

THE FRONT PORCH NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

FALL 2014

Bethany House adds 77 Shelter Beds



On January 1, 2015, Bethany House Services (BHS) will assume responsibility for the 77 homeless shelter beds now operated by Mercy Health - St. John. BHS currently operates 29 beds in its emergency shelter on Fairmount Avenue in South Fairmount. "We are excited about expanding our services to homeless families," says Susan Schiller, Executive Director of Bethany House Services.

Mercy Health - St. John was seeking a qualified agency to transfer their emergency

homeless shelter beds. "As our Foundation continues to focus on meeting the healthcare needs of the poor and underserved, we determined that this program would be better aligned with one of our community's shelter leaders," said Roger LaGreca, President, Mercy Health Foundation.

Discussions began with Bethany House Services in mid-2014, and final agreement was reached in early October.

Bethany House Services is the lead agency in the Family Housing Partnership and ranks first out of 12 local shelter facilities based on outcomes data. "Bethany House has been serving homeless families for 30 years, and the outcomes they achieve are second to none," says Kevin Finn, President and CEO of Strategies to End Homelessness. "I believe that having Bethany House take on this capacity is a great thing for our community, and more importantly, a great thing for at-risk and homeless families."

Over the next few months, BHS and Mercy Health - St. John will be working together to transition services. "Every day we talk to families with heartbreaking stories, and the need continues to grow," says Schiller. "We are committed to moving these families from homelessness to homes, and we know we can do it with the community's help."

Questions and Answers about BHS taking over Mercy Health - St John beds

Q: Why is BHS taking the Mercy Health - St John beds? Why should BHS grow?

A: Financial Reasons:

- We need to spread overhead over more program billing and we need the advantages that economy of scale will provide.
- With ever increasing regulation and reduced funding, we need to increase efficiencies which can be accomplished within a larger organization.

Program Reasons:

- In alignment with mission.
- Increasing need for shelter services. Families are on the streets, in abandoned buildings, cars, and parks.
- BHS excels in providing shelter services in Hamilton County. BHS ranked 1 out of 12 shelter facilities based on outcomes data

Q: Does BHS have the capacity?

- A:**
- 42 years of staff experience in shelter and program management
 - 100+ years of case management experience
 - Experienced on-site 24-hour staff
 - Best Practices in place

BHS RANKS #1 OUTCOMES DATA +COMMUNITY IMPACT =FUNDING ALLOCATION

Bethany House Services excels in providing shelter services in Hamilton County, as most recently noted in the Strategies to End Homelessness August 5, 2014 letter to the Ohio Development Services Agency endorsing BHS for continued HUD funding. "Bethany House Services' Shelter ranked 1 out of 12 shelter facilities based on outcomes data."

Congratulations to Directors Gwendolyn Green and Darlene Guess, case managers, housing specialists and social service workers for your great work and commitment to our mission!



The Power of Partnerships

How often do you see competing non-profits work together? Try “not often” or “never”—except with Cincinnati’s emergency family shelters AND the Family Housing Partnership (FHP). The five family shelters formed a collaborative 14 years ago and they want to put themselves out of business—they want to end family homelessness. So the result is a group of experienced and dedicated professionals—licensed social workers, shelter directors, and executive directors—all working together on a regular basis. It means weekly case manager meetings, bi-monthly director meetings, and four committees developing solutions for our families.

“You just do not see this level of collaboration in other non-profit sectors. This partnership is a win-win for the families and the community,” said Susan Schiller, Bethany House Services Executive Director. The collaboration was even more valuable this past summer with the overwhelming number of homeless families at our doors. The FHP also serves as a provider of continuing education and professional development for staff at the five family shelters as well as the community’s advocate to end family homelessness. In addition to Bethany House Services, FHP members include Interfaith Hospitality Network, Mercy Health-St. John, Salvation Army and the YWCA.



What’s a Third Party Fundraiser?

A special event, promotion or sale conducted by an organization or individual to benefit Bethany House Services.

