

*Ending homelessness for  
single moms and children,  
one family at a time*



## February 2023 News

Hello!

It has been an amazing start to the new year! The snow has returned, with it, many days of frigid temperatures. We love to play in it or peacefully watch it fall from the comfort of our warm homes. But for moms facing homelessness, this can be a difficult time of year. Between housing and transportation issues, getting to work and school can be quite challenging. We have already seen an increase in need this year, so we appreciate your partnership in helping us house as many families as possible. The Bridge of Hope program is not easy, and we applaud our moms who succeed, going on to live safe, healthy, independent lives with their children.

One such mom is Shamara. When Shamara came to Bridge of Hope, she and her son lived separately with different family members because she couldn't afford a place of her own. She never had anyone who held her accountable or offered her hope for a brighter future. Her friends and family did not share what it looks like to have a budget or make sound financial decisions. With Bridge of Hope, she was matched with a Case Manager who does just that.

This is often the case for most moms who join the Bridge of Hope program. They are glad to have housing but often need help understanding how rigorous and in-depth the process will be.

One primary benchmark towards self-sufficiency we aim for is to have these moms spend at most one-third of their income on housing by the time they graduate. It's hard to go from being unhoused to being financially stable. Bridge of Hope Case Managers focus on quickly bringing our participants to this level. At every weekly Case Management meeting, they discuss salary, income, and ways to increase income until the moms reach this goal. These meetings focus on setting goals and the process of attaining them. Specifically on career, income, transportation, savings, and legal issues – often custody. Case Managers refer the moms to additional resources like job coaching, AD Works, and ActivateWork programs to help moms into higher-paying jobs/careers, and temporary assistance like food stamps to help reduce debt and create financial stability.

A high level of transparency is required with moms, which can be challenging. It is hard to share personal financial information with others. The Case Managers have to earn the trust of the moms to engage in these difficult conversations.

One mom in the program has a \$150 budget for food each month. She makes too much for food stamps and Medicaid working as an office administrator but won't be eligible for health insurance for another five months. In the meantime, she can't make her \$150 food budget if she gets sick or misses any work. She utilizes food banks and

a second job to stay on track with her budget.

While this seems grim, it is a reality that families facing homelessness deal with daily. While the program is rigorous, this is needed to become self-sufficient and experience success during and after they graduate from the Bridge of Hope Program.

Shamara is a shining example of what we strive for with all moms and families in our program. She worked her way up to management at her last job and has since started her own business. Her son is focused on going to college. We have several other moms in the program working on earning certifications and college degrees.

Many families we serve have never been taught to have goals and dreams. They have been living hand to mouth for so long that they can't comprehend anything beyond feeding their children and finding someplace warm to sleep tonight. Having a vision for the future is completely foreign and a luxury they have never had. Our goal is to introduce these families to this vision so that during their time in the Bridge of Hope program, they will embrace the lessons they learn and pass them along to the next generation because that is where real change happens.



Gratefully,  
Veronika Clark,  
Executive Director

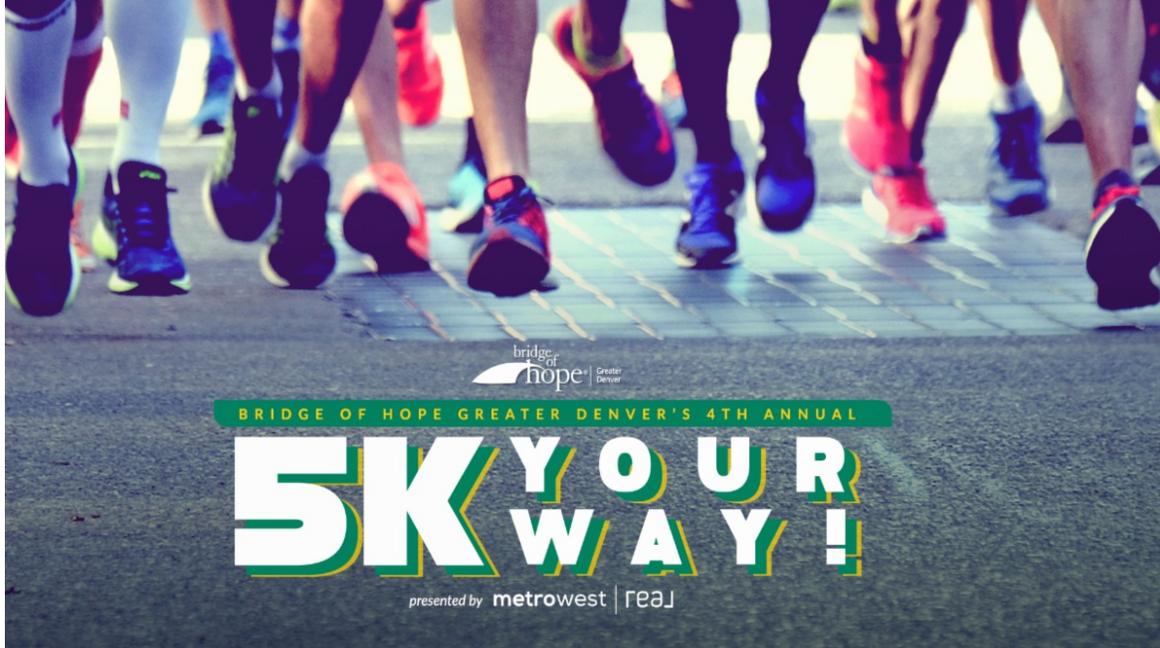
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## End-of-Year Giving Statements

End of Year-giving statements have been emailed. If you did not receive your statement, be sure to check your spam folder. If you need a paper copy of your statement, please [contact us](#).

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## Coming Soon: The 4th Annual Bridge of Hope 5K Your Way



## Sponsorship Opportunities Are Now Available for The 9th Annual Golf Classic!

**Contact us** to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and take advantage of early-bird pricing.



## Business Spotlight Partner of the Month

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"On behalf of Metrowest Real Estate, we are proud to support Bridge of Hope and their

great work within the Greater Denver community.

What we love about Bridge of Hope is that they go beyond a free handout and invest in helping single mothers and their children develop real-world skills and knowledge. Their program offers case management, financial training, and housing support to assist these mothers in breaking free from homelessness and developing the life-long skills needed to live a safe, secure, and happy life.

We have seen firsthand the power of their initiative and how transformative it can be. This is a truly noble cause, and we couldn't be more pleased to offer our support."

-Ken Blevins, CEO

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Many single moms and children in our community need your help. [Give today to help end family homelessness.](#)

Give \$25 to provide  
emergency  
assistance to a family

Give \$50 to help with  
a deposit for an  
apartment

Give \$75 to help  
provide rental  
assistance

Bridge of Hope Greater Denver | [Website](#)



Bridge of Hope Greater Denver | 40 E Highlands Ranch Pkwy, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

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