



FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Fall 2017

Bethany Client Featured in United Way Campaign

Former Bethany House shelter client Monique Gilliam was featured in this year's United Way Campaign video and brochures and spoke to over 600 people at the United Way Kickoff in August. Monique shared her story of homelessness and how Bethany House supported her during her journey to independence and self-sufficiency.

Congratulations to Monique on her success and a special thanks to her for giving back. You can see Monique's video on Bethany's website at www.bethanyhouseservices.org. You can also view our video, The Faces of Homelessness, on the same page. Thank you to all those who supported United Way during their workplace campaign. **By supporting United Way, you have supported Bethany House!**



#GIVING TUESDAY

Join us on
**November 28 for
#GivingTuesday!**

#GivingTuesday is an exciting day of charitable giving that has raised millions of dollars and volunteer hours for nonprofits around the world. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday officially kicks off the season of year-end giving. As we all count our blessings during this season of Thanksgiving, let us remember the many needs of homeless families in Cincinnati. We hope you will select Bethany House as your charity of choice on #GivingTuesday.

Visit us on the web at www.bethanyhouseservices.org to make a difference this holiday season. Check out our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages to see how the campaign is performing throughout the day!

Want to contribute but can't financially? Contact Lisa at 513.557.2403 or lsiegel@bhsinc.org for other suggestions on how you can help.

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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,



I am writing this letter one week after the Las Vegas shootings and several weeks after the devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. It is hard to comprehend the human suffering; it is harder still to understand how one person in Las Vegas could destroy so many lives and traumatize a city and a nation.

I found myself on overload – I couldn't watch, listen or read any more. I wanted to help all who were suffering, but there was so much devastation and so much pain. So I turned my attention to my little

corner of the world, where I knew I could make a difference. For those of you who want to make a difference, you can join with me at Bethany House. Our families need the help, and you can be that help.

At times like this, when we want to make a difference somewhere, somehow – consider the homeless children and their parents at Bethany House. Check out how you can help at www.bethanyhouseservices.org/donate.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan S. Schiller
Executive Director

The Impact of Collaboration with 4C for Children

Without access to child care, homeless families struggle to secure housing. Having safe and stable child care arrangements allows our homeless parents to look for and/or maintain work, and to participate in job training, education and other programs essential to resolving their homelessness.

Yet, homeless families face many barriers to accessing child care, and finding a child care provider who can accommodate our homeless families' often irregular, unpredictable and inflexible schedules has been challenging. Since Bethany House began partnering with 4C for Children in June of 2016, Resource Specialist Dan Scheiman has assisted hundreds of parents in locating quality child care. In addition to serving as their personal search engine, he has made himself easily accessible to our parents by phone, email and on-site visits at our Fairmount shelter. The impact of 4C's collaboration is immeasurable! Thank you, Dan!



PNC Charitable Trust Funds Emergency Shelter Services

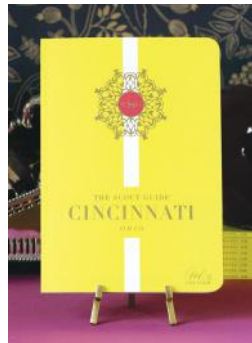
Thank you to The John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trust, PNC Bank, Trustee for awarding a \$30,000 grant to Bethany House. This funding will support the operation of our four emergency shelters for families experiencing homelessness and the services required to stabilize the families in housing. The grant also provides funding for the Shelter to Home program, which provides families with the furnishings and supplies for their new apartment and follow-up case management as needed.



▲ From left: PNC's Chris Moorman, Bethany's Kelly Freyler and Susan Schiller, and PNC's Brian Rigby.

How a Scout Found Bethany House!

Have you seen The Scout Guide? Thanks to Editor Lisa Hoberg, Bethany House is featured in this year's edition. "Every city guide has the opportunity to spotlight a nonprofit of the editor's choosing, and this year I'm so excited to help our community learn more about Bethany House Services. I was inspired by how they serve our community's women and children. As a mother to twin 5-year-old girls, I felt especially good showcasing a nonprofit that helps homeless and at-risk mothers and children find not only shelter, but also a place where they feel safe and have the opportunity to get back on their feet." Lisa added, "I'm looking forward to volunteering at BHS and seeing first-hand how they impact our community." Find The Scout Guide Cincinnati at <http://thescoutguide.com/cincinnati/> and on Facebook and Instagram.