Who can conduct a fundraiser on behalf of Bethany House Services?

Individuals, clubs, corporate groups, classrooms, schools, scouts, Mom’s groups—anyone who wants to make a difference in the lives of homeless families is encouraged to sponsor an independent fundraising event. For example, a local folk and soft rock group, the Clovertones, sponsors an annual concert for BHS.



Fundraising Ideas

- 5K Run/Walk
- Auctions
- Bake Sale
- Cake/Cookie Walk
- Bingo Night
- Cookie Walk
- Bridge Party
- Brunch, Luncheon or Dinner
- Car Wash
- Carnival
- Coin Drive
- Chili Cook-off
- Dance-A-Thon
- Dessert Reception
- Email Blast
- Fashion Show
- Garage Sale
- Holiday-Themed Party
- Ice Cream Social
- Jeans Day/Jersey Day
- Silent Auction
- Raffle
- Restaurant Or Retail Promotion
- Classroom, School or Church Fundraiser
- Penny Drive
- Progressive Dinner
- Split the Pot
- Sports Tournament (Golf, Soccer, Bowling, Volleyball, Basketball, Putt-Putt)
- Wii Tournament
- Donations in Lieu of Birthday or Wedding Gifts

are endless!

The possibilities

Call 513.921.1131 or email lsiegel@bhsinc.org to receive a Third Party Event Fundraising Packet and Application!



Many Many THANKS to a fabulous committee who brought us **Ales to Zinfandels 2014**, Bethany House’s 11th Annual Wine & Beer Tasting!



▲ **Front, left to right:** Teddy Siegel, Mary Alice Koch, Gail Myers; **Back, left to right:** Beth Kasson, Megan McCuen, Tracey Griggs, Julie Ross, Chair and Chelsea Moeller. **Not pictured:** Amanda Cawdrey, Sharron DiMario, Erika Meyer Judd, Michael McQueary, Hope Schmidt, and Kelley Carrier

All proceeds benefit Bethany House Services. Presenting Sponsors: Dave & Tracy Davis

The Unbelievable Summer of 2014

"I have never seen anything like this....and I have been here 17 years!" This is a direct quote from our Shelter's Lead Social Worker, Liz Matthews, and it sums up the overwhelming number of homeless families Bethany House has cared for since June.

Homeless families typically do not come directly from the streets like homeless men and women. They have usually "doubled up" with family and friends before arriving at our door. However, this summer was different—they came from abandoned buildings, cars, and parks. The end of September a family of six found shelter at BHS after sleeping on park benches.

So how does Bethany House deal with this "spike in homelessness" as the *Cincinnati Enquirer* called it (July 10, 2014)? "We do what we do," replies Shelter Director Gwen Green. Huh? What does that mean? Well, if you work at Bethany House Services you know exactly what it means. It means everyone pitches in to provide the same top-notch services we always have—we will do whatever it takes to get the families off of the street and into our shelter. We will work longer and harder, we will be flexible and more creative—we will find space—we will take care of the families! This summer it meant three baby beds in the living room, a child on the couch and Mom on the floor; it meant the small second and third floor lounges were turned into bedrooms. But most importantly it meant the families were SAFE—they were off the streets and out of the cars. And that allowed everyone to sleep well!



"I have never seen anything like this....and I have been here 17 years!"

– Liz Matthews, Shelter's Lead Social Worker

Help us stock Santa's Shop for homeless families!

We need gifts (unwrapped) for moms and kids of all ages! *(Please, nothing used).*

GIFT SUGGESTIONS:

Children – Toys for 1yr-12yrs, boys/girls. Clothing, shoes, coloring books, a stocking full of goodies

Teens – gift cards for malls, Target, Walmart, Best Buy, iTunes, shoe stores

Moms – gift cards for Walmart, Target, Aldi, Kroger, Metro, gas stations

Call Lisa at 513-557-2403 for information. Items should be delivered to the shelter at 1836 Fairmount Avenue between December 15-18.



