

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

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**Subject:** Does this surprise you?

**January 2024**



CHURCHES RESPOND. HOMELESSNESS ENDS. HOPE BEGINS.



Recently I saw a Facebook post in which someone expressed surprise that homelessness seems to be increasing.

There's no surprise in that reality for us here at Bridge of Hope.

Calls for help continue to increase as we enter the coldest months of the year. And housing remains challenging, with unaffordable monthly rent and a tight rental market continuing to put housing out of reach for vulnerable families.

Recently Breanna\*, a mom in Bridge of Hope commented, "***I wish all single mamas could get the help they need.***" I strongly echo that wish for 2024 and beyond. Safe and stable housing for every child who has experienced homelessness.

In the "State of Homelessness: 2023 Edition" of data compiled for every state in the country, this key fact stands out:

Homelessness has been on the rise since 2017, experiencing an overall increase of 6 percent.

Is this the year for you to join Breanna and Bridge of Hope in helping all single mamas get the housing, help and hope they need?

In 2024, Bridge of Hope is committed to continuing to deepen and expand our work:

- Launching a Bridge of Hope in 2 new communities across the nation.
- Deepening our mental health support for families in crisis.
- Developing new financial budgeting strategies to support families in finding and keeping their housing.
- Expanding our landlord partnerships to assure families end homelessness more quickly
- Serving more families

In 2024, might you help end homelessness for families? Here's some ways you might do it:

- Help [launch a Bridge of Hope in your community](#), if there is not a Bridge of Hope for families in your area.
- [Invite 6-10 people from your church or small group](#) to be Neighboring Volunteers for a family facing homelessness.
- Tell one person you know about Bridge of Hope's impact on families.

Let's strive to help all single mamas facing homelessness, who struggle to stay afloat each and every day, find the bridge they need.

May 2024 be the year we all embrace our neighbors in new and meaningful ways,

**Edith Yoder**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



A warm welcome to the Bridge of Hope network to our 2 new program sites – one in **Duluth, Georgia** and the other in **Elizabethtown, Kentucky**. We are delighted to partner with these two new communities in ending family homelessness by engaging Neighboring Volunteers from Christian faith communities!



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