

# Building a Relationship Bridge to show the Love of Christ

## Bridge Ministry

More than 600 people are homeless in Madison, Limestone, and Morgan Counties according to a recent census by the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless. These include men, women, and children either living unsheltered, in emergency shelters, or in transitional housing. One of the agencies serving the homeless in Huntsville and Madison County is First Stop, a day program that offers various services to the homeless.



**The purpose of this ministry is one we have all been given, to share with the world the only bridge to God, the Cross.**

In the summer of 2007, one of our church members began volunteering with First Stop, joining others in going out on Tuesday morning outreach, giving out care packages and

checking on those living in tents in various places around the city.

First Stop was asked how we could continue to minister to the homeless without duplicating the services already being offered. The response was to serve by developing

relationships with the homeless community. To this end, Willowbrook Baptist Church began supporting this ministry. Those serving in this ministry are developing relationships and friendships with the the homeless of Huntsville. Volunteers continue to serve their friends by visiting with those in the camps and the ones housed. We secure firewood

during the winter and provide meals, give transportation to the hospital and church, and support both physical and spiritual needs. Bridge Ministries realizes that what these people need most is to know the love of God and to know the unconditional love of others.

We currently go to the camps on Derrick, Blake, and Stokes streets and to those housed on Saturday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., bi-weekly, on a regular basis, bringing the love of Jesus Christ. On a less formal basis, we visit on other occasions to bring firewood, pick them up for church and to just check in on our new friends.

**God began this ministry in the heart of Jonette Jones and gave her the name "Bridge Ministry" long before knowing the homeless living under 565.**