END OF YEAR GIVING

For 30 years, Bethany House Services has helped create **Heart, Hope and Home** for homeless families. As we enter a new year of housing, educating, advocating and providing support services, we ask you to consider an end of year donation to help the homeless in our community.

To take advantage of tax benefits this year, please make your gift before December 31st. Bethany House appreciates your generosity and thanks you for considering a special year-end gift. Together we will directly impact the lives of homeless families.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Leaving a gift to Bethany House Services in your will is a way to ensure our mission will continue well into the future.



The Power of Community

There is not a job too big or too hard, too dirty or too technical for Bethany House's volunteers working side by side uniting to help those in need. They do it all with a graciousness and generosity that is unparalleled. Our thanks to all who help us every day!!



▲ Students from the YMCA Summer Camp weeded the landscaping, trimmed bushes, and raked leaves this summer.



▲ Beth Wexler's Home Economics class from Loveland High School brought dinner and donations!



▲ Summertime volunteers (left to right) Hannah Beiting and Carly Perrmann successfully applied to Disney World for a \$500 grant and then fixed up the play room for the younger children and had a basketball hoop installed for the teenagers.



▲ Children from the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Georgia spend a day playing with our children and cleaning at the shelter.



▲ Anne Burgan's 6th & 7th graders from St. Ignatius School did yard work and decorated cookies for our kids!



▲ Two groups of teens from Catholic Heart Work Camp traveled from Illinois, Iowa, and Texas to volunteer for an entire week at BHS. They rebuilt a porch, painted bedrooms inside and decks outside and found time to play with the kids too.

SUMMER CARNIVAL

Face painting, a Petting Zoo, pony rides, games galore, and great food too! Thanks to all of our great volunteers who provided an evening of summer fun to all of the children who lived at the BHS shelter within the past year! Our Special Thanks to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center who helped sponsor the event again this year!



Healthy Children! Healthy Adults!



NUTRITION, HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM

Nutrition—Health—Safety—critical issues for all of us but especially for homeless families! Bethany House's "Nutrition, Health and Safety Program" is expanding this year to include more community experts, resources, presentations and activities—all designed to enrich the program, but most importantly to teach our moms and kids how to be healthy and safe.

HEALTHY EATING: Who would have thought that a large vanilla Frosty contains more sodium than McDonald's large fries or a BK double hamburger? Dietitian Cheryl Stebbins not only teaches nutrition facts about the fast food that homeless families frequently survive on but also how to plan balanced diets using nutritious fresh foods. Based on the philosophy that what kids help cook they are more likely to eat (even broccoli), mother-child kitchen activities include working together to prepare recipes for healthy "kid-friendly" foods.

HEALTHY HABITS: Who has time for exercise when you are homeless? But who needs exercise and a healthy lifestyle more than someone experiencing the stress of homelessness? Weekly yoga classes along with stretching, aerobic, and Pilates exercise videos and Wii Fit help moms and teens derive maximum benefit from stretching, muscle relaxation, blood pressure reduction, and other therapeutic effects of yoga. Age-appropriate, vigorous exercise is incorporated into the children's outdoor play activities.

SAFETY: What is more important than safety? The Safety program addresses a variety of issues including "Stranger Danger" and sexual abuse prevention for children between the ages of 4 and 12 with their mothers present. "Good Touch/Bad Touch" videos are shown and discussed as well as talking about how predators gain access to children and participating in "what if" scenarios.

During the first two and a half years of the Nutrition, Health & Safety program, 1,066 individuals were educated—70%



or 746—were children! Moms rated the presentations as *excellent, very informative and helpful*.

