

# FRONT PORCH

## NEWS | Winter 2018

### The Power of ONE

Can one person make a difference?

Bethany House firmly believes that one person can make a difference....because we see it everyday.....and we see how that one person inspires others and together they create a ripple effect.

We see this when staff welcomes a new family at the door and when case managers work one-on-one with a young, frightened mom or a disgruntled teen. We see this when board and committee members share their expertise and provide the leadership for the agency. We see this with the hundreds of volunteers and donors who support us in so many ways.

It is hard work lifting yourself out of poverty and homelessness. All of you inspire and motivate our parents. To all of you we say thank you and we celebrate how a few thoughtful and hardworking people made a difference at Bethany House this past holiday season.

The following four people demonstrate the difference one person can make.

- ▶ **DAVE LODDER** with family out of town, wanted to help others
- ▶ **WILL SPRANKLES** saw the effects of homelessness on children
- ▶ **MCKENZIE GAMPFER** decided to brighten a child's Christmas
- ▶ **MELINDA TUGGLE** had experienced homelessness herself

#### DAVE LODDER Secret Santa

It was Christmas nine years ago when Dave Lodder, with no family in Cincinnati, decided to deliver food and clothes to the homeless. Dave tells the story how he met a family with two little girls. "I had cookies, candy and a couple toys by chance and the kids went crazy over

nothing. That is when I knew I needed things for kids and this has been my Christmas ever since." So one Christmas morning's delivery has grown to five truckloads and three days of delivering gifts to shelters like Bethany and families living in motels. People heard about Dave's work and started donating. This year Dave added a fundraiser to help buy toys and said "a drop box has gone over more than I could have ever expected."

*Continued on page 3. See Power of One*



Dave Lodder delivers toys to Bethany House.

**"... one person can be a change catalyst, a 'transformer' in any situation, any organization. Such an individual is the yeast that can leaven an entire loaf." -Stephen Covey**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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,



First, my sincere thanks to each one of you who donated this past Christmas season. The mail carrier arrived daily with a stack of envelopes containing financial gifts and generous donors appeared non-stop for several weeks bearing gifts of toys, bedding, household supplies, coats, hats and gloves of all sizes. Your generosity was overwhelming; your belief in our mission continues to inspire us.

Poverty, if you have never lived it, is hard to understand. Generational poverty is even harder. What is not hard to understand, because we see it every day, is the effects of poverty and homelessness on both our children and their parents. The trauma of homelessness is inescapable and can last a lifetime. That is why our work together is so critical. Together we have the ability to intervene and to turn the tide.

A child without a home has a slim chance of completing high school. A child with a home can get to college. It all starts with the stability of a home. That is what Bethany House does every day – helps each child, each parent **get one step closer to home.**

Thank you for caring and sharing yourselves with our families!

*Susan*

Susan S. Schiller  
Executive Director

## The Bare Necessities

Most women do not think of a bra as a “luxury” item but rather as a necessity. Women experiencing homelessness have very limited income and like most moms, the kids come first. Bras and many other necessities tend to fall to the bottom of the priority list.

Thanks to The Erica J. Holloman Foundation, Bethany House mothers have received hundreds of brand new bras over the last several years. Every summer the foundation collects brand new bras, which are then donated to battered women, homeless shelters and back-to-work programs. The goal is to help women feel better about themselves and to instill a sense of support and confidence.

Erica J. Holloman was a confident and very accomplished young woman with two bachelor’s degrees, two master’s degrees and was working on her Ph.D. when she contracted Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) at the age of 31. She lost her battle with cancer in 2011 but her parents, Josie Holloman-Adams and Bobby Adams, knew Erica’s legacy of hard work, determination, and compassion for others would continue. They founded **The Erica J. Holloman Foundation, Inc.** to raise awareness and fund research for breast cancer.



▲ L. to R. Josie Holloman-Adams and Bobby Adams deliver bras to Susan Schiller for Bethany House moms.

