

PITCH DECK AND

About the short film

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MISSION STATEMENT

Presented by
Wholesome Productions



“To save a life is a real and beautiful thing. To make a home for the homeless, yes, it is a thing that must be good; whatever the world may say, it cannot be wrong.”

— Vincent Van Gogh, written in a letter in 1883.

“Not everyone who’s homeless is a drug-addict or in need of mental health care. Some are normal people who’ve been knocked down, and it can happen to you, too. Not all of us made bad life choices.”

— Sherrilyn Kenyon



“Help Me Run Away” music video

“Most people never really sat down and got to know a homeless person, but every homeless person is just a real person that was created by God and it is the same kind of different as us; they just have a different story.”

— Ron Hall



“People de Los Angeles” by Tiziano Fioriti

About the film

Drama

Short Film

Based on Real Events

The Bridge is a narrative short film packaged with a philanthropic mission focused on providing crisis relief for people experiencing homelessness due to non-substance-related circumstances. The affecting themes of compassion, dignity, and self-sacrificial love are all at the center of *The Bridge*. Visually akin to *The Florida Project*, it will be presented in a quietly-moving, semi-neorealist approach, allowing the audience to connect deeply with the characters and the message.

Production is slated for summer of 2026.

Film synopsis

A luxury real estate agent faces an inner reckoning after she crosses paths with a homeless man who experienced an unimaginable tragedy. Based on real events.

The Bridge tells the compelling true story of Jason, a general contractor and devoted husband and father who fell into homelessness after suffering a heartbreaking catastrophe just before a family vacation to Disney World. Esther, a Hispanic-American luxury real estate agent in Orlando, becomes closely connected with Jason after a chance encounter with him at a Chipotle restaurant. Over the course of a few weeks, Esther's interactions with her self-centered clients and shallow friends juxtaposed with Jason's humble life weighs on her. She increasingly feels called to help him. As she learns to step outside of her comfort zone, the fallow field of her heart is stirred and she even begins to find newfound faith and purpose as a Christian. Unbeknownst to Esther, she in turn inspires Jason to "pay it forward" to the people he feels are in need of help more than him.

One final point that makes *The Bridge* unique is that it's a complete story... but it's not a finished story! In fact, the short film is just the beginning of the journey. Through the charitable partner organizations and fundraising initiatives attached to the film, our goal is to actively provide real help for the crisis-affected homeless, including the construction of hospitality houses offering complete aid assistance. Read more about this on "The Mission" page.

Main characters

Jason

(mid-40s) — True story background: Jason was a family man and military veteran who worked in construction up in Georgia. Just before leaving on a dream family vacation to Disney World, Jason stayed behind an extra day to in order to fill in for a coworker who called in sick. While on the freeway, Jason's wife and three young children were hit head-on by a speeding drunk driver, killing them instantly.

Upon hearing the devastating news of his entire family's death, Jason drove throughout the night to Orlando where he suffered the ordeal of identifying their bodies. He subsequently fell into an acute state of mental anguish, so much so that he abandoned everything and never returned home.

What's remarkable about Jason is that, despite suffering this unimaginable tragedy, he didn't lose his Christian faith. In real life, when he was asked about the incident, he said that "God didn't take my family. A drunk driver did." In the film, we meet Jason after he's already spent seven years on the streets. He suffers from survivor's guilt and is haunted by painful thoughts, but he chooses to do what he can to alleviate the suffering of the people around him. Through Esther's kind assistance, the calluses on his heart soften further and he's able to see beauty again.



Esther

(early-40s) — *The Bridge* is mainly told through Esther's point of view. She's a luxury real estate agent who crosses paths with Jason during a lunch stop at Chipotle. For some reason, she feels compelled to help him, and this is the inciting incident that changes her outlook on life. Throughout the course of the film, we see her move from being a passive churchgoer into understanding the fullness of her personal calling as a Christian.

