WHO DO YOU CALL?
“All families regardless of their socioeconomic status need supports and services at various points in the life cycle and especially during periods where inevitable life stresses, especially losses, may become overwhelming. Few people can live alone, isolated from support, compassion, and instrumental assistance. Support networks are women’s social capital, a resource which poor women and women in crisis must often draw upon very heavily.”

Social Capital

The interpersonal relationships, institutions, and other social assets of a society or group that can be used to gain advantage.
“People don’t become homeless when they run out of money, at least not right away. They become homeless when they run out of relationships.”

Bridge of Hope’s Mission

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

Neighborhood of Support

• Neighboring Family
• Case Manager
• Neighboring Volunteers
Bridge of Hope’s Program Outcomes

- Safe and sustainable housing
- Strong and resilient families
- Supportive Neighboring relationships
Why Neighborhoods of Support?

“Support networks are vital for stabilizing homeless families and their children in the community and helping mothers transition to self-support. For all families, these supports are the foundation of social capital—a network of mutual or reciprocal social relationships to which mothers and families contribute, and from which they can draw resources over time.”

(National Center on Family Homelessness Health Care for the Homeless Clinician’s Network, 2003, p. 41)
Social Capital
How important is volunteer training?

- 5 hours of Volunteer training before meeting a family
- 4 roles of a Neighboring Volunteer
Strangers to Neighbors℠

Opening My Eyes—Learning and gaining a new perspective on the issues surrounding family homelessness.

Opening My Heart—Offering support and encouragement to, spending time with, and building a relationship with a family facing homelessness.
Strangers to Neighbors℠

Opening My Hands—Offering tangible, practical support to a family, such as helping look for housing and childcare, providing transportation, locating household furnishings, providing meals, etc.

Opening Doors—Using my personal and professional networks to help find housing, medical providers, employment, and other needed resources to support a family’s long-term success.
Solutions-Strategies-Resources

- Support Map
- Neighboring Volunteer Roles
- Social Capital Inventory
- Needs that Neighboring Families in Bridge of Hope Have Experienced
Neighboring Volunteer Roles

1. **Neighboring Volunteer Coordinator:** ________________________
   
   Serves as the primary communicator between the Neighborhood Resource Coordinator and the Neighboring Volunteers. This person is responsible for coordinating Neighborhood meetings if and when necessary.

2. **Housing Coordinator:** ____________________________
   
   Coordinates the Neighboring Volunteers’ efforts to locate housing, in partnership with staff and the family. This may include collecting housing leads from other Neighboring Volunteers, helping the family make contacts with the landlords, visiting potential apartments with the family, etc.

3. **Furnishings Coordinator:** ____________________________
   
   Leads and organizes finding furniture and any other household items the family may need.

4. **Moving Coordinator:** ____________________________
   
   Organizes the logistics of the move with the family and other Neighboring Volunteers.

5. **Transportation Coordinator:** ____________________________
   
   Coordinates and schedules necessary transportation or transportation-related needs. This could include coordinating transportation until the family secures long-term solutions, arranging occasional rides, connecting the family to a trusted mechanic, helping with auto repairs and upkeep, etc.

6. **Childcare Coordinator:** ____________________________
   
   Helps the family line up childcare or address babysitting needs. This could include lining up Neighboring Volunteers to provide childcare until the family secures long-term solutions, as well as occasional babysitting for doctor appointments, study sessions, parenting breaks, etc.

7. **Social Coordinator:** ____________________________
   
   Plans or delegates planning of any Neighborhood events, such as birthday parties and holiday or other special celebrations.
Social Capital Inventory

- **Housing:** landlords, realtors, apartment managers, handy-persons
- **Jobs/Education/Training:** temp agencies, business owners, educators
- **Medical/Health Insurance:** doctors, nurses, dentists, clinics, pharmacists
- **Childcare:** providers, daycare owners
- **Transportation:** mechanics, hobby mechanics, car dealership owners
- **Physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness/Parenting:** Gym owners, counselors, therapists, spiritual directors, life coaches, other parents
- **Legal Services:** legal aid clinics or organizations, pro-bono attorneys
Needs that Neighboring Families in Bridge of Hope Have Experienced

What is Yours?
*Is there a particular need that has your name on it? (i.e. resume writing, tutoring, legal advice, etc.)*

What Might Belong to Someone You Know?
*As you consider your social capital, to whom can you connect those with needs? (i.e. a mechanic, a counselor with a sliding scale, etc.)*
Sharing Social Capital

“Falling Free: Rescued from the Life I Always Wanted”
By Shannan Martin
Building Social Capital

A simple idea with powerful, life changing potential.

“Social capital isn’t manifest only in someone connecting you to a friend or passing a résumé on to an old boss. It is also, or perhaps primarily, a measure of how much we learn through our friends, colleagues, and mentors. I didn’t know how to prioritize my options, and I didn’t know that there were other, better paths for me.”

J.D. VANCE, Hillbilly Elegy
Building Relationships

Janet: Believing a Better Story
Thank you for joining me today! Questions?

“You utilize your networks for good when you use your influence to connect those in need of resources with those willing to share theirs.”

MARGOT STARBUCK, Small Things with Great Love

Bridge of Hope
(610) 280-0280
info@bridgeofhopeinc.org

JOIN THE NEIGHBORING MOVEMENT:
• Ending family homelessness
• Loving your neighbor