*Power of One continued.*

## **WILL SPRANKLES** **A Party with a Purpose**

Will Sprankles, a former high school principal, had a deep understanding of how homelessness affects a child. Three years ago, he decided to make a difference at Christmas time and started an Annual Holiday Bash benefitting the families of Bethany House with the express purpose of making their Christmas morning special.

Held at the Ramada Plaza Cincinnati in Sharonville, an official sponsor of the event, the price of admission to

A Party with a Purpose is a gift for one of the children or moms living in the shelter. This year hundreds of people from Cincinnati supported the event and shared food, cocktails, great music and a ton of laughs while impacting the lives of homeless children. Will said "we've already got the 4th annual party nailed down for December 8th of 2018."



▲ Will Sprankles at the 3rd Annual Holiday Bash.

## **MCKENZIE GAMPFER** **A Teen's Christmas is for Others**

When McKenzie Gampfer's mom asked her what she wanted for Christmas, she said she wanted to help the homeless. McKenzie, a 17-year-old Mariemont High School junior, decided to make sure the children of Bethany House would receive Christmas presents.

"I was talking with my parents and we made a GoFundme page," she said. "Then I would have money to help me buy gifts for the children." McKenzie was even interviewed by the media which brought more attention to her holiday mission. Friends and family pitched in and she was thrilled when she received toy donations from strangers. After shopping for toys, she delivered them to Bethany House in time for the moms to select gifts they knew their children would like.



▲ McKenzie Gampfer is a junior at Mariemont High School.



## **MELINDA TUGGLE** **On a Mission**

Melinda Tuggle was homeless once so she understands. Through hard work and determination, today Melinda is a concierge at a luxury apartment building downtown, owns her own cleaning company and is a realtor.

With her success came the desire to give back and Melinda began a mission to help others. So this Christmas she reached out to Bethany House with a plan to engage the tenants in her building.

▲ Melinda Tuggle pays it forward!

Melinda said she was so pleased with the response and happily gathered Christmas gifts for our families including several very generous checks. She collected so much that we had to make several trips!

## **A Rainbow in Someone's Cloud**

Maya Angelou once said, "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." These words epitomize Bethany donor Delores "Dee" Thomas.

Dee heard about Bethany House several years ago on the news when we made a plea for sheets and comforters. A few days later, she appeared at our door with her little red car packed to the brim with brand new sheets and comforters. A smart and savvy shopper, Dee finds sales to fill a need for one of the many charities she supports. Dee has also recruited her church, Second Baptist Church in West College Hill, to provide hot chocolate and popcorn on holidays for each child in the shelter. She wants each child to feel special and loved.

Dee is a woman with a beautiful heart and an inner desire to make her little corner of the world a better place.



▲ Dee Thomas delivers bedding and Christmas treats for the children.



## Sacred Heart has Big Hearts

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Reading, Ohio is a long-time supporter of Bethany House. In 2017 alone, the parish donated thousands of dollars in sheets, pillows, towels, dishes and gift cards. Beth and Dave Lucas are Sacred Heart parishioners with a true calling to help others. While dropping off a donation in October, they asked if there was something “big” the parish could do to help for the holidays. Our Fairmount shelter houses 40-45 people and an additional 100 people live in 21 apartments in several apartment buildings off-site. We asked Beth and Dave if Sacred Heart would be willing to provide 21 Christmas dinners for our families in the apartments. Without hesitating, they said yes and delivered 21 wonderful meals right before Christmas. Our families were so grateful to have a fabulous dinner and said it helped ease the stress of being homeless during the holidays. Knowing someone cares makes all the difference!



▲ Many thanks to Beth and Dave Lucas, Chris and Sarah Tardio and Janet Edelmann for bringing the dinners and to all the Sacred Heart parishioners for their generosity!

## Thanks to All!

Music by The Mistics, fine wines, craft beers and dinner by the bite made the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual “Ales to Zinfandels” Bethany’s most successful event ever. Former Bethany House client Monique Gilliam inspired our guests with her determination as she shared her life story and described the importance of Bethany House in her journey to independence and self-sufficiency.

Many thanks to “Ales to Zinfandels” Chair Karen McHale, the entire committee and to all of our sponsors and guests.



