



FRONT PORCH

NEWS | FALL 2016



Blip or Trend?

It's mid-October and at Bethany House we are still over capacity. Over capacity means 150-170 people a night rather than 120-140 a night. So why are we seeing such high numbers at the shelter—is this just a blip or is it a new trend? Well, at this time we don't know.

Typically, our summer numbers drop by the time school is back in session from their “Summer Surge” level. Unfortunately, that is not the case this year. “Summer Surge” is a phenomenon that occurs across the United States every summer when the number of homeless families spikes. The reasons are many. Landlords who may be reluctant to evict families during the winter are less hesitant to do so when the weather is warmer. Some families who have endured poor housing conditions in order to keep their children in school leave the unsafe situation as soon as the last bell rings. Relatives and friends who have shared their cramped apartments become less hospitable when school is out and the children are home all day. Hot weather makes families and friends less tolerant. For some families, the extra cost of paying for child care over the summer means giving up their own job - or their housing.

But all of these reasons are associated with summertime when school is out and now it is fall and the kids have been back for two months. While Bethany House is hoping and praying the number of homeless families drops quickly, we are here to help. That is who Bethany House is and has been—Cincinnati's advocate for homeless families, doing whatever it takes to provide care and comfort, **getting each family one step closer to home.** Thank you for walking the path with us!

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

This November 29th, join the movement and give - whether it's some of your time, a donation or the power of your voice on behalf of Bethany House! #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, the notorious shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many focus on their holiday and year-end giving.

It's a simple idea. Whether you come together with your family, your community, your company or your friends, we hope you will choose Bethany House as your philanthropic partner of choice. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and watch for updates on our website www.bethanyhouseservices.org. Participate and let the world know you donated to @BethanyHouseSvc on #GivingTuesday!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Robert J. Inkrot, President
Denise D. Schumacher, Vice President
Susan M. Dyer, Treasurer
M. Gail Myers, Secretary

DIRECTORS

H. Kim Baird
Donald L. Brown
Ross A. Crawford
Terry E. Davis, Jr.
Michael F. Haverkamp
Steven D. Hengehold
Sr. Lynn Heper, SC
Megan J. McCuen
Sean G. Mullins
Kathrine R. Phillips
Robert M. Poulos
Albert C. Smitherman
Robie K. Suggs
Amanda R. Toole
Carolyn K. Washburn
Carole C. Williams

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Susan S. Schiller, *Executive Director*
Mary Bennett-Brown, *Human Resource Director*
Kelly K. Freyler, *Finance Director*
Gwendolyn M. Green, MEd, LSW, *Shelter Director*
Amy C. Pelicano, *Development Director*

OUR MISSION Bethany House Services empowers homeless and at-risk families with the solutions to achieve housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

OUR VISION To live in a community where all families have a place to call home and no one spends a night without shelter.

Core Values Respect, Empowerment, Integrity, Excellence, Collaboration and Hospitality

DEAR FRIENDS,



As many of you know, September and October is United Way campaign time in Cincinnati which means that Bethany House, as a newly funded United Way agency, has the opportunity to go out and talk to the employees of many, many companies. Each time I give a speech I get very similar feedback from the audiences.

First is **disbelief**. People just can't believe that right here in Cincinnati we have homeless families.

Next is **shock**. When I share that Bethany House will serve over 1,200 people this year and that 850 will be kids, they just can't believe the numbers.

Then is **insight** into the immensity of the problem. When I share what I personally find most distressing—the impact on the kids—people begin to get an understanding of the long-term implications for our community! The research shows that homeless children are sick at twice the rate of other children and go hungry twice as often as non-homeless children. No wonder then that we see delays in the physical, emotional, cognitive, social and behavioral development of children who have experienced homelessness.

Homeless children suffer academically too—they score significantly lower in reading, spelling and arithmetic than poor children from the same classroom who live in stable housing.

I typically end my speech with the realization that has hit me like a ton of bricks recently—if we don't intervene effectively today, that same 10 year old girl we now see running around our shelter will be back in 8 or 9 years as a young homeless mother with her own child.

At this point the audience and I are on the same page—family homelessness has got to stop.

Finally, I close by asking each person to be an ambassador....to tell one person about family homelessness in Cincinnati. People have to know it exists in order to solve the problem.

After the speech it is not uncommon for people to come up to thank me for what I do. My response is "it is not just me." It is all of you reading this letter too. Quite literally, we could not do what we do without each one of you—your prayers, your volunteer hours, your financial donations. So as the holidays approach, I thank each one of you for your support... and for being our ambassador.