Cooking Up a Future

When Bonita and her 10-year-old son arrived at Bethany House, neither was happy about being there. Bonita's son Elyjah was angry. He hated being in shelter, but his mom kept reminding him that this was a temporary stop on their way to something better.

But Bonita herself found the situation very stressful. She cried every day and fell into a deep depression. Her shelter case manager worked with her and connected her with the resources she needed to address her depression.

Bonita started a part-time job and found housing that she loved. Bonita and Elyjah moved into their apartment with assistance from a Bethany House Rapid Re-Housing program. The housing program provided her with graduated rental assistance, utility assistance, furniture and a case manager. She worked with her housing case manager on budgeting and increasing her income. She increased her hours and eventually moved to full time. And Bonita set goals — she began saving to buy a car. She graduated from the housing program more than a year ago, and she and Elyjah remain stably housed in the same apartment she likes so much.

When asked what happened at Bethany House that made the biggest difference in her life, Bonita replies, "The crew was nice and sweet. They made me a better person. And I learned how to save money — that has helped me since." Bonita attributes her success to staying focused on the future, on the life she wants for herself and her son.

Bonita is still working toward her goals. Not only has she started a new job with a higher salary, she is also a student at Cincinnati Cooks, a school for culinary arts provided by the Freestore Foodbank. Bonita's dream is to open her own restaurant.

And Elyjah is happy now. He is a seventh grader who loves school so much that he hates it when the weekends come. Like his mom, his eyes see a bright future.



Raising Awareness Is One Way to Help

There are SO many ways to help!

As the largest family homeless shelter in Cincinnati, we truly need all the support we can get. Bethany House is always in need of financial donations, volunteers and items such as diapers, bath towels, pillows, and canned goods – you get the picture – everything we use in our own homes every day. But equally important is raising awareness about the homeless crisis that is affecting Cincinnati families.

This is why we ask you to tell a friend, neighbor or co-worker that family homelessness impacts thousands in our city every year. Let's all do our part to end homelessness by doing just one thing right now to make an impact:

- Visit our website at www.bethanyhouseservices.org to learn more about family homelessness.
- Commit to talking to one person a day about family homelessness in Cincinnati.
- Like our Facebook page; share our posts; follow us on Twitter and Instagram.
- Volunteer with your children, family, friends, church group, corporate group, etc.
- Support our special events by attending or joining a committee to help plan the event.
- Contribute financially.
- Invite Bethany House to speak at your church, place of employment or social group.
- Host a third-party fundraiser or supply drive to benefit our families.
- Contact Lisa at 513.557.2403 or lsiegel@bhsinc.org to discuss other ideas.

Garden to Table

What do you get when you combine gardeners, foodies and an Eagle Scout?

A gourmet dinner at the Fairmount shelter and a lesson in “garden to table”!

Months of preparation, dedication and hard work culminated with dinner on September 28. The

Western Hills Garden Club (WHGC) – the gardeners – began supporting Bethany House years ago when they built a garden one spring. Each year they came back to plant vegetables, water, weed, harvest and then begin everything again the next year. For all of those summers, each month the garden club would make a dish or two to supplement the evening meal at the shelter.

Early in 2017, a motivated Eagle Scout had a vision, drew up plans and then began construction, more than tripling the size of the garden. The WHGC ladies were thrilled with the expanded space to add more variety to their garden and also with the opportunity to teach the shelter families, especially the children, about the benefits of gardening. The kids began caring for the garden, taking pride in watering and watching everything grow, with our faithful garden club members stopping by regularly to oversee and monitor progress.

Finally, our gardeners, now foodies, harvested the fruits and vegetables and created a fresh meal with produce plucked from the garden. Our backyard crops yielded Caprese salad, cucumbers with sour cream, spaghetti squash with meatballs, stuffed green pepper casserole, ranch potato casserole, chocolate chip zucchini bread and pumpkin zucchini bread!

Both parents and children learned that the “garden to table” fruits and vegetables were more nutritious and had better flavor, which meant more delicious dishes, not to mention the savings associated with gardening.

Our sincere thanks to the dedicated members of the Western Hills Garden Club and the energy and enthusiasm of Eagle Scout, Matthew Schmitt, his family and friends.



▲ Western Hills Garden Club members; from left: Peggy Wall, Sarita Naegel, Jan Breen, Carole Jones, Patsy Trout, Karen Striet, Doug Schmitt (Matt's dad) and Matt Schmitt. (Not pictured: Kay Ruberg, Sandy Brooke, Mary Jo Brady.)