**ALES TO  
ZINFANDELS**



► L. to R.: Guest Dawn Grady, former client Monique Gilliam, and Master of Ceremonies Mike Brown.



▲ L.to R.: Susan Schiller, Executive Director, with the Suer family, longtime Bethany supporters, Jon Murphy, Katie Suer, Kathy Suer, Bernie Suer, Jake Suer, Elise Suer, Amy Suer, Alexis Suer and Ben Suer.



▲ L. to R.: Committee members Katie Coughlin, Julie Ross, Lynne Whang, Beth Kasson, Kelley Carrier, Karen McHale (Committee Chair), Susan Schiller (BHS Executive Director), Alyson Poling, Megan McCuen and Gail Myers.

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## A Perfect Partnership!

For 10 years, the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative's Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates (JCG) has raised funds to purchase gifts for children spending the holidays in Bethany's shelter. Judith Moore Tucker, Program Manager, said "It is an annual commitment that the students cherish. It also promotes the opportunity for them to practice many of the competencies and skills developed in the JCG classrooms – Verbal Presentation, Time Management, Following Direction, Practicing Effective Human Relations, etc."

Each year the students from Aiken New Tech, North College Hill, Oyler, R.A. Taft, Shroder Paideia, Western Hills University, Winton Woods, Withrow University and Woodward Career Technical High School, come up with creative ways to raise money in their schools and then the Citywide Officers Leadership Team presents the check to Bethany House.

We are thrilled to have the support of these motivated and compassionate students year after year!



▲ Front Row: Vicky Perkins, Riah Smith, Jada Carter, BHS Executive Director Susan Schiller, Elijah McNeal, Joanna Wills, Alicia Porter, Judith Moore Tucker. Back Row: Stephanie Weaver, Phillip Gilbert, BHS Shelter Director Gwen Green.

## 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 October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

### IN MEMORY OF

**Patricia Molony Babb**  
Kate Babb Shone  
**Judd Cagney**  
Susan and Michael Schiller  
**Anne Collins-Kerry**  
Sharon Wadelin  
**Khari Amir Davis**  
Susan and Michael Schiller  
**Ray Garfinkel**  
Pam Senefeld  
**Charles, Anna and James Gettelfinger**  
Cathi and Earl Gettelfinger  
**Sr. Kathy Green, RSM**  
John Cardosi  
**Christine Gruber**  
Ann Howard  
**Ed Hubert**  
Susan and Michael Schiller  
**W.O. and Florence Hughes**  
Patricia and Richard Loutzenhiser  
**Patrick Kingston**  
George Kingston  
**Lawrence Ludwig**  
Jack and Lisa Phipps

**Erin R. Marshall**  
The Girls of St. Al's Class of 2000  
**Ken Martin**  
Lisa Taylor  
**Elizabeth Matthews**  
The Society of the Transfiguration  
**Chris Mayer**  
Donna and Robert Mayer  
**Tony McCants**  
Barb Tuchfarber  
**Carol Ruehlmann-Peter**  
Kathryn and Joseph Langley  
**Linda Stephenson**  
Melissa Thompson  
**Barbara Thacker**  
J.W. and E.L. Stock Insurance Agency  
**George and Rita Watkins**  
Gina and Christopher Watkins  
**Joseph Winter**  
Carol and Steven Santen  
**Roger and Patricia Winterman**  
Sally Wetenkamp

### IN HONOR OF

**Bethany House Services Staff**  
Kelly Malone and Kari Ann Kitchen  
**Mr. and Mrs. Perry Boyd**  
Hadiya Harrigan  
**Rev. Michael Brewer**  
Kathleen Weimann  
**Bill Clippard and Bob Clippard**  
Clippard Hourly Employees  
**Sr. Virginia Froehle, RSM**  
Mary Beth and Kenneth Ganote  
**Teddy Fronczek (born to Pastor and Mrs. Adam Fronczek)**  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
**Dale Harrigan**  
Hadiya Harrigan  
**Robert S. Heidt, Jr.**  
Delle and Edmund Jones  
**Robert Inkrot**  
The Michael Ibold Wilger Foundation  
**Valerie and Craig Johnson**  
Genevieve Smith  
**Eliot Meniffee**  
Ingrid Smith

