

CHURCHES RESPOND. HOMELESSNESS ENDS. HOPE BEGINS.

Dear Bridge of Hope Community of Neighbors,

Many changes are stirring in Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham!  
It's an exciting time!

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Chris and I have been a resident of Harrisonburg for two years now, following nearly a decade of community engagement, education, training, and work in Lancaster, PA along with my husband Tim and two children, Kai (12) and Phoenix (9). While in Lancaster, I attended Kairos School of Spiritual Formation for Spiritual Direction Training, then enrolled at Lancaster Theological Seminary where I earned my MA in Religion. During that time, I also served on staff at Community Mennonite Church as Director of Children and Youth Programs. After moving to Harrisonburg, I joined the staff at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at EMU. My life's journey has led me to a place where there is a deep "yes" to coming on staff at Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham, as Bridge of Hope has been an organization I have valued and supported for years.

I greeted you all as neighbors, not just because I consider myself a new local neighbor in this community, but because neighbors are all who support the work of Bridge of Hope through volunteering, donating, advocating, and promoting. We hope that you can say with joy, "***I am neighboring!***"

Recently, as I prayerfully considered the role of our Neighboring Volunteers, the small groups of 6-10 individuals from a local church community that walk alongside our Bridge of Hope families, I pictured the Garden of Gethsemane. I was reflecting on the opportunity to be present to harsh realities that our families face. I considered the invitation of the disciples to pray alongside Jesus, and how much Jesus longed for their commitment to him in those difficult hours. As we follow Jesus here at Bridge of Hope, I see us all as the disciples. We can help each other continue to stay faithful because we do have reason to hope!

### HOPE IS HAPPENING!

Here are some other reasons I am working with great hope:

- ◇ In April one of our mothers graduated from the program with a stable job and a healthy family! Our program is making a difference!
- ◇ I met an eight-year-old boy in our program whose spiritual and emotional needs are being met, in part, by having his own room in a safe apartment. He shared that he likes it because it's quieter and relaxing for him.
- ◇ I spoke with a Bridge of Hope supporter who is a recent divorcee. She told me that after the divorce she had to rethink her budget, including her giving. She understood that divorce is one of many shifts in families that can lead to instability. She decided to double her giving to Bridge of Hope because she felt an even stronger connection and commitment to our vision!
- ◇ I continue to learn what an important role Bridge of Hope has in our local context.

With Gratitude-

*Chris*

### 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

### Board of Directors:

Lois Shank, Chair  
Sue Swartz, Vice-Chair  
Ron Stimers, Treasurer  
Dolores Hertzler, Secretary  
Wanda Hamilton  
Rosemary King  
Audrey Meyers  
Melody Pannell  
Cindy Parks  
Mark Metzler Sawin

### Our Vision

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

Visit us online!

[www.hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org](http://www.hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org)

 @bridgeofhopehr

 @bohhrva

 @bohhrva

## Neighborhood Needs



Our families need your prayers!

Bridge of Hope desires to increase the number of families in our program. We are also opening our doors to families headed by single fathers! We need more Neighboring Volunteers, groups of 6-10 individuals from a local church community ready to walk alongside a family in our program, simply loving them and opening hearts, hands, and doors to them.

Contact us to learn more about how you can be a Neighboring Volunteer for Bridge of Hope!



*Three-Way Partnership Model*  
Families Drive the Program

We hope you'll join us for our new fall fundraiser—**Beans & Brews Festival**— Saturday, September 29th!  
[www.beansandbrewsfest.org](http://www.beansandbrewsfest.org)

Monetary donations are always appreciated as they help us to continue to make hope a reality for families facing homelessness. We can provide rental assistance and other support as families build resilience and journey toward financial stability.

Check out our new donation page:  
[hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/donate-now/](http://hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/donate-now/)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT US TODAY

to find out how you can become a Neighboring volunteer! There's a family waiting for your friendship!

(540) 478-2356