

The Bridge Ministry

In 2012 HOTEL INC. launched an initiative to serve the homeless and precariously housed population of Bowling Green. This initiative was simple: every Tuesday evening between 4:30 and 6:30 volunteers would arrive at River Walk Park on 31W near the Barren River Bridge, offer prayer, serve food, provide health information, and converse with visitors.

HOTEL INC. created groups of volunteers from churches and community service groups. From an initial group of four volunteers, the Presbyterian Church's peacekeeping committee can now pull from fifteen volunteers for our church's fourth Tuesday rotation. Steve Todd sends an email request each month to ask for three volunteers. Volunteers then meet at the church and go together to the park.

The idea of service at the bridge seems especially appropriate. Think of the bridge as a link between those who have and those who don't, and as a crossing over the river of circumstance and choice that disadvantaged people. The crossing of the Jordan speaks of leaving a wilderness and entering a promised land. At first people were uncertain on both sides of the "bridge." In time, however, guests and volunteers have discovered a reliable, sustainable event with food, health information, clothing, and conversation. The promise land is that sustainable reliability served by faithful volunteers. This is the work of Christ's disciples achieved quietly and without notoriety.