

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.
Note: If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's Summary Sheet **MUST** accompany application.

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date 9/12/17

Contact Information

Organization Name: Bridge of Hope Inc. (dba Bridge of Hope National)

Address: 311 National Road, Exton, PA 19341

Phone: 610-280-0280

Website: bridgeofhopeinc.org

Year Incorporated: 2002

Executive Director Name: Edith Yoder

Executive Director E-mail: EdithY@Bridgeofhopeinc.org

Board of Directors Chair Name: Bill Hartman

Primary Contact Name: Kathleen R. Beiler

Primary Contact E-mail: kathyb@bridgeofhopeinc.org

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure

Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure

Donor Advised Fund(s) Fund for Chester County Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Bridge of Hope National is based in Exton, PA. As of September 2017 we have 19 locations in 11 states and Canada, including a location in Coatesville PA. We have 6 locations in Southeast and Central PA: Chester/Lancaster, Berks, Bucks/Montgomery, Harrisburg Area (Cumberland and Dauphin Counties) York and Centre County.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

In fiscal year 2016-17 the Bridge of Hope network served 257 women and children facing homelessness.

Mission:

To end family homelessness. Bridge of Hope is a faith-based program combining professional case management and a support group from a local church who provide tangible support and networks of social capital to achieve:

1. Safe and Sustainable Housing (through employment and available resources)
2. Strong and Resilient Families
3. Supportive Neighboring Relationships

Families of all faith traditions are served by Bridge of Hope, and participation in religious activities is not required.

Proposal Summary:

We are seeking support of our 1 Million dollar Strangers to Neighbors Initiative. This initiative is to fund new programming in the following areas: Strengthened Families with a focus on children and trauma (assessment and resources), Safe and Sustainable Housing, Financial Stability – Improving Financial Position, and Creating Neighborhoods of Support and Engaging Christian Faith Communities.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Strategic Relationships

Fundraising & Development Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ 748,604 _____ 7.5 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
72 _____ % of budget for program expenses _____ 18 _____ # of Board Volunteers
7 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses _____ 640+ _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
21 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses _____ 12,800+ _____ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The John L. Mulvaney Foundation

Utility/Keystone Trailer Sales

2 individuals at \$25,000+ each

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: Gifts of any amount are welcome, to empower our work of ending homelessness for the long-term, for more families.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE - 3 pages maximum

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

History

Bridge of Hope began in 1987, in Coatesville, PA by a public health nurse and a women's shelter director. They were working with a new and increasing population of homeless-- single mothers. They both realized that the 30-day shelter program was insufficient in helping to make the life-changing and long-term difference the women needed to live independently. Without addressing underlying problems, single mothers facing homelessness were caught in a cycle, facing overwhelming obstacles alone.

They realized that the best way to address long-term needs was to provide comprehensive services – and that the services could best be provided with the direction of a professional case manager and a trained support group from a church, which would provide tangible support, encouragement and a network of social capital. Since serving its first family in 1989, Bridge of Hope has been successfully engaging churches to end family homelessness. This past fiscal year 91% of families exiting the program had save and sustainable housing, and 96% were employed. Over 257 women and children were served by Bridge of Hope with over 600 volunteers involved as Neighboring Volunteers.

In 2002, Bridge of Hope National was launched to help respond to the increasing requests for information from across the country on how to replicate this successful model. Bridge of Hope National now provides several models for communities to start a Bridge of Hope and provides training and ongoing support and resources, in order to help communities launch, sustain, and grow this successful ministry model with homeless families and volunteers from local churches. As of 9/2017, Bridge of Hope has 19 locations in 11 states and Canada.

Model, achievements, and distinctiveness

Bridge of Hope brings together professional staff and trained church-based support groups to empower homeless and at-risk single mothers to attain the following outcomes: safe and sustainable housing, strong and resilient families and supportive neighboring relationships.

A Bridge of Hope case manager provides the family with strengths-based and trauma-informed case management services, career-mapping, and temporary rental assistance on a decreasing basis over 12 to 24 months. The family is matched with a group of 6 to 10 volunteers from a local church who are trained to provide a network of support and friendship. Each volunteer group receives a *Strangers to Neighbors Guide* and participates in 5 hours of facilitated group training.

Bridge of Hope National trains and resources our locations by providing weekly teleconference training/supervision calls for Bridge of Hope case managers, online training, an annual conference, executive director/board manuals and consultation, online family outcomes tracking and a donor database, a shared website, professionally-designed resources for fundraising, marketing and church relations, and much more.