Our sincere thanks to the **Charles H. Dater Foundation** for providing additional funding for the third year of the program! Funding has also been provided by **The Spaulding Foundation; Al. Neyer Foundation; Jack J. Smith Charitable Trust/ PNC Bank, Trustee; Farmer Family Foundation; Sutphin Family Foundation/PNC Bank Trustee; and the Robert H. Reakirt Charitable Trust/PNC Trustee.**

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES SUPPORT BETHANY HOUSE MISSION

Bethany House Services Memorials and Tributes allow you to express your support, respect, gratitude or love through a gift that honors an individual while furthering the mission of Bethany House Services. Gifts can be made in celebration of a special event, such as a birthday or anniversary, in honor of an achievement or in memory of a loved one.

When your gift is received, an acknowledgement will be sent in your name to the individual you are honoring or the family of the person remembered. All gifts will also be acknowledged in the Bethany House newsletter.

January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014

IN MEMORY OF:

Gayle Adkins
William Adkins
Harry Averbeck
Donald and Patricia Blum
Richard and Susan Dagenbach
Stephen Greenwell
John and Shirley Groh
James and Cheryl Haas
Richard and Carol Harding
Cindy Hebel
Harry and Jeanne Herdeman
Suzanne Kathman
Richard and Barbara Phillips
Julianna Tazzia
Russ and Carol Umberg
Pauline Umberg
Phyllis Withers
Robert Woltering
Arlene Cicconi
Ralph Cicconi
John Geiger
Janet Geiger
Marilyn Graham
George and Shirley Dixon
Rosemarie DiMaggio Greiner
Susan Eberle
Shirley Hooker
George and Shirley Dixon
Earl and Eileen Kisker
Mike Houser
Earl and Eileen Kisker
Mr. and Mrs. William Joyce
John Joyce
Margaret Joyce
John Joyce
Mary Ellen Joyce
Sr. Mary Stanton
George "Whit" Kisker
Earl and Eileen Kisker
Walter Litkovitz
Mary Litkovitz
Anne-Michelle Lovell
Daniel and Ann Lovell
Jerry Massa
William and Jean Ellerhorst
James and Rose Marie Honerkamp
Roger and Margie Massa
Joan Massa
Wm. Kramer & Son, Inc
Ed and Rita Miller
Thomas and Florence Miller
Sr. Trish Mirsberger
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Eli Moore
Tim and Mary Lou Kern
David Passer
William J. Leugers
Marcia Pies
Earl and Eileen Kisker
Helen Rabe
Stephen and Catherine Rabe
Barry Satzger
Earl and Eileen Kisker
Elaine Green Schottelkotte
James and Shirley Schottelkotte

Virginia Senefeld
Carolyn Burke
Julianne M. Stanton
Sr. Mary Stanton
James and Julianne Stanton
Sherri and Tim Jablon
Mary Grossheim Turner
Duane and Kathleen Berwanger
Larry Volk
Patricia Volk
Chuck and Eleanor Weiser
Jimmy and Christopher Gayle
Rosemary Wolfram
Earl and Eileen Kisker

IN HONOR OF:

Skip and Marge Bagnell
George and Maxine Thomas
Sr. Mary Barbier
Lucille Schultz
David and Rebecca Barron
Jessica Barron-Agy and Gerald Sink
Jessica Barron-Agy and Gerald Sink
David and Rebecca Barron
Laura, Jeremy, Griffin and Simeon Borsky
Borsky Wiesenfeld Fund
Joe and Sue Breiner
Earl and Eileen Kisker
Sr. Brenda Busin
Paul and Betsy Sittenfeld
Gary Dunbar
Thomas and Rebecca Niehoff
Julie Evans
Sr. Mary Stanton
Mike Haverkamp
Ohio National Foundation
Mary Lou Kern
Mark and Julie Rudemiller
Thomas and Sarah Vater
Vivian Kay Morgan
Marcia Sonnenberg
Kate Molyneaux
Sr. Mary Stanton
Lauren Parcetich
Sr. Mary Stanton
Patricia Roddy
Susan Wyder
Sr. Fran Repka
Ms. Nancy Bick Clark
Erin Schultz
Greg and Sherry Schultz
John Silvati
Richard and Diane Park
Dr. and Mrs. James E. Smith and Family
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Kathleen Tardiff
Eileen Stanton Parcetich
Sr. Mary Stanton
Holly M. Stanton
Sr. Mary Stanton
Julie Stanton Nichols
Sr. Mary Stanton
Karen Stanton Evans
Sr. Mary Stanton
Sr. Mary Stanton
Patrick Dever

Wish List

We ALWAYS need the items listed below. Groups are encouraged to hold a Supply Drive to collect items for our families!

