

# Making Space for Housing and Healing

2022-2023



## **Space for Housing and Healing**

A Message from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer

What happens when calls for help increase dramatically and the needs of families facing homelessness escalate in ways we haven't witnessed in the past generation?

# In the midst of significant need, God is making space for innovative thinking, new possibilities and increased generosity!

Your support has allowed Bridge of Hope to **make space for housing and healing** in deeper ways. Over the past three years, calls for help have increased by a shocking 284%. And you, as a giving community, have increased giving by almost 100%, allowing us to make space for nearly double the number of mothers and children, as our country faces a nation-wide housing crisis and high inflation.

For three years amidst the pandemic, Beth (cover photo) lived in a shelter. For the first time in her son's young life, they were finally able to move to a home of their own. A shelter is not a home but that is where they lived for three years before and during the pandemic. Beth says she was in a "bad space" and the support of Bridge of Hope and her Neighboring Volunteers helped her "make space" for healing old wounds and starting anew.

For women receiving Bridge of Hope services, "bad spaces" can mean domestic violence and childhood abuse (experienced by 64%), struggles with mental health issues (49%) or a history of substance abuse (20%). Bridge of Hope offers space to make new choices, like a better paying job, furthering

education, or a move to a new apartment.

Offering hopeful choices to families is one way to end

homelessness. But it also requires societal change of systems that have trapped families in vicious cycles of unaffordable housing, a back-log in our mental health system and years of housing discrimination based on race.

Our 2023-26 "Making Space" Strategic Plan is committed to a multi-prong approach of finding new options for wholefamily mental health support and venturing into new spaces of helping families attain permanent housing more quickly. New spaces like, property ownership (do you have a property to donate?), master leasing, encouraging ministry-minded community leaders to purchase and offer rental units at affordable rates to families we serve, and so much more.

319
Leaders of Hope
Giving Society
Members

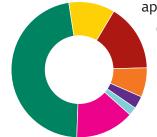
36
Legacy of Hope
Planned Giving
Society Members

**82**Friends of Hope
Monthly Donors

1258
Total Donors

Donors from 38 States plus Washington D.C.

**Thank you** for the powerful ways that you, our generous Bridge of Hope giving community, continues to **make space** for more families to experience housing and healing!



#### Income

Total\$1	,883,908
Individuals	47%
Gala and Golf Events	s 11%
Foundations	16%
Corporate Giving	7%
Church Giving	3%
Location Fees	2%
Donated Services	14%



#### **Expenses**

Expenses total:	\$1,997,235
Program	81%
Fundraising	15%
Administrative	4%



Bethany Shue Nussbaun

Bethany Shue Nussbaum Board Chair, 2022-2024



Cittlydur

Edith Yoder Chief Executive Officer



# Network Program Annual Report 2022-2023



mothers and children served



**Neighboring Volunteers** walked alongside families facing homelessness

13% increase over last year



days on average to find housing



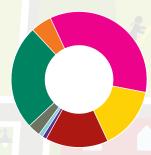
increase in calls for help from 2020-2023



of families are living in safe and sustainable housing when they exit



of families increased their income during their time in Bridge of Hope



#### **Racial Diversity**

of families served, as self-identified by each family

African-American/Black, 25% African/Black ...... 5% Caucasian......35% Hispanic/Latino......15% Multi-racial ......15% Pacific Islander .....1% Asian......1% Other......3%

222222



received comprehensive assessment of whole family needs



achieved goals related to family well-being



of Neighboring Volunteers increased their understanding of family homelessness and/or experienced a positive relationship with the family



provided to help a family exit homelessness



The Blessing of Our Own Space

At the age of 20, Beth and her infant son moved into a shelter when her son's father was incarcerated. They lived there for three years, while she worked and went to school to become a vet tech. Beth had never lived on her own, but as she neared graduation, she felt ready to move out of the shelter. Her case manager at the shelter connected her with Bridge of Hope. She liked the idea of having support from Neighboring Volunteers. "When I get into a bad mental space, I tend to isolate myself," Beth said.

There are so few safe, low-income housing options available right now, but Beth's Bridge of Hope case manager connected her with a property manager and advocated for Beth. At the end of the year-long lease, her landlord renewed it with no question and said he'd like to rent to more families in Bridge of Hope in the future. Landlord partnerships like this are vital in the midst of an affordable housing crisis!

Beth's Neighboring Volunteers helped her get a washer and dryer and some furniture for her new place. They also planned game nights and other activities. "They gave me a sense of community outside of family," Beth said. One Neighboring Volunteer has a grandson around the same age as Beth's son so they would have play dates, giving her and Beth time to chat.

Beth graduated from the vet tech program and now has a full-time job at a veterinary clinic – a perfect job for her as an animal lover. Being a single parent is stressful and all-consuming, so she has focused on strategies to improve her personal wellness and self-care.

Beth learned that she is stronger than she thought she was. Moving out on her own was overwhelming at first but now, over a year later, she is proud of her progress and those milestone moments on the journey, like hosting her parents for dinner at her new apartment and the first month she paid the rent in full without Bridge of Hope's rental assistance.

Having their own space is "one of the biggest blessings" for Beth and her son. "I can walk in here and know it's something that I worked towards," Beth said.

She hopes to eventually move to a place that will allow her to have pets and maybe one day even a hobby farm!

**Bridge of Hope** 







### **Leaders of Hope** 2022-2023

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 \$500.00





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John L. Mulvaney Foundation
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Rodney and Wendy Hoke Witmer

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#### **Legacy of Hope Society**

We Thank Those Who Have Named Bridge Of Hope National As A Beneficiary In Their Retirement Funds And/Or Estate Planning.

Friend of Bridge of Hope (4) Lee and Ruth Delp Dana Felder Robert Gotwals\* William and Dorothy Hartman Veronica Hennessy Dr. and Mrs. George M. Irwin

Paul and Betty Martin\* Doug and Crystal Martin Lois Z. Martin\* Aquila Mast\* Lewis and Esther Maritn Frank and Lydia King\* David B. Nelson\* Kathrvn Nelson Robert Neuhauser

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Todd and Anne Kaufman Weaver Justin and Christina Weber Linda Witmer Edith Yoder and Garth Scott Terry and Joan Yoder Karene & Mark Zimmerman

\* Donor is deceased and his/her planned gift is making a difference each year for families facing homelessness through the Bridge for Tomorrow Fund.