**Adah Mosher**  
Eileen Mosher and Brent Vimtrup  
**Sarah Perry**  
Hadiya Harrigan  
**Erin Schultz**  
Sherry and Gregory Schultz  
**Alana Snyder's Bat Mitzvah**  
Carolyn and Adam Kaufman  
Deborah and Michael Snyder  
**Sr. Mary Stanton**  
Sylvia and Stanley Baiman  
Karen Litkovitz and Matthew Brownfield  
**Charles and Joanne Thiemann**  
Carol and Charles Thiemann  
**Barbara Tuchfarber**  
Ann DeGroot  
**Ben Wiman's LaSalle High School Teachers**  
Lisa Claypool, Chris Dooros, Jonathan Pyrak, Joe Muenchen, Kevin Ryan, Angela Sylvester, Susan Geoppinger, Julie Turner, Jake Pucci  
Carolyn McCabe and Joe Wiman  
**Mackenzie Yauch**  
Janette Yauch



## The wheels on the van go round and round....

Transportation is a challenge for homeless families and that challenge continues when families arrive at Bethany House's emergency shelter. Bethany House needs a new van to transport families....



*To obtain needed information, i.e. birth certificates, driver's licenses, court documents*

*To and from the Board of Education for school enrollment*

*To childcare centers to enroll in daycare*

*To area health centers and/or hospitals*

*To search for apartments*

*To St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, and the Freestore Foodbank*

*To the main Fairmount campus from off-site locations (apartments and hotels) for Life Skills Classes, to meet with a Case Manager and Mental Health Clinician*

And this is the short list!

Our 2007 Ford E350 14-passenger van has 230,000 miles. With anywhere from 120 to 160 people in our four locations each day, you can understand why we need a new van (or two) to accomplish all of our daily trips.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church, longtime supporters of Bethany House, heard about the need for a van and launched Bethany House's new Transportation Fund with the donation of \$10,000. Our goal is to leverage this gift with other donations to get a new van and eventually a new truck. Speaking of trucks, our 1995 box truck was recently sent to the graveyard! We need a truck to pick up donations and more importantly, move families into their homes.



▲ Good Shepherd parishioner and Bethany House board member Mike Haverkamp presents a check for \$10,000 to BHS Shelter Director Gwen Green, left, and BHS Executive Director Susan Schiller, right, to help buy a van.

## Christmas at Bethany House



▲ Enjoying a Christmas dinner with family.

Working at Bethany House during the holidays triggers a wide array of thoughts and emotions. **First and foremost is knowing that given different circumstances, any one of us could be facing the fear and uncertainty of homelessness.** Seeing a young mom on her own coming into shelter with no family, no support and three kids can be overwhelmingly sad. But the Cincinnati community never fails to turn that sadness into joy. It's an amazing thing to witness the generosity and compassion of thousands of people wanting to help!

This year's Holiday party for our families was at Elder High School's beautiful Schaeper Center and everyone enjoyed a delicious, catered dinner courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. Rob Heidt, Jr. Christmas presents were donated by so many wonderful organizations, foundations and individuals - too many to name! Hardworking volunteers gathered gifts according to family's wish lists, set up tables, served dinner, provided activities for the kids and cleaned up after the party.

Special thanks to Elder's Business Manager Doug Guenther for giving up his Saturday and making 2017's Holiday party the best yet!

Larry H. Miller once said, **"Go out into the world and do good until there is too much good in the world."**

**On behalf of our staff and the families we serve, thank you to everyone who brought so much joy and happiness to Bethany House over the holidays!**

*Dear Bethany House,*

*Thank you for allowing us to be part of Christmas at Bethany House! I think it is really well done and we will be back next year! You and your staff/volunteers are angels for helping these people get back on their feet. I sent my boys to 'toy' shop for the kids as they are old enough to learn and give back on their own. It was wonderful to see them do something so good together - a great experience for our whole family! - Suzi Roth*

## Breakfast Champions

For over a year, four couples from Our Lady of Lourdes Church take turns heading to Panera in Western Hills after closing on Tuesday nights to pick up yummy pastries, delicious bagels and loaves of fresh bread for our families in shelter. Spearheaded by long-time BHS donor and volunteer, Joanie Owens, she recruited husband Mick and her friends, Tricia and Dave Roettker, Ruthie and Mike Brunsmann, and Ed and Gail Boesing to each take one week a month. Wednesday morning breakfast is always a wonderful treat for everyone at Bethany House!