BABY

Diapers – all sizes
Diaper wipes
Baby food
Baby cereal
Bibs
Baby gates

CLEANING PRODUCTS

Brooms
Dust pans
Mops
Buckets
Scrub brushes
Cleaning supplies – all kinds
Lysol/Disinfectant spray
Room deodorizers
Laundry detergent
Dishwashing liquid
Paper towels
Garbage bags

CLOTHES

Socks
Tee shirts
Underwear
Rain ponchos
Robes and PJs– all genders, all ages
House shoes, slippers

FOOD

Cereal – all brands
After school snacks
Granola bars, ravioli
String cheese, soup
Fruit – apples, bananas, oranges, grapes, etc.
PB&J, bread

Lunchmeat, pizza rolls
Frozen burritos, mac and cheese, individual servings of frozen meals

GIFT CARDS

Gas cards
Bus cards
Gift cards @ Walmart, Target, etc.
Grocery cards – Kroger, Aldi
Metro bus cards/tickets
Shoe Carnival, Payless, Famous Footwear

HOUSEHOLD

Kitchen
Oven mitts/dishcloths
Glasses/dishes
Silverware/cutlery
Coffee mugs/coffee pots
Pots and pans/mixing bowls
Baking sheets
Mixers
Dish drainer
Waste cans for kitchen & bathroom
Small kitchen appliances, i.e. toasters, can openers

Bedroom

Lamps/hangers
Alarm clocks
Sheets/pillow cases
Blankets/bedspreads

Bathroom

Towels/washcloths
Hampers
Plastic bins

Laundry

Laundry baskets
Irons/ironing boards

Miscellaneous

Fans/curtains/area rugs

PERSONAL CARE

Band Aids
Shampoo/conditioner
Toothpaste
Bar soap
Deodorant
Toilet paper
Facial tissue
Hygiene products
Feminine care products
Sunscreen, bug spray
Hair products –both African American and Caucasian

OTHER

Umbrellas and raincoats for adults and children, boots
Craft room supplies – construction paper, glitter, markers, etc.
School supplies – pens, pencils, paper, backpacks, uniforms

TOOLS

Screwdrivers
Pliers
Hammers
Tool sets
Hand drill

Please deliver to Bethany House at 1836 Fairmount Ave. (513-557-2873).

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

WILL YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH YOUR GIFT?

Matching gift programs are the best way to multiply your gift to Bethany House! Check with your company's HR representative to see if you can double or even triple, your gift to Bethany House.

21st Golf Outing supporting Homeless Families

On August 4, 2014, Golf Chair Doug Boschert and his energetic and passionate committee coordinated details for 27 teams, led a fantastic group of volunteers and, by the end of the day, netted a profit of almost \$50,000 for Bethany House Services! Maketewah Country Club was the setting for a beautiful day of golf, fun and friends!

Special thanks to our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and especially an inspiring Golf Committee, whose hard work and commitment to homeless families made the day an overwhelming success!



Jerry Massa Longest Drive Winner: Eric Schmitt (center) with Jerry's sons and sponsors of the Longest Drive, Doug Massa, left and Dr. Scott Massa, right.



Winner of Longest Putt Mike Haverkamp, left and Golf Committee Chair, Doug Boschert, right.



Women's winning team: L. to R. Ruby Crawford-Hemphill, Tana Casper, Nancy Barone, Rosemary Keiser.