Goals

As we pursue our 2014-2018 strategic plan, our board has identified 8 key priorities. 4 are:

- To deepen our cultural humility to best serve homeless families
- To identify and address barriers to achieve 80%+ success outcomes for families served
- To end homelessness for 75% more single mothers and children (by 2020)
- To launch new Bridge of Hope locations

2. Funding request - Description of key initiatives and Specific needs and issues to be addressed

- **Organizational impact if initiative is undertaken**
- **How will this grant enhance your organization's capacity? How will it be measured?**

- **Activities to implement the initiative – including timeline and costs to implement the initiative.**



Nayr's Story

Nayr moved into her car when she was evicted. She was working several jobs to make ends meet, and she thought living in the car would be a temporary solution for the summer. But without a safe place to stay, her situation quickly felt desperate, and she realized she needed help. She heard about Bridge of Hope, and it seemed like a good option, but Nayr describes herself as a tough cookie; she hated asking for help. When she filled out the application, it was a turning point.

She was accepted into the Bridge of Hope program and matched with a group of Bridge of Hope Neighboring Volunteers. Nayr described feeling conflicted at first; she wanted the help the program offered, but she was afraid to share her story, and open up to strangers. She found an apartment and her Neighboring Volunteers helped her move in. They furnished the apartment for her, and baked cookies. For Nayr and her daughter Nayana, it was the first step in building trust. She realized having a support group helping her felt “welcoming” and for the first time she had someone to turn to.

With help from her case-manager, Nayr found a better job and graduated from Bridge of Hope this past year. She has learned to budget and came to terms with the fact that, for now, she cannot afford a car. She takes a bus to work or asks for rides. Through the program, Nayr has been able to take the time to learn about herself, how to trust herself and how to relate to others. She was recently been promoted as a supervisor at her job. She has crossed the bridge from homelessness to stability for the long term.

The Strangers to Neighbors Initiative will impact Bridge of Hope in four areas:

1. **Safe and Sustainable Housing:** Families require affordable, sustainable and safe housing. We will be researching and developing new housing first initiatives, develop a landlord partnership program and explore alternative housing options.
2. **Strengthen Families:** We are elevating programming to expand the **trauma informed services** that we provide. Comprehensive assessments of the family helps identify and implement the best approaches for breaking the cycle of homelessness.
3. **Improving the financial position of families exiting homelessness:** employment, improved technical skills or education and increased income from a variety of resources are vital to ending homelessness in the long-term. We will expand our case management curriculum, develop more extensive tracking programs and increase staff training.
4. **Create Neighborhoods of Support & Engage Christian Faith Communities:** Volunteers from churches and other Christian faith communities support families facing homelessness and create relationships that lead to empowerment and success. We have changed our language from describing our services as “mentoring” to a more relational term of “Neighboring”, which requires updates to all resources. We will be developing new videos to remain current and culturally relevant. With the rise of social media, technology and millennial volunteers we are creating new resources for recruiting volunteers and communication within the program.

How this Initiative will Impact Bridge of Hope's Capacity:

The Strangers to Neighbors Initiative means a significant shift in program components, in response to evidence-based research and to changing economic and faith community realities. The program components will result in increased focus on children, in new housing and housing resource approaches, and new resources and relationships as we explore partnerships with organizations and Christian faith communities. We are shifting away from a federated/affiliate model

of service to a network-driven process to allow each location and community to adjust for their culture and circumstances. At the National level, we will focus on providing tools and resources to the network, but not prescriptions or performance-implementation requirements.

How impact and results will be demonstrated

We are shifting from a prescriptive organization to setting performance benchmarks that would qualify a Bridge of Hope location as effective.

Performance benchmarks include the following:

1. 80% of families move into safe and sustainable housing within 60 days.
2. 80% of families exiting the program live in stable and sustainable housing.
3. 80% of families increase income including income from employment.
4. 80% of exiting adults are employed.
5. 100% of family members receive comprehensive assessment that guides the supports provided to the family.
6. 100% of neighboring volunteers complete the training.
7. 100% of neighboring volunteers report deepened understanding of homeless

The Strangers to Neighbors Initiative will enhance our work of ending family homelessness for the long-term, recruiting new volunteers (including millennials), helping women to find affordable housing and adequate employment, and measuring and reporting outcomes to stakeholders.

Timeline for Strangers to Neighbors Initiative:

October 2017 – Introduce the new resources to the Network. Begin rolling out changes. Locations begin using the term “Neighboring” to describe the services and relationship with the family in the program.

October 2016-2019 – developing new curriculum, housing initiatives, assessment resources and other programming.

January 2018 – begin working with designer on a mobile platform website.

By April 2019 – full implementation across the network.

Your gift will help expand Bridge of Hope’s impact for the years ahead, end homelessness for more families, and bring hope and stability for struggling women and children. Bridge of Hope invests in the families in our program to make a long-term, life-changing transformation to stability.