Plante Moran Cares

Each year, the Cincinnati branch of Plante Moran chooses a charity to support, and this year, thanks to Mark Jackson, now retired from Plante Moran and a member of Bethany House's Speaker's Bureau, the employees voted to support our shelter. Hunter Cregger helps coordinate the fundraising initiative.



▲ Thanks to Plante Moran for an incredible dinner! From left: Michael Kulifay, Katelyn Graves, Nathan Cutler (facing towards the stove), and Jonathan Winterkorn with two shelter guests.

BHS: Hunter, thanks to you and Plante Moran for your support. Why is this important to you?

HC: I volunteered to lead the fundraising initiative in our office called PM Cares. I was involved with volunteer initiatives in college, which showed me what a large difference in the community a small group of people can make. By joining PM Cares, my hope was to bring some fresh ideas to get people involved not just financially, but also physically. My co-leader and I are encouraging the office to serve dinner at the shelter. We felt that seeing the faces and interacting with the families would eliminate the anonymity behind writing a check to a faceless organization. So far, of our seven partner teams at the office, two have visited, and three are actively planning their visits.

BHS: How did it go serving dinner at the shelter?

HC: It was a great experience! The families and staff were all very kind and grateful for our service, which made donating our time that much more rewarding and humbling. We gained an idea of what

a shelter looks like and who homelessness affects, but BHS really brought some light to the reality of the issue. Having a much better idea of the impact of homelessness really makes me work harder for PM Cares to do our part to solve it.

BHS: Were you previously aware of Cincinnati's family homelessness problem?

HC: Not at all. Once we had voted for BHS, we invited Susan Schiller and Mark Jackson to the office to speak about BHS and homelessness in greater detail, and Susan gave us a lot of information that was new to us. She made the excellent point about how family homelessness is an "invisible" problem in our city. We were all stunned just how prevalent homelessness is in Cincinnati, and we are looking forward to making a difference at Bethany House.

If you would like more information on how to involve your group or company in supporting homeless families, please contact Lisa at 513.557.2403 or lsiegel@bhsinc.org.

Bring New Life to Your Furniture

Downsizing or remodeling and have furniture to donate? Due to lack of storage space at Bethany House, we are unable to take furniture donations, but one of our partnering agencies, New Life Furniture Bank, can pick up your furniture, and our shelter families can benefit!

New Life Furniture Bank is a faith-based nonprofit that collects gently used furniture from people who

have extra, inspects and cleans it, and delivers the items directly to our families' new apartments.

Contact New Life Furniture Bank for a pickup at 513.313.0530 or info@nlfurniture.org.



Summer in the Shelter

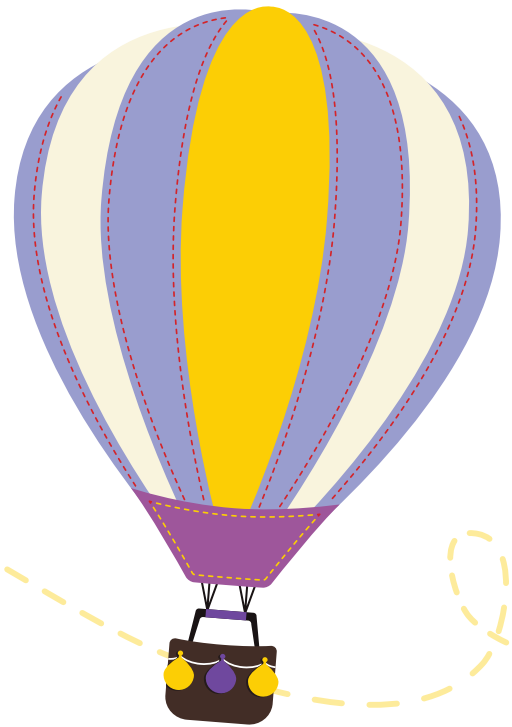
Children experiencing homelessness often lose their last safe haven when schools close for the summer. Gone are their daily routines, their meals, their friends and the only structure in their lives. For the almost 300 children spending the summer at Bethany House, school closings brought camps, outings, cookouts and family fun – experiences to share with friends when school doors opened in the fall.

With grant funding from the Andrew Jergens Foundation, Chemed Foundation, the SandAngel Foundation and The Greater Cincinnati Foundation’s Summertime Kids, Child-Parent Coordinator Denise Hill kept the kids busy from the June 17 Summer Kickoff Jam, an all-day festival event on the Fairmount campus, through the September 16 excursion to historic Conner Prairie in Fishers, Indiana.

