

FRONT PORCH

NEWS | SUMMER 2016



Children Bear the Brunt of Homelessness

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network focuses on the types and magnitude of trauma experienced by children and young mothers prior to becoming homeless and the experience of homelessness itself. The authors state that “children bear the brunt of homelessness” as evidenced by:

- Homeless children are sick at twice the rate of other children
- Homeless children go hungry twice as often as non-homeless children
- More than one-fifth of homeless preschoolers have serious emotional problems; less than 1/3 receive treatment
- Homeless children are twice as likely to repeat a grade
- Homeless children have twice the rate of learning disabilities and three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems of non-homeless children
- Half of the school-age homeless children experience anxiety, depression, or withdrawal compared to 18% of non-homeless children
- By the time homeless children are eight years old, one in three has a major mental disorder

Continued. See Children on page 3.

It is Not Just About the Numbers

NEW PARTNERSHIPS DELIVER NEEDED SERVICES

We talk a lot about numbers.... today BHS serves 5 out of 10 homeless families.... we project we'll shelter over 850 children this year alone. Our funders and our donors watch the numbers carefully—they demand accountability and they should. Whether we are tracking recidivism, length of stay, or income, the numbers are how we show the impact of our work.

But it is not just about the numbers—it is about the **people themselves**, and with the growth of the agency, it is **about the children now more than ever**. The data shows there is a high probability that the 10 year old girl in the shelter today will be back in about eight years with her own children. Bethany House is committed to stopping the cycle of generational poverty and homelessness.

Continued. See Numbers on page 7.

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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,



While last year brought an unprecedented need for shelter and housing services plus overnight growth, it also brought a vision for Bethany House's future. Today a new strategic plan and new collaborations are bringing enhanced services to our children and their parents. While our Facilities Assessment Committee was successful in relocating shelter families to safer, healthier and better maintained apartments just 2 miles from our Fairmount hub, the focus of the committee is now solving the daily

challenges of operating out of and maintaining six buildings.

Bethany's Vision for the future is one facility combining six buildings, housing all of our families and all of our staff. WHY one facility? Families are cramped in the Fairmount hub. Today we have eight beds and two baby beds in the conference room. The shelter living room now serves a dual purpose—a staff office and the Intake office. The computer lab for our guests is in the hallway. Our families in the off-site apartments do not benefit from the daily training and support that we are able to provide in the Fairmount shelter. They do not benefit from the modeling of parenting behavior that our social services staff does so well. Operating out of six buildings is costly. Our three buildings in Fairmount are all over 120 years old, inefficient to operate and impractical for service delivery. We do not have enough office space, storage space or meeting space. In January of 2016, as a direct result of the newly released Solutions for Family Homeless, the City of Cincinnati gave Bethany House \$100,000 to begin the design process for a new facility.

So while we are addressing our facility issues we are also focusing on our families. We are currently approaching outside providers and educational institutions to help us better prepare our parents for independence. In 2016 the changes will continue at Bethany House. You can read about our plans for the future and new collaborations in this newsletter. We look forward to your continued support as we work toward our *Vision of living in a community where all families have a place to call home and no one spends a night without shelter.*

Gratefully,

Susan S. Schiller
Executive Director



▲ Bethany House relocated families to three apartment buildings just two miles from the Fairmount hub in January of 2016.

Bethany 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:

- Donald L. Brown, *Real Estate Investment & Management*
- Ross A. Crawford, *Principal Estimator with Messer Construction*
- Terry E. Davis, CFP, *Vice President, Wealth Management Advisor at U.S. Bank*
- Sr. Lynn Heper, SC, *Retired Chief Operating Officer of St. Joseph Home*
- Robert M. Poulos, *Vice President of Recruiting at Total Quality Logistics*
- Amanda R. Toole, *Attorney with Legal Aid Society of SW Ohio, LLC*
- Carolyn K. Washburn, *Executive Coach & Communications Specialist*

Design Blitz Creates New Look

What do you get when you have a team of LPK “creatives” working around the clock, donating hundreds of hours in branding and design services to Bethany House? Well, we got an evolved logo, a new tagline, and a new brand expression toolbox including stationery, newsletter template and a new website. Did you notice the new design of this newsletter? Bethany House rolled out our new look at the Annual Meeting in April. Many thanks to LPK for the brand refresh and new marketing materials to support the recent agency growth!



CHILDREN *continued.*

Then consider the summer brain drain and the fact that school provides the consistency and stability that is missing in the lives of homeless children. Thoroughly depressing data, I am sure you will agree.

