with little dignity or hope when they enter a temporary shelter with their children. Or a two-parent family with a dad who is incapacitated due to medical injuries and a mom trying to work full-time, be a care-giver for her husband and still shepherd three girls through virtual schooling – only to get news of a rent increase which means they can’t continue to stay in their home.

Yet in the dark streets, like in Bethlehem, a light shines. An everlasting Light. The Light of the Christ-child.

This year has not been the year we had hoped 2020 would be. Yet – the Light shines. And the Christ-child is born – for you, for me, for each hurting mom and child who feels they are venturing down the dark streets alone. I’m grateful to you, the incredibly generous and supportive Bridge of Hope community, for helping families this Christmas, and all year long, to find stability, hope, and the love of neighboring volunteers.

Thank you for the light you continue to shine for families facing homelessness.

Edith Yoder  
 Chief Executive Officer

## Special Thanks for Your Gifts

### In Honor Of

Allison and her girls  
 Melissa Petty Floor  
 Kristi Kubicki  
 My two friends that attended the gala with me for my birthday  
 Anne Redlus  
 Chrissy Smith  
 Lila Stoeckle  
 Carol Wenger

### Given By

Michael and Priscilla Bahn  
 T.J. Patton  
 Kassie Misiewicz  
 Jeanette and Stan Harder  
 Kathi Baxter  
 Phyllis and Wayne Johnson  
 Deborah and Gregory Snyder  
 Jill Heine

### In Memory Of

T Bennett Dickerson  
 Theresa J. Herr  
 Connie Holth & Anne Damon  
 Phil Olson  
 Phil Olson  
 Phil Olson  
 Flossie Rusbuldt  
 Mary Yoder

### Given By

Doris Dickerson  
 John Herr  
 Toni Campbell  
 Joseph and Eileen Buerster  
 Lawrence and Carol Delaney  
 Linda and Larry Taylor  
 Richard Rusbuldt  
 Jonas and Miriam Miller

\*Tribute gifts received after 10/16/20 will be in the Spring Newsletter.

Your year-end gift will shine light and life for families facing homelessness.

**You can make a difference!**

<https://bridgeofhopeinc.org/donate-now/>

## New Church Resource

If your community does not currently have a local Bridge of Hope, your church can Neighbor a family facing homelessness through the **OneChurch Site** option. If your church does not have access to a case manager, Bridge of Hope National is planning to offer fee-based virtual case management services early in 2021. Please stay tuned for more information.

# Save the Date

**Friday, April 30, 2021**

for Bridge of Hope's Annual Gala Luncheon and silent auction.

*More details to come!*

## Want to stay informed about Bridge of Hope throughout the year by email?

Sign up to receive a short monthly eNews by contacting **MaryBethH@bridgeofhopeinc.org**. We will choose 5 winners from the new emails received by January 10, 2021, to receive a Bridge of Hope mask.

Katie Engle, a board member and Leader of Hope, speaks out:

# Why I believe in Bridge of Hope

I believe in Bridge of Hope because it fulfills the immediate and urgent need for housing, and also goes deeper by providing thoughtful case management, community, and a strong focus on faith.

Especially in these times where much of our lives seem to be taking place "from home," work from home, virtual school, virtual church, virtual celebrations and gatherings ... my mind often turns to those

for whom home is a car, a shelter, a friend's couch. Home and family are such critical foundations for kids. In these difficult economic times, the call for housing has become that much more urgent.

As Christians, we are called to love and care for one another. I am grateful to Bridge of Hope for doing this work and for the blessings it provides to all of those involved with its mission.



Katie Engle is an Account Executive for Lockton Companies in Boston, MA and has served on Bridge of Hope National's board of directors for three years, currently serving as vice-chair. She and her husband, Charlie, are Leaders of Hope Giving Society members.

## 5 Top Reasons to include Bridge of Hope in your will

By **CINDY PETERSHEIM**, past board member of Bridge of Hope National

1. Bridge of Hope is a ministry of Christ's kingdom.
2. Bridge of Hope has long term proven success.
3. Including Bridge of Hope in your will shows your leadership as a supporter of this ministry.
4. Including Bridge of Hope in your will models to our children and those reading your will what you are passionate about.
5. When we give and make plans for giving, it softens our heart and makes us more Christ-like.

By including Bridge of Hope in your will or planned giving, you will be part of the Legacy of Hope society that is thoughtfully undergirding the future needs of families facing homelessness.

To learn more, contact Lila Stoeckle, Director of Development, at **LilaS@BridgeofHopeInc.org** or 610-280-0280, extension 1002

# Bridge of Hope National

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## Bridge of Hope Affiliates

**BRIDGE OF HOPE Buxmont (PA)**  
buxmont.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE Centre County (PA)**  
centre.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
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**BRIDGE OF HOPE Lancaster (PA)**  
lancaster.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE North Central Iowa (IA)**  
northcentraliowa.bridgeofhopeinc.org

## Bridge of Hope Program Sites

**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ A Mother's Hope**, Fort Wayne, IN • amothershope.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Bridge to Destiny**, Maywood, IL • bridgetodestiny.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Center for Transforming Lives**, Fort Worth, TX  
centerfortransforminglives.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Christian Caring Center**, Browns Mills, NJ  
christiancaringcenter.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Home Sweet Home Ministries**, Bloomington, IL • hshm.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Hope Ministries**, South Bend, IN • hopeministries.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Metropolitan Ministries**, Tampa, FL  
metropolitanministries.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Micah Ecumenical Ministries**, Fredericksburg, VA  
MicahEcumenicalMinistries.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Midland's Open Door**, Midland, MI • midlandsopendoor.bridgeofhopeinc.org  
**BRIDGE OF HOPE @ Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services**, Austin, TX  
presbyterianchildrenshomesandservicestexas.bridgeofhopeinc.org

## Bridge of Hope OneChurch Sites

See website for listing.