"Esther" (née Venus) is an Executive Producer on the film, and she brings her first-hand knowledge, insight, and passion to this project. She is also spearheading the philanthropic effort, which is detailed on "The Mission" page.



Mary & Emily

(early-50s & 23) — True story background: After the premature passing of her husband, Mary began to suffer from severe respiratory issues. She quickly grew unable to function as a middle school teacher, so her daughter, Emily, became Mary's sole caretaker. However, soon after this, Emily was paralyzed from the waist-down following a car accident. Financially destitute and with no relatives or friends to aid them, the only option for mother and daughter was to seek assistance from a homeless shelter for women. Sadly, they were turned away because Emily was too old to be classified as a dependent.

In the film, Jason offers Mary & Emily help and protection. Inspired by Esther's Christ-like care for him, he sacrifices the comfort of his motel room so that Mary & Emily can have a warm, safe place to stay.



Real statistics

Truth is the best storyteller, and the unfortunate truth is that every year there are increasing numbers of people finding themselves homeless. The goal of *The Bridge* is to raise awareness for the crisis-affected homeless and to actuate change.

In a single year, **23 out of every 10,000 people** in the United States experience homelessness.

According to a comprehensive study by the UCSF Benioff Homelessness & Housing Initiative, 2023–2025, **~66%** of respondents reported **economic factors** (job loss, **housing affordability/rent increases**) as a major cause of their homelessness.



According to a UCI Cost Study survey, over **75% of respondents** cited the following issues as the top three reasons as to what caused them to fall into homelessness: 1) **lack of employment** that pays a sustainable wage; 2) **unable to source affordable housing**; and 3) **family issues**, which encompassed events like death of a family member, divorce, or abuse.



Production overview

Budget: \$40,000

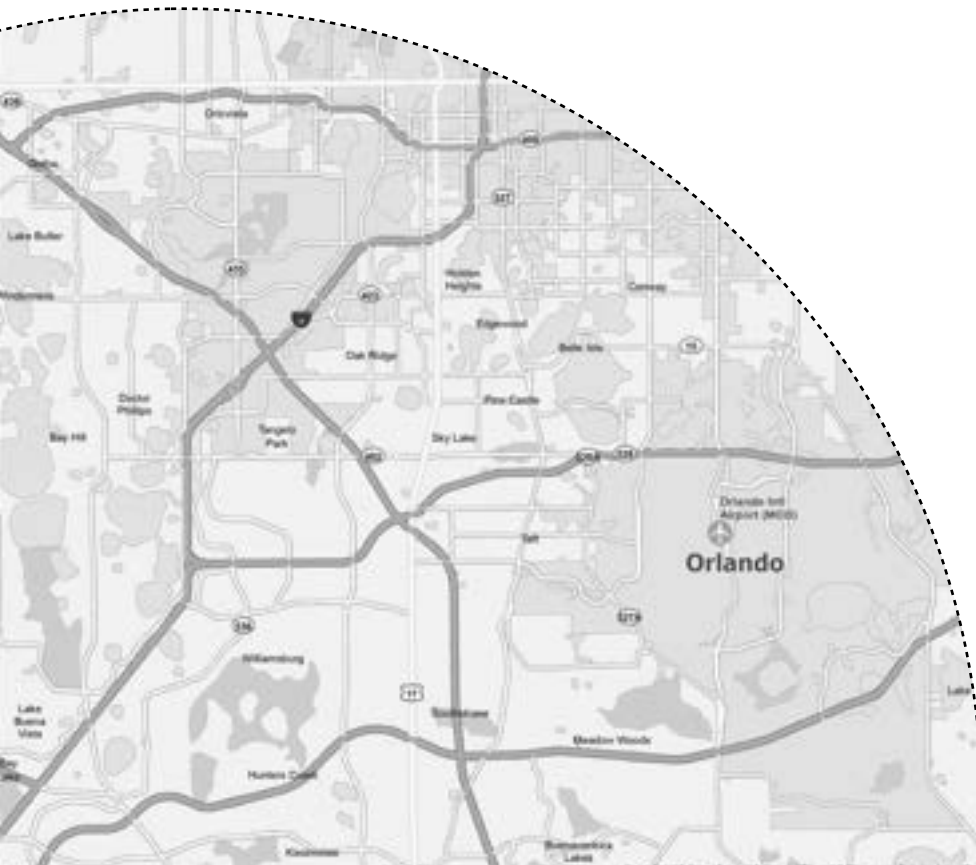
The budget for *The Bridge* is set at \$40,000. These funds will cover our production & post-production expenses, including (but not limited to) film insurance & permitting, hiring crew, equipment rentals, food & beverage, scoring, sound design & mixing, visual effects, and marketing.



