

# FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Winter 2017

## A Life Changed

*"Angels sent from above."* That's how Ms. Jackson refers to Bethany House after coming to the shelter in the spring of 2015. Her struggle was real. After experiencing numerous evictions because of lost, temporary or low paying jobs, Ms. Jackson was homeless with two children. It was a demoralizing cycle that ended when she turned to Bethany House for help. Once Ms. Jackson and her children were in shelter, things began to change. She was referred to Bethany's Rapid Re-Housing Program and completed the necessary requirements for her GED. With that goal achieved, she was able to find another job.



During this time, she developed a budget that allowed her to put money aside every pay period. Since exiting the Rapid Re-Housing Program, she has been self-sufficient. Ms. Jackson and her children have been in stable housing for over a year and a half—the longest period of time that she can remember. The children have a yard to play in and their home is close to school and Ms. Jackson's work. With the support of Bethany House, their temporary rental assistance and her stable employment, Ms. Jackson sees the end to the cycle of evictions.

Ms. Jackson said, *"Bethany House was a huge success for me. It put my family and me in a better situation. I achieved short-term goals easily and continue to aim towards long-term goals. The staff was remarkable, efficient and organized. 2016 I was rebuilding. 2017 I am restored. I want to thank everyone and especially my case manager Taryn Frymire for the inspiration I needed when I was having a rough patch in life. I think you guys were 'angels sent from above.'"*

Thank you! - Ms. Jackson

## LIVES YOU'VE TOUCHED

### SHELTER SERVICES

 **1124**  
Individuals  
Served

 **762**  
Children  
Served

**48,184**  
 Bed  
Nights

**175,400**  
 Meals  
Served

### HOUSING PROGRAMS

 **848**  
Individuals  
Served

 **487**  
Children  
Served

## 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  
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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 Resources Director*  
Kelly K. Freyler, *Finance Director*  
Taryn R. Frymire, MS, LSW, *Housing Director*  
Gwendolyn M. Green, MEd, LSW, *Shelter 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,



December is always a very emotional month. I have been at Bethany House four Christmases now and I get weepy every December...tears of joy and tears of sadness. Sadness because our children have more needs than ever before and their parents are struggling more than ever before. Joy because I see people at the door laden with gifts for our homeless families.

To witness the generosity of so many is simply overwhelming. YOU come bearing gifts and you share your stories.

It is the mom and dad who want to teach their two children about giving and so the family of four shops together, wraps together, and delivers their gifts for a homeless family of four.

It is the mom who introduces herself as a former guest at Bethany House many years ago who now wants to give back and help a mom in the shelter today.

It is the donor who sends a dollar along with a barely legible note saying she is praying for us every day.

It is the Bengals fans who tailgate sharing their food and drinks and have a donation jar marked Bethany House.

It is the new donor who hand delivers a check because she learned about our work this past year.

It is the corporate groups who collect gift cards, air mattresses, bath towels and sheets so our families do not have to move from shelter into a bare apartment.

It is the Eagle Scouts who choose Bethany House for their final badges and provide 110 blankets and fix the tiles in our children's playroom.

It is opening the mail and receiving checks from longtime, faithful supporters of our mission and our families.

It is the Board members who volunteer so much of their time and talent and then give so generously.

It is the voice mail message from a donor saying "I have seen what you have done and I want to say thank you...and I am sending you a check for \$XX,XXX."

Yes, YOU, our donors, inspire us....and that is why I cry. I am so touched by your care and concern for all of those less fortunate. When I see the support YOU are giving us, I am profoundly grateful. I know we can't do this work by ourselves—we need the help of everyone to change the trajectory of our families' lives—together we can and will make a difference!

Susan S. Schiller  
Executive Director

## Bethany House Announces New Housing Director

Congratulations to Taryn Frymire who was recently promoted to Housing Director at Bethany House Services (BHS). Taryn joined BHS in 2011 and quickly advanced within the Housing Department.



As Housing Director, Taryn supervises four housing case managers, a shelter diversion case manager, a mental health clinician and two housing specialists, all of whom provide services to families referred from emergency shelters throughout Hamilton County. Taryn also monitors grant compliance and funding to ensure that our housing programs follow contract requirements and established benchmarks.

A licensed social worker, Taryn graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a B.S. in Social Work and an M.S. with a concentration in Criminal Justice.

It's no surprise that as the oldest of five, Taryn was the family organizer. She believes that her childhood prepared her for her role at BHS because she is now organizing and structuring programs that support families as they exit shelter and become self-sufficient. Taryn has a much younger brother whose childhood innocence encourages her every day to provide the best services and programs for the hundreds of children that we serve each year. Taryn says, "I know that he feels safe when he is home with his family and I want the same for every homeless child."

Thank you Taryn for your dedication to our families!

