



**Bridge Communities, Inc.**

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Photos available upon request**

**Text to Give to Sleep Out Saturday Fundraiser**

Sleep Out Saturday is Bridge Communities' largest fundraising and awareness-raising event of the year, benefiting homeless families in DuPage County. It is now easier than ever to donate \$10 to Sleep Out Saturday by texting 'Bridge' to 20222 using a mobile phone. The charge will appear on the user's phone bill.

"Just imagine the number of families we could help if every cell phone owner in DuPage County donated just \$10 to Sleep Out Saturday," envisions Jennie Gates, event manager at Bridge Communities. "It's mind boggling, not only the need that exists right here in our community but also how easy it is to make a change in the lives of families who need our help."

A one night survey done in January 2011 by DuPage County illustrated that on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 676 people received shelter, including 124 families. Bridge Communities aids over 100 homeless DuPage families a year, providing housing, mentoring, counseling, job coaching and more through its Transitional Housing Program. It costs \$25 to provide one night of housing and services to a Bridge Communities client family.

Sleep Out Saturday, which takes place on November 5, 2011, is an annual event to help Bridge Communities raise critical funds and awareness to help homeless families in DuPage County. Over 1,500 people sleep out in cars, boxes and tents to experience what it's like to be homeless on a chilly autumn night. Last year, Sleep Out Saturday raised over \$120,000 for Bridge's Transitional Housing Program. The text to give campaign, inviting people to donate \$10 by texting 'Bridge' to 20222 is a quick, easy, affordable way to contribute to Sleep Out

Saturday. For more information or to make a more significant donation, please go to [www.sleepoutsaturday.org](http://www.sleepoutsaturday.org).

Bridge Communities, Inc., (Bridge) is a dynamic, grassroots, nonprofit organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless families in DuPage County through partnering with talented, resourceful individuals and groups in our community. Its program of transitional housing, mentoring and supportive services empowers the families to increase life skills and earning power to promote self-sufficiency, sustain permanent housing, and to break the cycle of poverty within the family unit. What began by co-founders Mark Milligan and Bob Wahlgren when they decided, in 1988, to begin to help homeless families, has now become a powerful current of change in the lives of hundreds of extremely low to low income at-risk families. For more information about Bridge Communities, please visit [www.BridgeCommunities.org](http://www.BridgeCommunities.org) or contact Mark Milligan at (630) 545-0610, ext. 10 or [mark.milligan@bridgecommunities.org](mailto:mark.milligan@bridgecommunities.org).

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