On behalf of the families and staff, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Panera's store manager, Karla Morgan, and all of her staff for their generosity each week!



▲ Breakfast champion, Joanie Owens, left, with Panera Manager Karla Morgan and staff.

## Paycor Pays it Forward

Many thanks to Paycor employees for all of their incredible help as we cleaned out one of the apartment buildings we needed to vacate by the end of October. These six dedicated volunteers moved furniture, packed boxes, hauled out garbage, cleaned, vacuumed – you name it – they did it all! AND willingly with BIG smiles 😊 Thanks so much for all of your hard work!



▲ Paycor volunteers standing in a spotless apartment L. to R. Colin Niemczura, Taylor Ingram, Jerry Roth, Nathan Mendel, Anne Dwyer, Ken Nortmann.

## Dinner – A Time for Family

This winter our shelter is overflowing! Families come from living in their cars or on the streets and knock on our doors in the freezing cold with no place to go. Families are sleeping on sofas in our third floor lounge, on roll-a-ways in the basement and we have nine families living in hotel rooms.

Many of the women at Bethany House are raising their children alone. That is difficult enough but throw housing instability and financial insecurity into the mix and it can be downright scary for a young mother. When volunteers graciously reach out by providing a meal, that act of kindness truly makes a giant impact. Sometimes a touch of love and concern during dark times in someone's life is just what they need to get back on track.

Our Fairmount shelter regularly has 45+ moms and kids. You might imagine that dinnertime would be chaotic with so many people and even though space is tight - very tight - the atmosphere at the shelter is full of relief, gratitude and a sense of family. This is particularly evident during dinner and we have our volunteers to thank for that!



▲ Dinnertime at the shelter.

But we need more - we are in desperate need of volunteers to provide dinners Monday-Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.

If you would like to brighten the lives of the families at Bethany House, please consider providing dinner. Recruit your family, friends, church group or co-workers and we guarantee not only will your experience be rewarding and enjoyable, but you will be making a difference in the lives of people who need you. Contact Lisa at 513.557.2403 or [lsiegel@bhsinc.org](mailto:lsiegel@bhsinc.org).



## BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

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## “Book a Speaker, Be a Speaker”

### Announcing our Speakers Bureau

Cincinnati is in the top 10 for child poverty in the United States but with a little awareness Bethany House believes we can change that. Most people don't know that thousands of children in our city have no place to call home or that shelters don't have enough room for all the families who need us. But we've seen when Cincinnatians know there is a problem, they will respond to the call for help.

Book a speaker for your church or place of employment and be “the power of one” and help raise awareness about family homelessness in our city.

**WANT TO GO A STEP FURTHER?** Join our Speakers Bureau! Training is provided. Contact Lisa at [lsiegel@bhsinc.org](mailto:lsiegel@bhsinc.org) or 513.557.2403.



◀ Members of Bethany's new Speakers Bureau: L. R. Steve Brinker, Carole Cottrill, Mark Jackson

## Bethany House Welcomes New Board Member

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

**IAN A. VAN HANDEL**, Chief Operating Officer, Peter Kremer North America

## SAVE THE DATE



**June 11, 2018**

Don't miss the **25th Annual Bethany House Golf Classic** returning to Maketewah Country Club this summer. Join us for another wonderful day of golfing and Bethany camaraderie with others who are passionate about eradicating family homelessness. For more information about sponsorships, participating as a player or a volunteer, please contact Laura at [ljohnson@bhsinc.org](mailto:ljohnson@bhsinc.org) or 513.557.2214.