## Bethany House Welcomes New Board Members

Working to advance the independence and housing stability of homeless families, Bethany House is proud to announce the following new Board members:

**Sharron M. DiMario**, Center Director, Area Health Education Center, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

**Annette M. Franke**, Vice-President, Kroger Technology

## Ordinary People - Extraordinary Actions

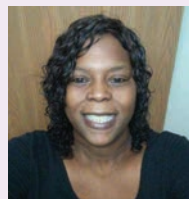
Ordinary people are showing extraordinary generosity by leaving legacy gifts to Bethany House in their estate plans. Childhood poverty and homelessness aren't easy problems to solve, but your gifts are building solutions. Your annual donation touches those in need today. A legacy gift is an investment in the lives of generations to come. It shows an indelible love of life and concern for others that will live on forever.



Gifts large and small are important. Planned giving is not only for the wealthy! Legacy gifts demonstrate a kindness that is evident in people from all walks of life — people with different income levels, professions, and passions. Leaving a legacy represents the very best intentions humanity has to offer and brings out the best in each of us. We hope that you will join those who have made such a commitment. Whatever you do, please make sure you have a Will and that you provide for those you love.

Have you already included Bethany House in your estate plans? If so, we would love to thank you so please let us know! For more information or to make a planned gift, contact Susan Schiller at 513.557.2410 or [sschiller@bhsinc.org](mailto:sschiller@bhsinc.org).

## Don't Give Up



Dear Bethany House,

Bethany House Services is truly a sanctuary in more ways than one. They provide emergency housing to families, rental assistance to help one maintain permanent housing and become financially stable, and most of all, they genuinely care about the family's well-being. The staff goes above and beyond to help and encourage their clients to keep their heads up, don't give up, and continue to press forward. It's not the end, only the beginning of a new start. Bethany House Services is truly a ray of hope filled with love, kindness, caring and support to families in a dire time of need. I am grateful for everything they have done to help my family get back on track.

Thank you Bethany House Staff!

Sharlene Wilburn





## Bethany House Services Wins Organization of the Year Award



▲ Staff members joined Directors Susan Schiller and Gwen Green as they accepted the Julie Martin Award and acknowledged the dedication and hard work of their team.

The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition awarded Bethany House Services (BHS) the Julie Martin Award for exemplary services to the Greater Cincinnati homeless population and dedication to the mission of ending homelessness in Greater Cincinnati. The award was presented at the Homeless Coalition's annual banquet on Dec. 7, 2016.

Two of the nomination letters explain why Bethany House merited this award:

*"The outcomes at Bethany House are very high due to the hands-on dedication of the loyal staff. I have seen couches turned into temporary beds to keep one more family off the streets. 'No' is not a word in the vocabulary of this staff" said BHS Board Chair and Operations Vice President at Messer Construction, Bob Inkrot.*

*Volunteers and donors JoAnn and Carolyn added "From the moment of entering BHS, clients start on a path to self-sufficiency and self-worth with programs on life skills, budgeting, job seeking, parenting and more. And at the heart of everything that happens at BHS are the loving, caring, committed staff members who say through their actions and words, 'You are valuable. You matter. You can do this.'"*

*Bethany House staff were honored to accept the award and grateful to Board members, Committee members and volunteers who submitted letters of nomination.*



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VOLUNTEER



TAKE A TOUR

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## Susan Schiller Honored as Woman of Influence

Susan Schiller, Executive Director of Bethany House Services, is a recipient of the 2016 Women of Influence Award. The Women of Influence Award honors our region's leading women who have helped shape the success of their organization and have demonstrated exceptional leadership.

The criteria for the Women of Influence Award are based on the individual's invaluable contributions, professional achievements and continuous dedication to their organization, as well as their commitment to cultivating a thriving and progressive community. Lead Magazine's presentation to the 2016 Women of Influence was held in November.

Schiller, who joined Bethany House Services in 2013, was recognized for leading a hard-working and committed staff as the agency transitioned from a "Mom and Pop" operation to the largest family shelter in the community. In 2015, the agency quadrupled the number of beds from 30 to 130 and a year later relocated the beds to safer and better maintained facilities.

Other firsts for Bethany in this time period included securing United Way funding, adding shelter diversion services, and growing its permanent housing services by 35 percent. Schiller steered the agency during this growth, adding increased funding that allowed Bethany to serve over half of Cincinnati's homeless families and to help prevent even more at-risk families from becoming homeless.

In accepting the award, Schiller gave credit to the dedicated staff, committed volunteers and especially, the families. "My inspiration comes from the homeless children and their parents who come to Bethany House every day. As a community, we have to ensure every family has a place to call home and no one spends a night without shelter."



▲ Susan Schiller with Bethany House board members at the Women of Influence Awards Ceremony. Left to right: Carole Williams, Gail Myers, Honoree Susan Schiller, Carolyn Washburn and Board Chair, Bob Inkrot.