And Bethany House is determined to do something about it.

We are collaborating with Children’s Hospital and other pediatric health care providers to develop programs addressing the early identification and treatment of health issues. Administrators and professors from the UC College of Education, Criminal Justice & Human Services are advising how to best meet the educational needs of the children we shelter. In March we hired a Child/Parent Coordinator who manages programs to teach social skills, appropriate behavior in social settings, nutrition, health & safety. Field trips to Jungle Jim’s, COSI, the Ohio State Fair, Conner Prairie, Coney Island and Parky’s Farm at Winton Woods are all on the calendar. Our children ages 7-12 are enrolled in the summer camp sponsored by UpSpring, which is designed to increase literacy and math skills, promote health, and provide enrichment activities.

This year Bethany will serve more than 850 children, many of them exhibiting the physical and psychological scars characteristic of poverty and homelessness. The scars are too many and too deep for a single homeless shelter alone to heal. But through our collaborations with health care providers, educators, psychologists, talented community volunteers from all walks of life – and with your continued support – together we can provide Brighter Futures for our kids.

Grants Target Needs of Families

How important is private foundation funding? “It is critical” explains Susan Schiller, Executive Director at Bethany House. “It helps to bridge the gap between the costs of our services and the income received from the government. In fact, this support is more important than ever since we are serving more families than ever before.”

Where does the money go? Some grants fund our children’s programming; others provide funding for our Life Skills classes for parents. Some foundations have very generously supported our expansion of services to homeless families. Then there are those additional costs for the basics when transitioning families from shelter to their new homes because federal dollars often cannot be used to support many of these expenses.

Bethany House is very grateful to the following foundations for supporting our programs in 2016:

- Thomas R. and Marion F. Blohm Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Stella M. Buerger Charitable Trust
- Chemed Foundation
- Charles H. Dater Foundation
- Cotswold Foundation
- Sr. Elise Grant Fund of the SC Ministry Foundation
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation
- Thomas and Helene Hartzell Fund of the Troy Foundation
- Robert A. and Marian K. Kennedy Charitable Trust
- Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust
- PNC Foundation
- August A. Rendigs, Jr. and Helen J. Rendigs Foundation
- San Disk Corporation Fund
- Marge and Charles J. Schott Foundation
- Scripps Howard Foundation
- Spaulding Foundation
- Sutphin Family Foundation
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- Anonymous

P.S. While foundation funding is critical, 99% of the time it is restricted to specific purposes. That is why unrestricted support from individuals is vital to the work of Bethany House—it not only helps to close the gap, it can be used where needed to care for our families.



Summertime Fun at Bethany House



Mardi Gras Sponsors and Supporters Feed Homeless Children

Shelter is critical but so is food! For 25 years the annual Mardi Gras fundraiser has helped to cover the cost of food for Bethany's homeless families. Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters, volunteers and auction donors who feed our kids every day! Also to the Marge and Charles J. Schott Foundation for their \$10,000 sponsorship split among the three agencies.

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Rebecca Brown and Dan Jones

Evergreen Advisors, Inc.

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

Total Quality Logistics

UNISTRUT

P.S. Mark your calendars for Mardi Gras 2017 – we are celebrating early—THURSDAY, February 23— no, that's not a typo—our Mardi Gras Extravaganza is on Thursday in 2017!

New Strategic Plan Builds Foundation for Success

When Bethany House's previous Strategic Plan was written, BHS served 1 out of 10 homeless families in our community; today we serve 5 out of 10. In addition, our new plan needed to be in alignment with the goals of the community-wide plan, *Solutions for Family Homelessness*, released in the fall of 2015. To learn more about where Bethany's board, committees and staff plan to invest their time, talent and resources, please see the details of its 2016-2018 Strategic Plan on our new website www.bethanyhouseservices.org.



▲ Nicole and Ben Seinen are teaching their children Ava and Drew about giving. The Seinen's adopted a family in our shelter with two kids similar in age to Ava and Drew and then involved the kids in planning, shopping and delivering the gifts to Bethany House.

When the Kroger Pharmacy staff called asking to help, we suggested donating 11 microwaves for our apartments in Westwood. Ashley Leuzinger and her fellow Pharmacy employees accepted the challenge. Employees paid to wear jeans and bought recipe books Ashley created and raised \$885 to buy the microwaves. Special thanks to the Pharmacy team, Chris Cook with FedEx for helping with the amazing cookbooks, the Cincinnati KMA DGM team for donating a \$200 gift card, the Oakley Marketplace for all the microwaves and Greg Janowiecki and Alex Storm for delivering the microwaves.



