

## **Draft of Land Acknowledgement for Bridge of Hope...**

Bridge of Hope prays, works, and partners with families against homelessness in the Shenandoah Valley. This Valley, between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, encircled by the North and South Fork of the Shenandoah River, with rains and creeks running to the Chesapeake Bay, is the ancestral homeland of the Page and Keyser culture peoples, of the Monacan Indian Nation and Manahoac Tribe. We are grateful for their stewardship of the grasslands and woodlands of these ridges and valleys for thousands of years.

We remember that we are part of a story of colonization that separates people from plants, animals, and land, that measures and divides and sells land to benefit a few. And though European settlers ploughed through burial mounds to plant crops in this Valley, and though many attempts were made to erase indigenous people from Virginia, their stories and cultures and communities belong here in this land.

As we work for homes and wholeness for the families of Bridge of Hope, for our staff, for our board, for our partners in this work, we want to live humbly and in right relationship with this history, with the land, and the Native peoples of the land.