

Local Board of Directors

Our governing board is made up of local volunteers that bring their passion, expertise and experience to the table. We desire to have ecumenical, racial, gender, occupational, and socio-economic diversity around our table so that we can best serve the needs of our entire local community.

If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, please contact us for an application.

Family Eligibility Criteria

- Family headed by one parent with dependent child/ren under 18
- Homeless or at-risk of homelessness
- Open and willing to relate to a group of Neighboring Volunteers
- No illegal substance use or substance dependence
- Open to working toward financial stability through employment

**We are a
Living Wage Certified Employer**



Connect with Us!

PO Box 535
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone: (540) 478-2356
hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org

Chris – director@hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org

Maria – nrs@hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org

Makayla – program@hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org

Jooyeon – office@hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org



CHURCHES RESPOND. HOMELESSNESS ENDS. HOPE BEGINS.

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”

John 1:14 (MSG)



Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



What We Do

Bridge of Hope serves families facing homelessness in our local community. We serve the most vulnerable families, households headed by one parent.

Bridge of Hope is a Housing First program, which helps find safe, fair-market housing and offers rental assistance on a decreasing basis over the time of the program, which can range from 12-24 months. Our trauma-informed program is a three-way partnership that includes the family which drives the program, the case manager who connects the family with resources to reach their holistic goals, and Neighboring Volunteers who serve as a social support system. This social support is what makes our program unique.

As a Christian faith-based organization, we call the church to care for the families through friendship, advocacy, and financial support. The overarching goal is that families will break the cycle of homelessness and live into stable, resilient futures.



The Top Three Causes of Homelessness

1. Lack of Affordable Housing

There is a less than 3% vacancy rate in fair-market housing in Harrisonburg. As a Housing First program, **we need Landlord Partners** to partner with us in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

2. Lack of a Living Wage

Our rental assistance program helps families take classes, find a new job, build credit and/or pay off debt. **We need financial support** to continue to offer this important program to local families.

3. Domestic Violence

Most of our program participants, including children, have experienced some form of trauma in their lives. **We need Neighboring Volunteers** from local churches to walk alongside our families with love and care during their time in the program.

Our Staff

Chris Hoover Seidel, Executive Director, is passionate about growing Bridge of Hope's trauma-informed work, by engaging churches, agencies, and individuals. She's also passionate about addressing the systemic issues that keep people in the cycle of homelessness.

Maria Rodriguez, Neighborhood Resource Specialist, is drawn to Bridge of Hope's emphasis on trauma-informed care and strengths-based practices that respect and value each individual's unique needs. She strives to create programs to end homelessness by working collaboratively with families and community agencies to foster autonomy and relatedness through a holistic approach.

Makayla Fulmer, Neighborhood Resource Specialist, is passionate about engaging with communities who have been marginalized, through a collaborative approach to meet client needs and goals. She strives to honor the resilience, dignity, and autonomy in each person she works with; her dedication lies in co-creating and enjoying a community where all individuals are well cared for and feel truly welcomed.

Jooyeon Kim, Book Keeper, is grateful to use her skill set as a book keeper to take part in Bridge of Hope's goal of helping families in the local community break the cycle of homelessness.