Bethany House Becomes a United Way Funded Agency

Bethany House has become a United Way of Greater Cincinnati Agency Partner and joins the other 138 agencies in our community that are collectively making an impact to achieve the community's *Bold Goals for our Region*. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community United Way is investing in the families Bethany House serves every day. Two BHS programs received funding—*Preventing Family Homelessness through Diversion* received \$35,000 and *Sheltering More Homeless Families* received \$55,000. Working together we are changing lives!



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.

Memorials and Tributes received November 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

IN HONOR OF:

Pat Altenau
 Mario and Mary Roberto
Bethany House Mothers
 Montgomery Presbyterian Church
Bethany House Staff
 Susan Eberle
Walter and Jackie Carroll
 Todd and Margarita Gibson
 David and Marilyn Wempe
Debbie Chapman
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Craig and Valerie Johnson
 Genevieve Smith
Pinky Kokoshis
 Gail Wick
Jennifer Leugers
 William Leugers
Kelly Malone
 Susan Osborn and Marianne Punttenney
Mike and Megan McCuen
 Brian and Beth Kasson

Ellen H. Paulsen
 Ann Paulsen
Trisha Roddy
 Susan Wyder
Peggy Sandman
 Kathryn and Greg Ossege
Erin Schultz
 Gregory and Sherry Schultz
Denise Schumacher
 Joni and Ed Schroeder
James E. Smith Family
 Robert and Kathy Tardiff
Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM
 Johanne Armstrong
 Timothy and Sherri Jablon
 William Joyce
 Sr. Marie Moore, RSM
 Jerry and Cheryl Wilkerson
Ben and Alexis Suer
 Rosalie Bonacci-Roberts
Bruce Taylor
 Bill and Diane Davis
Thomas and JoAnn Teague
 Jeremy and Laura Borsky
Barbara Tuchfarber
 Anonymus
UpSpring
 Mike Moroski
Cleota Wilbekin
 National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses, Inc.

IN MEMORY OF:

Patrick Birrer
 Richard and Diane Park
Claire Boyd
 Susan Eberle
Jill Brown
 Eileen and Russell Brown
Robert "Dizzy" Brown
 Susan and Mike Schiller
Edna Brinkman
 Thomas Brinkman
Rob Burfield
 Jimmy and Gayle Christopher
Brother Robert Cardosi
 John and Joan Cardosi
Lucille Carey
 George and Shirley Dixon
Cecilia Cerroni

James Cerroni
Margaret Cerroni
 Thomas and Regina Mayerchak
Anne Collins-Kerry
 Jeffrey and Sharon Wadelin
Ed Dansereau
 Steve and Nora Fink
R. Lou Dixon
 George and Shirley Dixon
James Eure
 Jimmy and Gayle Christopher
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 Marianne Smith
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 Janet and John Geiger
 James and Jeanne Harjo
 Lawrence and Susan Hess
 Virginia Kemme
 Dennis Koenig and Jane Babbitt

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 Richard and Nancy Morris
 Susan and Mike Schiller
 Denise Schumacher and Dana Davis
 Bernard and Kathleen Suer
 Barbara Tuchfarber
 Bernard and Karen Wilger
 Michael Wilger
 Julie Wilke
Anthony Kasak
 Audrey Kasak
Edward Knoll
 Edwin and Patricia White
Ted Kohls
 Earl and Eileen Kisker
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George Vennemeyer
 William and Margo Wachs
Ella Ward
 George and Shirley Dixon
Elanor Weiser
 Jimmy and Gayle Christopher
Wetenkamp Family - Mom, Dad & Don
 Sally Wetenkamp



◀ THANKS TO....

Thomas Mahoney and Integrity Green Landscaping for raking leaves last fall and mulching in the spring

Ben Suer and TruGreen for treating our Fairmount campus yards for weeds

Crossroads Church for coming back year after year on "Go Cincinnati" day to plant beautiful flowers

As you can see, it takes a village!

THANK YOU Bethany Supporters!

In the words of volunteer Scott Carroll when asked about his volunteer experience at Bethany House: "It was great. The staff are very friendly and clearly care about what they are doing."



▲ Members of the Wesley Smith Lodge #107 did some extremely "heavy lifting" when they moved furniture and appliances down three flights of stairs at our Main Street shelter.