Together we can make a difference and I pray that you will join with me, our Board and the Staff to ensure that our 10 year olds will not return to shelter.

Susan S. Schiller
Executive Director

Fun at Reds Game

Many thanks to Tom R. Grabo at Sports Games for Kids for providing a memorable outing for Bethany House children. As Tom said, “We all had a lot of fun watching baseball, doing cheers and even catching Pokémon at the game today!” Our kids had a good time and we’re very appreciative!



Could you Live Nine Days in Your Car?

On a hot day in late August, Channel 12 reporter, Rich Jaffee visited Bethany House to talk with staff and one of our special guests, Tawana Terrell. Two days before, her apartment building in Roselawn flooded and the Health Department forced all residents to leave. With nowhere to go, Tawana and her four children spent nine days living in their car, spending nights in brightly lit parking lots for safety and spending days at the public library. With nowhere to turn, she called Bethany House and was welcomed with open arms.

Tawana’s story is like so many of the homeless families seeking shelter, food and safety. Through no fault of their own, they join the hundreds of homeless families in our area - two-thirds of whom are children. As Rich commented in his story, “Normally Bethany serves about 120 people a day. Right now for some unexplainable reason it’s more like 180 and they just keep coming. When families come to Bethany House they get a lot more than just shelter. They get help finding jobs, apartments, programs for the kids, and a lot of support. But they’re overwhelmed.” Thanks to Rich and other local journalists for telling these stories which draw much-needed attention to an important community issue that will take significant individual and corporate investment to resolve.

Back To School

During the month of August, *The Child/Parent Program* at Bethany House provided services to 65 families with a total of 182 children and assisted with enrolling 46 students into the Cincinnati Public Schools District.

We visited Parky’s Farm for our “Back to School Grill & Chill” and we had a blast! Our families also received backpacks filled with school supplies, uniform vouchers and information on managing school and student situations.



Summer Film Camp

This summer we had an exciting opportunity for several young people, ages 13-17, from Bethany House Services. They were selected to attend a “Summer Film Camp” hosted by Stages for YOUTH. Professional writers, producers and directors taught, coached and mentored them throughout the production process. Collaborating with other young filmmakers, they were responsible for developing an idea, writing a script and then shooting and editing the film. Their film short film, *Last Note*, premiered on Saturday, September 17, 2016 during Washington Park’s “Summer Cinema” series.





23rd Annual Golf Classic



1st Place Women's Team (1.-r.) Annie Ilyinski, Paula Comisar, Amy Holter, Julie Heidt

The 23rd Annual Golf Classic returned to Maketewah Country Club on Monday, August 1st, 2016 and although a downpour threatened our annual tournament it did not dampen the enthusiasm of our golfers. Thanks to this year's golf chair, T.J. Davis, and committee - Mike Haverkamp, Butch Rowekamp, Grant Cooper, Sean Mullins, Jason Bacciccio and Art Hathaway for volunteering and raising funds for our Bethany families.

Congratulations to our winners! Julie Heidt, Paula Comisar, Amy Holter, and Annie Ilyinski were our 1st Place Women's Team and Rob Heidt, Marc Comisar, Lou George and Jack Cassidy were our 1st Place Men's Team. Susan Sullivan won the women's Longest Drive and Matt Shoulta won the Men's Longest Drive. Larry Dean won the "Special Closest to the Pin Contest"

Special thanks to our sponsors, golfers and volunteers who made the day a success!

Thank you to our Golf Sponsors

WELLINGTON
Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine
A PARTNER OF  **MERCYHEALTH**

SC MINISTRY
FOUNDATION
Promoting the Mission of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

Friends of Charity
CINCINNATI FRIENDS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION

