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Bethany House Services receives Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help Solve Homelessness
\$1.25 million donation is largest ever for 36-year-old agency
Day 1 Families Fund grants \$98.5 million to 32 nonprofits assisting families experiencing homelessness

CINCINNATI – (Nov.21, 2019) - Bethany House Services, Greater Cincinnati's largest provider of emergency shelter and housing programs for families experiencing homelessness, today announced it has been selected to receive a \$1.25 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund.

"Bethany House is combining seven current facilities into one new, consolidated family shelter and comprehensive service center for families experiencing homelessness. This facility is our top priority and will enable us to improve services to parents and children and reach more families each year," said Susan Schiller, executive director of Bethany House. "Words can't express our gratitude for this incredible gift, which will be used toward the cost of the new facility."

Bethany House is currently in the early stages of a public-private fundraising effort to secure the funds for the consolidated facility. The new shelter and service center will be located in Bond Hill.

This one-time grant, awarded to organizations moving the needle on family homelessness, will allow Bethany House to better meet the needs of the families it serves. Explained Bob Inkrot, president of the Bethany House board of directors, "The new shelter and service center is crucial to helping Bethany House ensure more families reach a safe place to stay. Bethany House has continued to increase its response, but is hindered by the age, inefficiency and lack of space within its current shelters — which are in desperate need of upgrading."

Regional data show that 56% of families seeking emergency shelter in 2018 received no homelessness services. Agency-wide, Bethany House serves about 800 families each year and estimates it will reach an additional 100 families annually due to the increased efficiency and deeper on-site services in the new facility.

Bethany House Services is one of 32 nonprofits across the U.S. to receive the second annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, as part of a broad investment by the Day 1 Families Fund to help solve family homelessness. The Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$98.5 million in grants this year. The fund worked with an advisory board of homelessness advocates and experts who identified and invited

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organizations to submit grant proposals to support their efforts to address homelessness. This year, the grant recipients from around the country include: Bethany House Services, Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, Catholic Social Services Alaska, Coburn Place, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Covenant House, Family Gateway, FamilyAid Boston, ForKids, Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, HOPE Services Hawaii, HopeWorks, Interim Community Development Association, Lafayette Transitional Housing Center, Mary's Place Seattle, MIFA, Our Family Services, Pathways of Hope, St. Joseph Center, St. Joseph's Villa, St. Stephen's Human Services, St. Vincent de Paul, The Road Home, The Road Home Dane County, The Whole Child, UNITY Of Greater New Orleans, Upward Bound House, Welcome House of Northern Kentucky, West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, and YWCA Columbus.

Megan, a Bethany House client, explained it this way: "All I ever wanted was stability for my children, and a place we could call home. At Bethany House, the staff made me feel so comfortable. They were supportive and extremely helpful. When we got the keys to our apartment, it felt like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. My family finally had a place to call home. I pray that Bethany House will continue to be able to bless and help other families as much as they have blessed and helped mine."

The Bezos Day One Fund was launched in 2018 with a commitment of \$2 billion and a focus on two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help homeless families, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

About Bethany House Services

Bethany House Services is Cincinnati's largest provider of emergency shelter and housing programs for families experiencing homelessness. Founded in 1983, BHS supports families as they move from homelessness to housing, independence and self-sufficiency, ensuring each family has the necessary skills and supports so that they will not return to homelessness. Visit www.bethanyhouseservices.org to learn about donation and volunteer opportunities.

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