“

The Bridge is visually akin to Sean Baker's *The Florida Project* and will be presented in a quietly-moving, semi-neorealist approach.

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Filming Locations

The Bridge will be filmed on location in the metro Orlando area, between Winter Garden, Winter Park, Downtown, and Kissimmee.



Timeline

We're projecting a 10-day shoot, following an extensive pre-production process of planning, scouting, casting, and rehearsals.

Our goal is to have the film completed in full by September 1st, 2026.



Distribution

Once completed, we aim to screen the film at top Christian and secular film festivals around the country. After this, the film will be available to screen online. We also plan to host private and public in-person screenings of the film in order to raise awareness for our hospitality house philanthropic initiative.

The **mission**

More than ever, ordinary individuals are experiencing the tragedy of homelessness due to sudden events, illness, financial hardship, or victimization at the hands of predators. The “north star” of *The Bridge* is to not only raise awareness for these people in crisis, but to facilitate change through a true Christian lens.

We’re aiming to partner with and promote select homeless relief organizations, including Hospitality House, a North Carolina-based group (more about this below) which provides lodging and life assistance for crisis-affected persons. These are more than just homeless shelters; they are transformation centers. Care teams work one-on-one with homeless individuals to help them transition from the street back into a place of self-sufficiency and dignity.

One of our goals is to use this film to raise the funds needed to create a Hospitality House branch here in Orlando, Florida. Consistently, there are around 1,000 unsheltered homeless in the Metro Orlando area. The affordable housing market in Orange/Seminole/Osceola counties is also highly competitive, with demand eclipsing inventory. We want to be there to help and support our fellow Floridians when they need it most.

Real people.
Real stories.



Hospitality House Northwest North Carolina is one of the wonderful organizations we’re actively seeking to partner with. These real comments are just a sample of the many lives they’ve affected for good.

“I sleep with my mom in a family room. I like it here because we have a refrigerator. If this place wasn’t here I would be separated from my mom.”

– Gauge, 10 years old

“I received help from Hospitality House back in 1991 and I just wanted to say thanks for the help. I went on to educate myself and became a successful software engineer. Keep up the good work!”


– Steve Edwards, former resident

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DUSK - MOMENTS LATER

A simple room anchored by a queen bed. A key is heard in the lock. The door opens and Esther steps inside, followed by Jason. She switches on the light.

ESTHER

It's all paid up for two weeks.
Hopefully that'll give you time to...
I'd have offered you to stay at my
house, but I have a daughter, and...



Jason picks up a promotional flyer sitting on top of the side table. It says:

Discount Disney World Tickets
From \$59


Visit the happiest place on earth for less!

The flyer is placed back where it came from. Jason steadily sits down on the edge of the bed and leans on his left hand. He looks tired.

JASON

(slightly warily)

Esther, why are you doing all this for
me?



A long pause. Esther thinks.



Thank you for reading.

If you'd like to learn more about *The Bridge* short film and our philanthropic mission, please contact us (details on the next page). We'd love to answer any questions you might have.

Supporting the film:

If you feel moved to help bring *The Bridge* to the screen, please contact us for donation information. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward speaking with you.

“Listen, and you will realize that we are not made from cells or from atoms. We are made from stories.”

— Mia Cuto



Contact
us

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