JOHNSON
INVESTMENT COUNSEL



KUTOL
Hand Hygiene Specialists

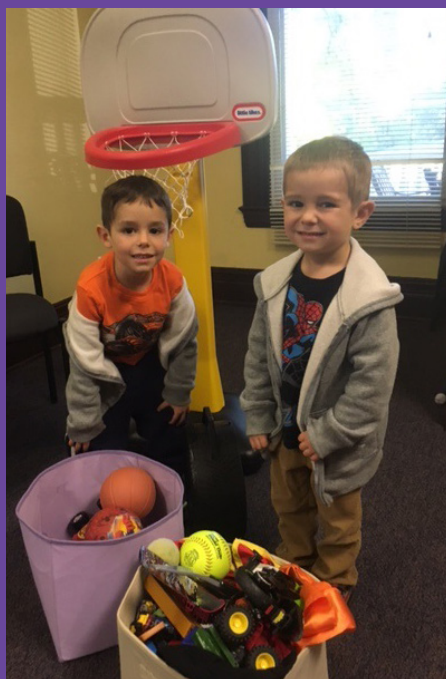
McGraw
M
Insurance



Ohio National
Financial Services

TQL
TOTAL QUALITY LOGISTICS

 **TriHealth**



▲ Charlie and Henry donated some of their toys to Bethany's children.

Thanks to our Volunteers



▲ Students and faculty from Galen College of Nursing prepared and served breakfast to 30 women and children at Bethany House! They said “we had a blast entertaining the kids and mingling with the adults! I love my school and the amazing things we are doing for our community!”



▲ Tara Johnson (red shirt, jean jacket) and a group of her close friends, provided dinner for our families and we are grateful she chose to make a difference at Bethany House.

End of Year Giving

It's that time of year when our community begins to think about making their year-end gifts to the nonprofits they support. We hope this year you will dig deep and consider making a personally significant gift to Bethany House. The need is greater than it has been in Bethany's 33 year history. We are serving more families than ever before. This year we will serve more than 850 children and over 350 adults. As we continue to grow, we know that costs are going to increase significantly and we need your help. We have wonderful volunteers and donors who make in-kind gifts, for which we are grateful. Those donations and volunteer hours save Bethany House money daily. However, the cost of operating our shelters and providing services is growing while the amount of government funding is limited. As you consider your year-end giving plans, we hope you will think of Bethany House.

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 acknowledgment 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.

Tributes and Memorials from
July 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016

IN MEMORY OF:

Betty Breckel
Mario and Mary Roberto
Jill Brown
Russell and Eileen Brown
Cecil Cerroni
Sarah Hammers
John Kasak
Audrey Kasak
Bob Lillis
Marie Lillis
Thelma Malloni
James and Suzie Malloni
Chris Mayer
Robert and Donna Mayer
Karl Mohaupt
Earl and Eileen Kisker
Laura Vizurraga
Sarah Hammers
Rita Watkins
Christopher and Gina Watkins
Greg Fitzpatrick
Pam Senefeld

IN HONOR OF:

Anne “Fritzi” Heidt’s Birthday
Amy Nurre
Cole Stautberg’s 18th Birthday
Timothy and Katherine Stautberg
Kathleen C. Goetz
Catherine Goetz and Connally Edozien
Julia and Robert Heidt, Jr.
John and Karen Cassidy
Louis George and Anne Vertuca
Greg and Liz Kissel’s Contribution to their community
Edward and Mary Herbers
Erin Schultz
Gregory and Sherry Schultz
Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM
Stephen and Mary Jo Clear
Barbara and James Grove
Jerry Wilkerson and Cheryl Meadows

The Power of Community



▲ P & G Volunteers Jennifer Williams coordinated two groups of volunteers who tackled two gigantic projects and we are so grateful to have those finished.



▲ Saint Ursula Academy mailing volunteers - L-R: Mary Farmer, Grace Borchenek, AnneMarie Broadwell, Bella Scholtes.



▲ LaSalle dads and freshmen sons volunteered and painted two offices and a big thank you to Marcus Acoff and twin sons Kenyon and Kia and Jeff Abbott and son, Lucas.



▲ Mercy Health Volunteers prepared breakfast for our shelter guests and their children! THANK YOU! Erin Elderidge, Nancy Scheffel, Kristina Adom, Claire Combs, Dawn Stahl, Laura Martin and, Chris Koch.

Imagine a painter who leaves a bold stroke and doesn't look back.

It takes guts to do that. How often do we overthink decisions and sometimes miss the best opportunity to do something bold? Leaving a Legacy is a bold move. Right this minute, you can make a solid decision to invest in the future. Have you ever considered making a planned gift to Bethany House? A gift that will live on forever makes a lasting statement about what's most important to you.

You don't have to be rich to leave a bequest. Why not consider a charitable gift annuity that can provide you or a loved one a steady stream of extra retirement income, while at the same time supports our mission far into the future. A Legacy gift is not a donation — it's an investment in the long-term success of Bethany House.

What bold stroke will **you** make today?

