



CHURCHES RESPOND. HOMELESSNESS ENDS. HOPE BEGINS.

Dear Neighbors,

I am taking a deep breath as I begin this newsletter. For me, deep breaths are connected with taking one step at a time. When we aren't sure which way to go, it's helpful to take a deep breath.

There have been many deep breaths this spring, as the only way to navigate a crisis is to take one step at a time. Each day we woke up to new realities. Everything seemed to be labeled with the same word: *unprecedented*. Quarantine, unemployment, sickness, and socially distanced case management and neighboring relationships quickly became realities for families in our program over the past couple of months.

Kaitlyn had to take time off of work, due to client cancellations. The day before her home leave, she was knocked over by a dog and suffered injuries that required surgery. Kaitlyn's world turned upside down within a world turned upside down. Neighboring Volunteers delivered food to her door and face-timed with her children to help them prepare meals and take care of their mom. They made sure groceries were delivered. Kaitlyn took some deep breaths. She became stronger mentally and emotionally in a very difficult time. She is still recovering, but she is back at work and moving forward toward achieving her program goals.

Marie was furloughed. She had no income to pay her utility bills. Unemployment funds were delayed. It seemed like everything came to a halt. Neighboring volunteers made sure she had food and that she wasn't alone. Marie took a deep breath. She began to recognize ways that she could continue to move forward. After several weeks, she had work again. She overcame a transportation obstacle to get to work. She is slowly getting her finances on track.

Deanna contracted COVID-19 at work. Temporarily unemployed, she quarantined herself in her room and worried that her teenagers would get sick. When she was well enough to go back to work, she was placed on the night shift and had to take extra long shifts when co-workers didn't show up. Her health began to decline again. Deanna took a deep breath. She advocated for herself to return to day shift. She upheld healthy boundaries and she regained her health and strength. Deanna is now taking care of her debt and beginning to save up to return to school.

Aria was furloughed and looking for another part-time job. She was driving hours between a hotel and family in order to navigate work, childcare, and her closest relationships. Aria took a deep breath and applied to Bridge of Hope. Aria returned to work and got a second part-time job. She has been matched with neighboring volunteers and is close to obtaining an apartment. She's making plans to take classes and work toward better career opportunities.

Every time I remembered that our families had a safety net, that they didn't have to worry about how they would pay their rent, that they had neighboring volunteers texting and delivering meals, that their children were safe, I was able to take a deep breath.

Deep breaths become sacred winds when they call in hope and resilience. One step at a time, one day at a time is not unprecedented in Bridge of Hope. That's how all our families cast off the chains of homelessness. But to witness it happening during a global pandemic is deeply inspiring. I know the economic impact of this crisis will make our work even more relevant. I hope that you will remember these stories when you need to remember to take a deep breath. Then remember that your support helped make their deep breaths possible. Hope is always beautiful, but in the midst of a crisis, hope becomes more radiant.

With Gratitude,

Our Mission

To engage
Christian faith communities
in ending family homelessness
through neighboring relationships
that demonstrate Christ's love.

Who We Are...

Chris Hoover Seidel
Director

Jane Ellen Reid
Neighborhood Resource Specialist

Pamela Hoffeditz
Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors:

Lois Shank, Chair
Sue Swartz, Vice-Chair
Ronda Rittenhouse, Secretary
Wayne Hochstedler, Interim Treasurer
Wanda Hamilton
Audrey Myers
Deborah Raynes
Mark Metzler Sawin
Julian Turner

Our Vision

Harrisonburg-Rockingham,
a community
where no family
is homeless.

Visit us online!

www.hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org

Neighborhood Needs



Tangible ways you can help build a world of **HOPE** include financial donations, furniture donations, connecting Bridge of Hope with your church, participating as a Neighboring Volunteer, and attending an upcoming fundraiser!

We are currently looking for a Board Treasurer. If you are interested in sharing your skills, please contact us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Community Give
June 24
www.greatcommunitygive.org

#GREATCOMMUNITYGIVE



3rd Annual Beans & Brews
Friday, August 7th
Brothers Craft Brewing

GIVING

Online Donations
<https://hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/donate-now/>

Mail a check to:
PO Box 535 Harrisonburg, VA 22803

Visit our **Giving Page** to learn more about:

- Business Sponsorship
- Planned Giving
- Leaders of Hope
- Women of Hope
- Charitable Giving through Everence

<https://hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/give/>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT US TODAY
About **WAYS** to get involved.

(540) 478-2356