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Miracle Hill Releases First Children’s Book About Homelessness

Book aims to help kids understand homelessness and learn valuable social-emotional skills

Greenville, SC. March 1, 2023- Sandy Furnell, a journalist and voice over artist with a passion for inspiring stories, is the author of *Isabelle’s Invisible Neighbor*, a new children’s book about homelessness. She has served for a decade at Miracle Hill Ministries, where she’s learned that poverty can only be overcome by seeing the value and dignity of all people. This reality prompted her to write a compelling story geared toward cultivating compassion and empathy in elementary-aged children.

Isabelle’s Invisible Neighbor follows the story of a fourth-grade student who is challenged by a riddle to discover who is her “invisible neighbor”. Before she can unravel the mystery, she dives into a journey of meeting strangers, visiting a homeless shelter, and hearing a most unusual secret. Along the way, Isabelle learns to see things she’s never seen before.

The story offers an engaging gateway for children to learn about homelessness and poverty. Discussion questions included at the end of the book provide an opportunity for children to process the story, helping them improve social and emotional skills. These abilities are directly linked with positive behavioral and academic outcomes.

As stated by the author: “I wrote this book because I believe it can be a much-needed tool for parents and educators. My hope is that children and adults alike will begin to see the people around them as neighbors and choose to keep learning what it means to love and be loved.”

The book, written by Sandy Furnell and illustrated by Amanda Ravensdale, was published by LUCIDBOOKS in a partnership with Miracle Hill Ministries. It is available for purchase on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [Barnes & Noble Booksellers](https://www.barnesandnoble.com).

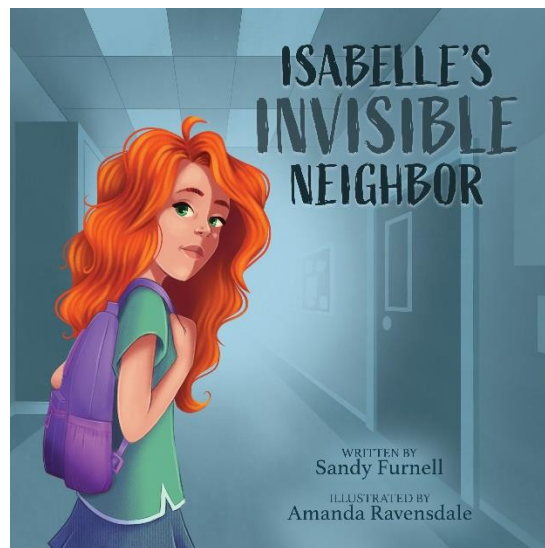
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ABOUT MIRACLE HILL MINISTRIES

Miracle Hill Ministries is the Upstate’s largest, most comprehensive provider of services to homeless children and adults. Serving the Upstate since 1937, Miracle Hill’s programs include

rescue shelters for the homeless, residential addiction recovery, transitional housing, and foster care. Miracle Hill's eight thrift stores provide employment opportunities for the community as well as former Miracle Hill guests. Miracle Hill has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence as a Certified Mission by [City Gate Network](#), a distinction given to fewer than 30 missions nationwide. Additionally, Miracle Hill's foster care program has been accredited by [CARF International](#). For more information about Miracle Hill, please visit www.MiracleHill.org or call 864.268.4357. Find us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

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Sandy Furnell holds a BS in Communications from Florida International University and has 30+ years' experience in the field. Sandy and her husband John live in the Upstate of South Carolina. She enjoys the outdoors, spending time with family, and sharing tea and conversations with friends.