▲ Chuck Bracken, wife Kathleen and son Sam brought two SUVs full of supplies for our families in boxes labeled "Bracken gives Back." For the last 9 months, Chuck searched for deals and sales and purchased items such as shampoo, toilet paper, bug spray, toothpaste, pasta and Ragu spaghetti sauce.



▲ For more years than we can count, Fred and Aggie Brackman and fellow musicians volunteer their time, treasure and the musical talents of their folksy group, The Clovertones. Each year they plan a concert and entertain with great songs, an auction and split the pot with proceeds from the evening going to BHS.



▲ CHAN, LLC employees leave their offices and volunteer to help with the big jobs at BHS. Thanks to (l. to r.) Phil Perry, Chris Wusik, Jeff Ladenburger and Chris Poteuski and Priya Sharp (not pictured).



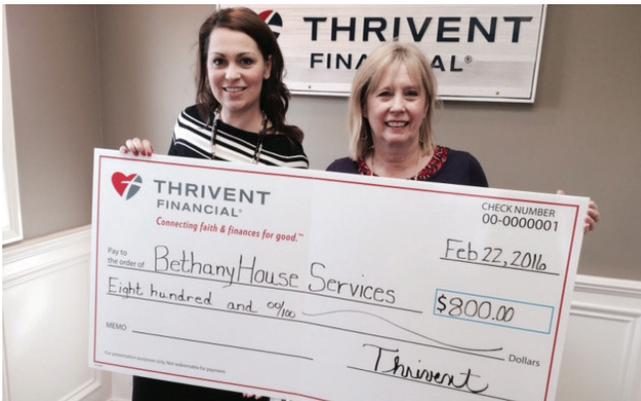
▲ Great friends working cooperatively provide Brunch at the Fairmount Shelter on a Saturday.



▲ Mother of Mercy High School students spent two days this summer organizing donations, providing TWO dinners, child care in the evening, and assisting with office work and yard work. Special thanks to Mercy teacher Bob Bonnici for coordinating and the students for all of their work and their donation of \$500.00!



▲ In 2011 Erica Holloman died of Triple Negative Breast Cancer. Her parents established a foundation in her honor and each year they collect new bras to donate to women striving to get back to work and lead independent lives. Bethany House moms were thankful for their generous donations.



▲ Libby Greive of Thrivent Financial matched a donation of Thrivent clients and presents a check for \$800 to Executive Director Susan Schiller. Thrivent clients also collected personal care items for Bethany House families.



▲ Children enjoy at Safety Fair at Sawyer Point



▲ Katie Coughlin (left) from the Hyde Park office of Coldwell Banker West Shell presented Susan Schiller of BHS with a \$4,000 check to support homeless families at Bethany House.



NUMBERS *continued.*

To that end and in an effort to prepare our families for independence and self-sufficiency, Bethany House is developing new partnerships to enhance services to the neediest children in our community—those without a home of their own:

- Healthy Moms and Babes mobile unit now visits BHS to provide medical services.
- Top educational professionals in the city are helping to address the educational needs of the children.
- Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center is connecting BHS with providers to meet the physical and mental health needs of our children.

- A mentoring program will expand the support systems for our single moms and leverage community resources.
- 4C is identifying daycare for our children so moms can work or look for work.
- The Health Department’s School-Based Health Center is providing dental care for our children.
- The Life Learning Center in Covington is helping connect our parents to education, support and jobs.
- Turner Construction is developing an internship pilot where our parents would receive training through a partnership with local construction unions.

BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

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www.bethanyhouseservices.org



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BETHANY
house services

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SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday,
November 12th**

Bethany House Services invites you to the Mercy Health **ALES TO ZINFANDELS** on Saturday, November 12, 2016. Please join Honorary Chair John Starcher, Mercy Health President & CEO at the 13th Annual wine & beer tasting hosted at The Atrium at Mercy Health Home Office. Enjoy an evening of fine wines and craft beers, food pairings and desserts, auctions and live music by "All That!"

For information, sponsorship opportunities, tickets, or to donate auction items, please call

Jeri Tolliver at 513-557-2402 or email jtolliver@bhsinc.org



▲ Longtime Bethany friends and supporters (l. to r.) Bernie Suer, Diane and Tom Leugers.

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 apartments painted, 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, or household cleaning supplies, or donate gift cards or bus passes.

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

VOLUNTEER FOR CHILD CARE in the evening while parents attend classes. Monday-Thursday evenings 6:30-8:30pm.

RAKE LEAVES OR PLANT FLOWERS.

JOIN THE SPEAKER'S BUREAU.