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**CONTACT:**

Leanne Bush Public Relations

PHONE: 571-339-1675

EMAIL: [leanne.bush@yahoo.com](mailto:leanne.bush@yahoo.com)

**HANNAH'S HOUSE PARTNERS WITH BRIDGE OF HOPE  
TO OFFER EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM TO NEW MOTHERS**

**Local Church Communities Step Up As Resource  
For Women To Leave Poverty And Homelessness Behind**

Mishawaka, IN (May 10th, 2012)-- Hannah's House, a Christian non-profit maternity home providing care, a safe home, and life skills training for homeless, pregnant women has partnered with Bridge of Hope St. Joseph County to provide extended care and assistance through a mentorship program staffed by trained volunteers of local church communities.

This alliance between Hannah's House and Bridge of Hope finds a common ground as both outreaches aim to impact the same population of women and children. The overall goal is to help educate and train these women to get them out of poverty and homelessness for good.

With a joint venture at hand, Hannah's House will be able to serve more women and for a longer period of time. Hannah's House residents currently can reside in the home for a two-month stay after having their babies and then are referred to transitional housing or find housing of their own. The Bridge of Hope programming extends the care for these women for an additional 12-24 months with a three-pronged strategy between single mother, professional caseworkers, and the local church mentors. These church mentor groups are comprised of up to 12 trained volunteers who act as a "home base" for the mother and child. A key aspect of the Bridge of Hope programming is helping financially assist the mother, while setting goals for gainful employment so they have a safe place to live. The single mothers grow in the areas of parenting and physical, emotional, social and spiritual health, as well as gain self-esteem. Educating the women to eventually become independent of the assistance is the ultimate goal of ending this cycle of poverty.

Bridge of Hope St. Joseph County is an affiliate of Bridge of Hope national, which has been successfully preventing and ending homelessness for new mothers for over 22 years. A chapter of Bridge of Hope, headed by Mike Druley, was introduced in the South Bend community three years ago and has been doing great work in St. Joseph County.

Hannah's House, located at 518 W. Fourth Street, Mishawaka, IN, opened its doors as a maternity home for homeless women in 1993. Since then Hannah's House has provided over 500 expectant mothers with a safe home, emotional support, and life skills training as it relates to their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

[www.maternityhomewithaheart.org](http://www.maternityhomewithaheart.org)

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