## We Couldn't Have Done it Without You!



▲ L.R. Denise Schumacher, Board Vice-Chair, Bob Inkrot, Board Chair, Karen McHale, Event Chair, Susan Schiller, Executive Director

Thanks to more than 250 friends and supporters in attendance, the 13th Annual "Ales to Zinfandels" on November 12, 2016 was Bethany's most successful ever! This year's wine and beer tasting event was hosted by Mercy Health at their beautiful new Home Office in Bond Hill. It was an evening filled with delicious wines, craft beers, great food, tasty desserts, music, dancing, and an array of auction items.



Our sincere thanks to Honorary Chair, John Starcher, CEO & President of Mercy Health and to Event Chair Karen McHale and her entire Ales to Zinfandels committee for sharing their time and talents to help homeless families served by Bethany House.

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### PATRON SPONSORS



Thank you to Coldiron Rentals and to our underwriters Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits and Great Lakes Brewing Company.

## Memorials and Tributes Support Bethany House Mission

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.

Memorials and Tributes received October 1, 2016-December 31, 2016.

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Joe and Joanna Allen**  
 Millie and Thomas Hines  
**Charles Banchiere**  
 Janie and Tom Schaefer  
**Cincinnati Woman's Club**  
**Deceased Members**  
 Cincinnati Woman's Club  
**Ena Cowan**  
 Patti and Brett Moore  
**Lillian Focke**  
 Judy and Jerry Diers  
**Bill and Florence Hughes**  
 Mary and William Hughes  
 Patricia and Richard Loutzenhiser  
**Sr. Celestia Koebel, SC**  
 Sisters of Charity  
**Sr. Kateri Koverman, SC**  
 Patricia Reaman  
**Mary Jane Lockard**  
 Karen Striet  
**Elizabeth Matthews**  
 Society of the Transfiguration  
**Chris Mayer**  
 Donna and Robert Mayer

**Cheryl Myers**  
 Susan and Michael Schiller  
**Nate-Medical Volunteers**  
 of Cincinnati  
 Russell and Ellen Porter  
**Kandace Zinn Pandzik**  
 Linda and Joel Casebere  
 Elaine and Austin Chapman  
 Camargo Racquet Club  
 Dever Family  
 Mary Ann Falter  
 Kendall and Kirk Fegley  
 Cheryl Frazier  
 Louann Geel  
 Julia and Richard Grinstead  
 KBA, Inc Architects  
 Kathy Lauer  
 Amy Marshall  
 Mary and Warren McClellan  
 Helen McCune  
 Terri Kelley Paul  
 Sandra and Bruce Rathje  
 Kathy and Kurt Schibler  
 Patricia and Jeffrey Schmees  
 Nadine Simon

Todd Smith  
 Charlene and Larry Zinn  
**Guiseppa Paolucci**  
 Susan Eberle  
**Helen Peters**  
 Richard and Diane Park  
**Bill Striet**  
 Karen Striet  
**Barbara Thacker**  
 Michael Stock  
**Roger, Pat and**  
**Donald Wetenkamp**  
 Sally Wetenkamp

### IN HONOR OF:

**Laura, Jeremy, Griffin**  
**and Simeon Borsky**  
 Borsky Wiesenfeld Fund  
**Jackie and Wally Carroll**  
 Marilyn and David Wempe  
**The Clovertones**  
 Seton High School Class of 1966  
**Mary Jo Flanagan**  
 Maureen Flanagan and  
 William Groneman

**Sr. Virginia Ann Froehle, RSM**  
 Mary Beth and Kenneth Ganote  
**Betty Gooten**  
 Mary Schweitzer  
**Robert and Julie Heidt, Jr.**  
 Anne "Fritzi" Heidt  
**Valerie and Craig Johnson**  
 Genevieve Smith  
**Susan Kisker**  
 Earl and Eileen Kisker  
**Trisha Roddy**  
 Susan Wyder  
**Erin Schultz**  
 Sherry and Gregory Schultz  
**James and Erika Smith**  
 Robert and Kathy Tardiff  
**Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM**  
 Johanne Armstrong  
 Lea and Steven Brinker  
 Barbara and James Grove  
 Marjorie and Alan Schneider  
 Carl Shannon  
 Ina and Arthur Waidmann



# THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES!



▲ Elder High School students worked on a large mailing for our Holiday appeal.



▲ Thank you Kroger volunteers for re-organizing and cleaning our attic. Countless trips to the dumpster and several hours later, our attic was useful again!



▲ Long-time BHS supporter, Doris Grady, brought five of her friends to help with our Holiday appeal mailing.



▲ Michelman to the rescue! Seven men volunteered and did the 'down and dirty' jobs that needed to be done for a long time. Thank you for all your hard work!



