

From: Bridge of Hope, Edith Yoder <EdithY@bridgeofhopeinc.org>

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Subject: The Blessing of Our Own Space

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September 2023



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!

Read more of [Beth's story](#).

Making 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** 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.

[Read more.](#)

Edith Yoder
Chief Executive Officer



388
mothers and
children served



658
Neighboring Volunteers
walked alongside families
facing homelessness
13% increase over last year



63
days on average
to find housing



88%
of families are living
in safe and sustainable
housing when they exit

View our [2022-23 Annual Impact Report.](#)

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