For information about leaving a Legacy for Bethany House, please contact Amy Pelicano at apelicano@bhsinc.org or 3-557-2411.





Soapbox Gives Back – A Fun Evening to Support Bethany House!

Bethany House is grateful for the awesome fundraising event held by Soapbox Salon - "Soapbox Gives Back." Owner Sarah Hunterman devised a plan to host an event, complete with auction and raffle items, to benefit nonprofits in our area. This year they chose Bethany House! The event was held on September 23rd at Quincy's in Mt. Adams. A lively crowd turned out and the event raised over \$3,400 for BHS. We extend our sincere thanks to Sarah, the team at Soapbox Salon, those who donated items and all of the people who joined in the fun that night.

For information about how you can host a fundraiser to benefit Bethany House, contact Jeri Tolliver at jtolliver@bhsinc.org or 513-557-2402.

Many Thanks to Our Wine Supporters

The 2016 "Ales to Zinfandels" committee did a fabulous job planning our annual Wine and Beer Tasting event again this year. A big crowd gathered together on November 12th at the Mercy Health home office in Bond Hill. It was a fun night filled with great wines, beer, auctions and live music. Mercy Health was the Title Sponsor and we thank our many other sponsors for the event. A world of gratitude goes to Committee Chair, Karen McHale and the Ales committee.



▲ The Bethany House Services "Ales to Zinfandels" Committee 2016 includes (l.-r.) Mary Alice Koch, Julie Ross, Kelley Carrier, Megan McCuen, Karen McHale, Amy Pelicano, Alyson Poling, Katie Coughlin, and Jeri Tolliver. Not pictured: Tracey Griggs, Erika Judd, Beth Kasson, Lisa Kuhn, Susan Schiller, Lisa Smith, Lynne Whang, and Laura Wright.

Bethany House Wish List

We are always in need of the following items. Please consider holding a supply drive and collect items on our wish list for Bethany families.

CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Brooms
- Dustpans
- Mops
- Buckets, scrub brushes
- Lysol (disinfectant spray)
- Room deodorizers
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwashing liquid
- Paper towels
- Garbage bags

KITCHEN

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

BEDROOM

- Lamps/hangers
- Sheets/pillow cases
- Single sheet sets-twin and full
- Pillows

BATHROOM

- Towels/ washcloths
- Hampers/ plastic bins, plungers

LAUNDRY

- Laundry baskets
- Irons/ironing boards

MISCELLANEOUS

- Area rugs
- Tool sets
- Screwdrivers
- Pliers/Hand drills
- Hammers

PERSONAL CARE

- Band-Aids
- Shampoo/ conditioner
- Toothpaste/ toothbrushes
- Bar soap
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Hygiene products
- Hair products for both African American and Caucasian

BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

Bethany House Services
1841 Fairmount Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214
513-921-1131
www.bethanyhouseservices.org



BETHANY
house services

1841 Fairmount Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214

Return Service Requested

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



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.



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday
February 23, 2017
6:30-10 p.m.



Mercedes-Benz
of Fort Mitchell
Presents

Mardi Gras

For Homeless Children
26th Annual Culinary Celebration

For information, sponsorship opportunities, tickets or to donate auction items, please call Jeri Tolliver at 513-557-2402 or email jtolliver@bhsinc.org.

Being an Ambassador is Easy!

Help us spread the word about family homelessness, about Bethany House and our need for community support.

TELL SOMEONE ABOUT US—a family member, a friend, a co-worker, a neighbor.

VOLUNTEER AT BETHANY—bring dinner Monday through Thursday OR brunch on Saturday or Sunday. Don't cook? Send us a turkey, a ham, fruits and vegetables.

BRING A CORPORATE GROUP, A CHURCH GROUP OR YOUR FAMILY TO VOLUNTEER—we need windows washed, bushes trimmed, donations organized.

PICK A HOLIDAY during the year and plan a party.

SPONSOR A FUNDRAISER to raise money OR a “housewarming party” or “shower” to collect items for families moving out of the shelter.

SPONSOR A DRIVE to collect toiletries, back to school supplies, household cleaning supplies or donate gift cards or bus passes.

BE A HANDYMAN—with seven properties to maintain, something always needs repair.

VOLUNTEER for our children's program in the evening while parents attend classes. Monday-Thursday evenings 6:45 - 8:15 p.m.

RAKE LEAVES OR PLANT FLOWERS.

JOIN THE SPEAKER'S BUREAU.