Golf Committee Members Ryan Edwards, TJ Davis, Grant Cooper.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY MASSA

Family, friends, and fellow committee members honored Jerry Massa's generosity, spirit and 14 years of service at the Golf Outing. Special thanks to the family for their generous donation and for sponsoring the Jerry Massa Longest Drive!

BETHANY HOUSE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Lucy Crane, United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Susan M. Dyer CPA, Waldman & Company
Thomas Goodwin, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
Terri L. Williams, Fifth Third Bank

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Stephen G. Brinker, Esq., *President*
Denise D. Schumacher, *Vice President*
Patricia A. Roddy, *Secretary*
Sue Dyer, *Treasurer*

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Susan S. Schiller, *Executive Director*
Kelly K. Freyler, *Finance Director*
Darlene D. Guess, MSOL, LSW, *Director of Client Programs*
Gwendolyn M. Green, MEd, LSW, *Shelter Director*

OUR MISSION

Bethany House Services collaborates with others to provide a full range of housing, education and assistance programs to homeless families.

OUR VISION

To end homelessness

CORE VALUES

Hospitality, Human Dignity, Justice, Advocacy, Holistic Services, Collaboration and Safety

DIRECTORS

H. Kim Baird
Douglas M. Boschert
Lucy Crane
Thomas S. Goodwin
Robert J. Inkrot
Kirk M. Koppenhoefer
Nadine Liggett
Megan J. McCuen
Sean G. Mullins
M. Gail Myers
Kathrine R. Phillips
Sharon C. Raess
Terri L. Williams
Calvin T. Wright

PRESENTING SPONSOR

WELLINGTON[®]
Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine

A PARTNER OF  **MERCYHEALTH**

EAGLE SPONSOR

Messer
WeAreBuilding.

BIRDIE SPONSORS

Cincinnati Bell
you. entertained.



McGraw
M
Insurance

evergreen
advisors, inc.

 Fort Washington
Investment Advisors, Inc.
A member of Western & Southern Financial Group

 **Gallagher SKS**
ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.

KMK | Law

KUTOL
Hand Hygiene Specialists

 **MERCYHEALTH**
Orthopaedics and
Sports Medicine

Vivian Kay Morgan

BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

Bethany House Services
1841 Fairmount Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214
513.921.1131

www.bethanyhouseservices.org



Bethany House Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please direct any comments concerning this publication to: Bethany House Services, 1841 Fairmount Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45214. Bethany House Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

Affiliated with and funded by



Give from the Heart

1841 Fairmount Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati OH
Permit No.7053



Celebrate Fat Tuesday and help feed homeless children!

SAVE THE DATE



Mercedes-Benz
of Fort Mitchell
Presents

Mardi Gras

For Homeless Children
24th Annual Culinary Celebration
FAT TUESDAY February 17, 2015
6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy food and beverages from more than 50 restaurants and vendors as well as Dixieland music, fabulous auction items, celebrities, parade, stilt walkers, clowns, face painting, and much much more!! This is the 24th year that Bethany House has benefitted from this community-wide fundraiser supporting four family shelters in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

DID YOU KNOW that last year Bethany House served 24,000 meals to 400 women and children? With the expansion of services planned in 2015, we will be feeding an additional 900 moms and kids. Please join us and help feed homeless kids!

Buying your \$60 ticket directly from Bethany House ensures that \$40 will go directly to feed our children. **Contact Lisa at 513.921.1131 or lsiegel@bhsinc.org.**

Holiday gift giving got you stumped?

Why not give tickets to
Mardi Gras 2015—and feed
homeless kids at the same time!



Speakers Bureau Wants You!

Bethany House Services provides opportunities for individuals to speak at a variety of events and venues as members of our Speakers Bureau. Training is provided and members schedule presentations according to their availability. Speakers Bureau volunteers will deliver brief presentations about homelessness and the services provided by Bethany House to churches, schools, and other community groups. Speakers may also attend community events to distribute information about Bethany House Services. If you are interested in supporting BHS in this capacity, please contact Susan Schiller at sschiller@bhsinc.org.