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HOME

BETHANY  
HOUSE  
SERVICES

# The FrontPorchNews

September 2013 |

A Publication of Bethany House Services |

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

## SR. MARY STANTON RETIRES

### AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES



After co-founding Bethany House Services (BHS) nearly 30 years ago and serving as its executive director, **Mary Stanton, RSM, LSW**, is retiring. She will serve with Rob Heidt, Jr. and Tom Leugers, former board members, as a trustee of the newly formed BHS Endowment Corporation.

Founded in 1984 as Bethany House of Hospitality, BHS now collaborates with others to serve more than 2,000 women and children each year, providing emergency shelter, parenting and life skills training, family stabilization, education and employment referrals, transitional and permanent housing, among its many programs and services. Before co-creating BHS, Sr. Mary was the Assistant Director of Programs in Peace and Justice at Xavier University, taught religious studies at Mother of Mercy High School, was a pastoral counselor, teacher and organist in parishes in the Erie diocese of Pennsylvania, her home state.

Sr. Mary has always been greatly influenced by her Irish Catholic upbringing and the importance of family and home. Drawn to the Sisters of Mercy because of their Irish roots and call to serve poor women and children, she began her work with homeless women and children as a volunteer in the late 1970's.

"Sr. Mary has set high standards for Bethany," says Steve Brinker, chair of Bethany's board of directors. "She has done a stellar job as executive director, creating a strong organization that is well positioned for the future." Says Sr. Mary, "This ministry has been my passion for over 30 years. I feel that it is now time for me to step aside and let a new chapter begin. I have great confidence in the staff, board of directors and volunteers. I look forward to being a volunteer and board member myself."



*Sister Mary pictured with family members at Cobh, Ireland and at Mercy International Center, Dublin.*



## Welcome Susan!

**Susan Schiller** brings nearly 20 years of non-profit administration, marketing and programming to BHS as the new Executive Director. She was the founder and president of Schiller Marketing Research in her early for-profit business ventures. Susan served on the Mount St. Joseph Alumni Board and is a member of the Leadership Council of Human Service Executives and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Awarded the Greater Cincinnati Woman of the Year Award in 2002, the Deloitte and Touche' 100 Wise Women Award in 2004, and the College of MSJ Sr. Mary Lea Human Service Award in 2006, Susan is no stranger to leadership. Denise Schumacher, VP of the Bethany board of directors, coordinated an extensive process for managing the executive transition at BHS. The Executive Committee as well as two Leadership Team members made up the Search Committee. "We are confident that we have made the right choice for BHS," beamed Steve Brinker, Board President.

"I am looking for a challenging job that will make a difference in the lives of others," said Susan. "I plan to bring the blend of my strategic planning skills and business acumen, coupled with the ability to transform vision into meaningful action, to advance the mission of Bethany House Services."

# CHP HOSTS THE ANNUAL MEETING

**Darlene Guess**, Director of Client Programs and 22 year veteran at BHS, coordinated a comprehensive program featuring the agency social workers/housing programs. Outcome statistics related to family stabilization, housing, and income for participants was offered and a Q&A followed. **Trisha Roddy**, the current board secretary, was celebrated for board and multiple committee leadership positions over the past 15 years.



*Steve Brinker expresses gratitude to Calvin Wright (board member) and Sr. Doris Gottemoeller, RSM, of Catholic Health Partners for hosting the annual meeting and celebration.*



*Sr. Mary, Darlene and Trisha with her award for 15 years. Thank you Trisha!*



## Two new members joined the BHS board of directors.

**Nadine Liggett**, VP of Commercial Real Estate and Community Lending at U.S. Bank, sees many non-profits in her work. BHS is one whose mission she shares. Nadine serves on the Housing Advisory Committee. **Doug Boschert**, president of Evergreen Advisors, Inc., served on the board in a variety of capacities for ten years, rotated off for a year and returned with renewed energy and commitment. Doug co-chairs the annual Golf Outing and serves on the 5K Committee.



## Gert Stefanko honored with Bethany Beacon Award

The Bethany Beacon Award honors those who through their unique bright light have contributed significantly to the mission of Bethany House Services. Gert Stefanko is the award recipient this year. For many years, Gert has provided layout and design for direct mail appeals, the annual reports and newsletters. Because of the materials that she helps create, people know more about BHS and our mission. "In this way, Gert plays a key role in making sure that those in the darkness of homelessness make it safely to the shore of Bethany House Services," said Sr. Mary in her remarks paying tribute to Gert.



**Nancy Tolle**, Finance Director, is honored for 20 years of service. Treasurer Bob Alexander and Bethany Homes property manager, Joe Glassmeyer congratulate her.

Bob Herzog, Sean Mullins, Joan Wurtenberger, Doug Boschert, Julie Heidt, Amy Holter and Sherry Williams celebrate success at the BHS 20th annual golf outing.



## Debbie Chapman, Special Event/Volunteer Director 1999 - 2013

Generosity of spirit and love for special events, particularly the Children's Carnival and the Family Christmas party, has motivated Debbie to get up and come to BHS with energy and creativity for 14 years. She will be remembered for her big smile, great heart and festive baskets for auctions and more. Debbie is off the staff list and on the volunteer list. She's come full circle! Debbie celebrated her last day at the 20th annual golf outing at Maketewah – Bob Herzog emceed the program.