Our children also visited King’s Island, the Cincinnati Zoo, Coney Island, COSI, and Parky’s Farm at Winton Woods – enjoying some of the same fun and enriching activities as their classmates.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE SUMMER: Parents and children agree – going up in a hot air balloon at Conner Prairie!

For children experiencing homelessness, opportunities like these are more than simply a time to have fun. Field trips not only expose the kids to new ideas and concepts but also provide teaching opportunities. Excursions provide exposure to socially acceptable behavior where the children – and their parents – learn some of the “rules of society.” Many of the children we serve do not comprehend standing in line, taking turns or respecting the rights of others. Table manners are modeled and taught in shelter and in restaurants, where the behavior of others can be observed. Homeless children are often the victims of school bullies because they are “different”; development of social skills (and appropriate clothing) tend to make them less of a target and enable them to be part of the social milieu at school.



Thank You to Our Volunteers!



▲ Big thanks to Deloitte Cincinnati for cooking up a few meals for the weekend for our families! Pictured: Sam Hicks, Dan Huntley, Emily Sylvester, Harry Fox, Connor McDermott, Nick Tedesco, Tanner Garber, Emily York.

Two years ago, Bethany House was blessed to begin receiving the ongoing support of **Marathon Petroleum** employees. Not only has Marathon contributed financially and donated much-needed items for our families, but also teams at Marathon have provided dinners for our families on a regular basis. Last week they added providing physical labor to their list of ways they support BHS. A hard-working group of 13 Marathon employees tackled some serious projects that made a really big difference. Thanks to this amazing group!



▲ Sitting (L-R): Shelly Adam, Kristi Wegener, Nick Evans, Doug Wolterman. Standing (L-R): Rogelio Barrera, Tabitha Longbottom, Randy Longbottom, Steve Achenbach, Wendal Vincent, Jon Herlevich, Mark Russell, Lloyd Hudson, Bill Hardin.



▲ Back again this year is the very hard-working group from **SmartIT** that tackled not one, not two, but **FOUR** projects on our volunteer to-do list! We are always grateful for volunteer groups who choose to support Bethany House year after year! Pictured: Bill Ryle, Ben Casteel, Jennifer Miner, Colleen McGrady, Kymberli Findley, Aubra Apiccionelo and Quint Powell.



◀ **Loveland High School** students chose Bethany House for their "Senior Day of Service" and knocked out several huge projects including yardwork, cleaning and filing. Thanks to all these amazing seniors!

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 August 1, 2017, through September 30, 2017

IN MEMORY OF

Vincent Buquicchio
Jana Lee
John D. Chilcoat
Mary Lou and Tim Kern
Sr. Kathy Green, RSM
Joanne and Paul Cecchini
Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM
Michelle Haas
Jane and Thomas Schaefer

Jerry Massa
Thomas Brinkman
Elizabeth Mathews
Society of the Transfiguration
Dale Pellegrino
Bob Pellegrino
Jule and Jim Stanton
Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM

IN HONOR OF

Kim Baird
Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM
Karen and Jim Brumbaugh
Claire and Butch Rowekamp
God
Sukhbir and Sukhchain Gill
Marie Hummel
Peggy and Kevin Reif
Bob Inkrot
Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM

Sisters of Charity Celebrating
Their Jubilee in 2017
Sisters of Charity

Alana Snyder
Kate, Memrie, Claire, Faye,
Sophie, Mia, Mady, Stella,
Anna and Ryan
Tonyae
Cori Wolff

BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

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PARTY WITH A PURPOSE FOR BETHANY!



You're invited to
"PARTY WITH A PURPOSE"
at the 3rd Annual
Holiday Charity Bash

benefiting the families at
Bethany House on
Friday December 15
from 7-11:30 p.m.

Hosted by Will Sprankles & friends with
special thanks to Nidhi Bambino Bedi and
Jay Bedi for once again generously providing
space at the beautiful Ramada Plaza Cincinnati
at 11320 Chester Road, Cincinnati OH 45246.

For more information contact Lisa at 513.557.2403
or lsiegel@bhsinc.org.

SAVE THE DATE



Mardi Gras

**Mardi Gras For
Homeless Children**

**27th Annual
Culinary Celebration
Fat Tuesday**

**February 13, 2018
6:30 to 10:00 pm**

Northern Kentucky Convention Center

For information, sponsorship opportunities, tickets
or to donate auction items, please
contact Laura at 513.557.2214 or
ljohnson@bhsinc.org.