▲ Cincinnati Youth Collaborative and Cincinnati Jobs for Graduates Leadership Council at Aiken and Western Hills High Schools raised nearly \$300. Pictured Victoria Perkins, Ra'Niece Taylor, Deayra Lewis, Venise Williams, Ciara Blevins, Mariah Hill, Jyvell Tolbert, Stephanie Weaver.



▲ St. Antoninus Brownie Troop spent an afternoon cleaning all the toys in the shelter playroom.



▲ 18 students from Clark Montessori worked diligently to organize donations for our families when they exit shelter.



▲ Seton High School's Day of Service - 40 students helped with filing, shredding and sorting donations.





▲ Every child is one caring adult away from being a success story! Sincere thanks to ALL of our Holiday store volunteers, donors, and St. Teresa of Avila for hosting our Christmas Party.



▲ The SandAngel Foundation has donated thousands of dollars in gifts for our families. SandAngel Board members l-r, Bob Ziek, Cindy Skinner, Allison Linkhart, Ron Back.



▲ Marie Lillis's Family donated \$500 in gift cards in lieu of exchanging gifts with family members. Thanks to Marie & kids- Bob, Charlene, Bruce, Keith, Brian, James and Beth!

## Homeless Children are Invisible

We don't see homeless children on the street but they are out there! In fact, Bethany House sheltered over 760 children in 2016. They came from 280 families—some with just one child and others with 8, 9, and 10 children. Executive Director Susan Schiller cautions, "Our 10 year old girl in the shelter today will be back in 8 years with a child of her own, if we do not break the cycle."

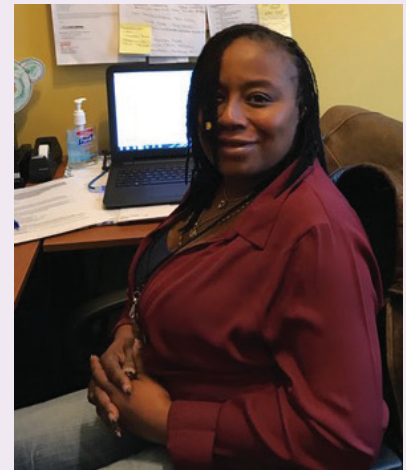
Bethany House hired Child/Parent Coordinator Denise Hill, in April 2016. Denise brings 17 years of experience working with children who have experienced severe trauma and distress. Denise shares, **"Unfortunately, my years of experience working with these children did not prepare me for the incredible injustices that homeless children endure every day of their lives."**

On any given day, Denise is responsible for 100 children. She ensures each child receives a comprehensive assessment and that each is enrolled and attending school. She has initiated new partnerships and strengthened existing partnerships. Healthy Moms & Babies and the Cincinnati Health Department's School-Based Health Centers provide accessible health care. 4C for Children helps our parents locate childcare and UpSpring provides educational assistance for our homeless children.

Our new children's program helps children develop and maintain healthy social and coping skills. Therapeutic group interventions focus on anger

management, self-esteem, substance abuse, peer relationships, boundaries and daily living skills.

Denise espouses the value of volunteers to our evening programs. "Our amazing volunteers model a different vision for the future for our kids...a vision that includes finishing high school, attending college, and securing a productive job. This is key to breaking the generational cycle of poverty."



**MANY THANKS** to local foundations who share our commitment to homeless children: Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr. Foundation/ U.S. Bank Foundation, The Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation, The Spaulding Foundation, The Sutphin Family Foundation, Charles H. Dater Foundation, Cotswold Foundation, TJX Foundation, and The General Mills Foundation.

## BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

Bethany House Services  
1841 Fairmount Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45214  
513.921.1131  
[www.bethanyhouseservices.org](http://www.bethanyhouseservices.org)



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## Want to Make a Difference in the Lives of Homeless Families?

There are many ways to support Bethany House and help homeless families.



Name BHS as the beneficiary of your Kroger Rewards card.



Make your Amazon purchases by using AmazonSmile.



Use Goodsearch as your search engine.

Plan a Third Party fundraiser to benefit BHS. The next scheduled event is 3/30/17 at Cloverbrook Country Club with entertainment by "The Clovertones."

Call Lisa at 513.557.2403 for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE



### June 19, 2017 Bethany House Golf Classic

Bethany House's 24th Annual Golf Classic returns to Maketewah Country Club hosted this year by honorary chair, 700 WLW's Mike McConnell.

**We need your support!** For information about sponsorships, participating as a player or volunteering, please contact Jeri Tolliver [jtolliver@bhsinc.org](mailto:jtolliver@bhsinc.org) or 513.557.2402.

## HOLIDAY THANK YOU



Our sincere thanks to the corporations, churches, mom's groups, Brownie troops, families, and individuals. Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure to make the holiday special for our shelter guests.