## Gratitude goes out the following who have made an impact at BHS through program and capital grants during 2013.

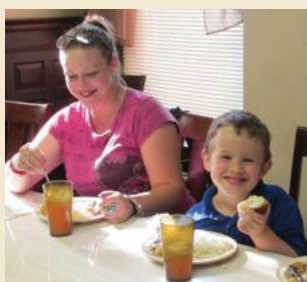
American Financial Group  
The David and Rebecca Barron Foundation  
Edward C. and Robert C. Bott Foundation  
The Carroll Family Fund of the GCF  
Catholic Health Partners Foundation  
Chemed Foundation  
Ruth J. and Robert A. Conway Family Foundaton  
Charles H. Dater Foundation • Duke Energy Foundation  
Farmer Family Foundation  
Greater Cincinnati Foundation Summertime Kids  
Thomas E. and Pamela M. Mischell Family Foundation  
Harry and Helen Rabe Family Fund of the GCF  
Julie and Robt. Heidt, Jr. Foundation • The Lawrence Home Association  
Peter F. and Mary Levin Foundation • Scherr Charitable Foundation  
Scripps Howard Foundation • The Spaulding Foundation  
The Louise Taft Semple Foundation





**Gwendolyn Green**, Shelter Director, was recently interviewed by Paula Toti, Local 12 News, regarding the rising number of homeless families in Cincinnati and the work of the Family Housing Partnership.

## HOMELESSNESS AMONG FAMILIES HAS RISEN 31% THIS YEAR.

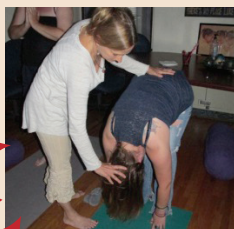


Many factors contribute to the situation and Bethany House Services is trying to help families respond to them all. One particular way is through the “**Nutrition, Health and Safety Program.**” Adults and children alike report positive outcomes from the classes, activities, meals, mentors and teachers who are helping them.

Through healthy meals and nutrition instruction, yoga evenings and safety videos, portion control and weigh-ins, access to healthy living computer websites, affirmation about beneficial choices, and much more, Bethany families are embarking on new pathways for wholesome living.



Special thanks to **Cheryl Stebbins**, dietitian and **Katy Holmes**, yoga teacher, for their commitment to our families. Sr. **Marge Kloos** focused her attention on helping the cook, **Liz Matthews**, prepare fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden for the shelter guests – as well as the staff.



**Duke** volunteers brought plenty of **Energy**, equipment and dedication to their project of bringing new life to the play ground at Bethany Homes. The space was transformed and the children had a safe and happy summer in what felt brand new to the families.



## DADA RAFIKI PRESENTS THE SISTERS OF LEGACY EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER, SPRING 2013.

**Annie Ruth**, Cincinnati artist and community leader, in association with the Eye of the Artists Foundation, presided over the community-engaged exhibit and programs honoring the spirit and legacy of “40 phenomenal women who changed the course of Cincinnati history.”

**Sue Kathman**, **Anne Stanton Hoover**, **Elizabeth Matthews**, **Darlene Guess** and **Sr. Mary**, honoree, enjoyed an amazing evening of cultural diversity, sisterhood and motivational, inspiring art. Annie has been a volunteer artist at BHS over the years and we thank her for being our Dada Rafiki/SisterFriend.





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## OPEN HOUSE at BHS

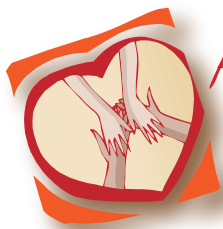
Saturday, October 19

1833- 41 Fairmount Ave.

Special Presentation 4P

Offer best wishes to  
Sr. Mary and welcome  
Susan Schiller.

See inside for . .



## Annual Fall Matching Appeal

Your generosity  
is doubled!

### BHS WISH LIST

- Gift certificates to grocery stores for families leaving shelter, healthy snacks for lunches, paper products, umbrellas
- Gift certificates for gas, garbage bags – heavy duty
- Laundry detergent, laundry baskets, cleaning products/supplies
- Diapers, baby formula, body wash, deodorant, shampoo, lotion
- Bus cards, cab fare, breakfast cereal, rolls of stamps
- Welcome bag supplies: children's blankets and small toy, soap tooth paste, and stuffed animal.

## Ales to Zinfandels:

Saturday, November 9 • 7-11 p.m.

Glendale Lyceum



Alex, James and Maddie Carroll on delivery day to BHS.

Alex Carroll, a third grader at Villa Madonna Academy and son of former board member, Jackie Carroll, asks his friends to bring school supplies for the kids at Bethany House instead of presents.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Bethany Family Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, 11AM to 2PM

St. Theresa Parish Center, Glenway Ave.

### MARDI GRAS for Homeless Children

March 4, 2014

To volunteer or donate, visit [www.bethanyhouseservices.org](http://www.bethanyhouseservices.org)