

CHURCHES RESPOND. HOMELESSNESS ENDS. HOPE BEGINS.

Dear Neighbors,

When Cierra lay down on her new apartment's soft, clean carpet, she exhaled in gratitude. She was so grateful that this was **her** place, a new chapter in her family's story. Weeks prior, Cierra left an abusive relationship and began working with local agencies to get her family's life back on track. One of her case managers reached out to Bridge of Hope, knowing our program would support Cierra's family's long-term success. A lot of calls, socially distanced meetings, taxi rides, nights in a hotel, job applications and childcare arrangements later, Cierra got a job and an apartment within the same week! A small group of Neighboring Volunteers is being trained to walk with Cierra's family during the program. Soon there will be a Neighborhood Launch followed by a House Blessing, and Cierra will be in the rhythm of regular case management sessions to help her reach the goals she has set for her family. They will not be alone on this journey. They will be safe and supported.

Cierra's apartment has large windows that bring in lots of sunlight, and that feels symbolic of the hope that is pouring in on her and her family at this moment.

**What's New...**

In February, we hired Maria Rodriguez, our newest case manager, who has been a wonderful addition to our amazing team!

We are welcoming Greg Dycus and Tammy Tomlinson to our board! Tammy is a Bridge of Hope graduate willing to share her wisdom as part of our governing body. Welcome Greg and Tammy!

We are hiring another half-time case manager! If you know someone who might be a good fit, please share: <https://hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/job-opportunities/>

(Note: This is not an entry level position.)

**Annual Report in a Nutshell**

(2020-2021 Fiscal Year - A Pandemic Year)

- 8 Families Received Holistic, Whole-Family Case Management
- 16 Children Safe
- 44 Neighboring Volunteers Stepping up to Neighbor Socially-Distanced
- 100% Neighboring Volunteers Reported Positive Neighboring Experiences
- 7 Neighboring Churches, 5 Denominations
- 100% Women Employed
- 2 New Families in New Housing
- 1 New Family Preserved Existing Housing
- 5 Families Received Rental Assistance
- Average Length of Program: 18 months
- 100% Families Exiting Program Graduated or Exited with Stability



Because of You, Cierra's family has hope. Because of You, we've served more families than ever before. Because of You, hope resides between neighbors.

With Deep Gratitude, *Chris*

**SPRING 2021**

***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

Maria Rodriguez  
Neighborhood Resource Specialist

Makayla Fulmer  
Neighborhood Resource Specialist

Pamela Hoffeditz  
Administrative Assistant

**Board of Directors:**

- Wanda Hamilton, Chair
- Audrey Myers, Vice-Chair
- Ronda Rittenhouse, Secretary
- Malachi Bontrager, Treasurer
- Deborah Raynes
- Mark Metzler Sawin
- Julian Turner
- Kim Copeland
- Greg Dycus
- Tammy Tomlinson

***Our Vision***

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

**Visit us online!**

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

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 @bohhrva

 @bohhrva

## Neighborhood Needs



Tangible ways you can help build a world of **HOPE** include financial donations and connecting Bridge of Hope with your church and/or participating as a Neighboring Volunteer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Leaders of Hope Breakfast

May 22, 9am  
Virtual

### Church Relations Lunch

June 16, 12pm  
Virtual

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Beans & Brews Festival

August 6, 4-8pm  
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  
Cheerful Givers

Charitable Giving through Everence

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

### Dedicated Gifts:

**Lee & Del Snyder** - In honor of Chris Hoover Seidel, recognizing her extraordinary leadership in this challenging year.

**Stuart & Shirley Showalter** - In honor of Chris Hoover Seidel



P.O. Box 535 | Harrisonburg, VA 22803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Bridge of Hope

**CONTACT US TODAY**

*about ways to get involved!*

(540) 478-2356