



FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Summer 2019

A Place to Call Home ...Megan's Journey

"Are we going on another adventure, Mommy?" My son would often ask me this as he saw me packing up our things. We moved nine times in a little over a year, and this was truly the hardest time for my family, especially being a single mom with two small children. I tried to make the best of it by telling my little boy we were going on another adventure. It was truly embarrassing asking for help. My heart was broken, and I felt like I was failing at being a mom.

All I ever wanted was stability for my children, and a place we could call home. Our temporary homes at the emergency shelter and on friends' couches were all that we had at the time. I was very grateful that we at least had a roof over our head and food to eat. I have no extended family to speak of, so I had no other option. My little family prayed every night, and we kept our faith. Then, we had an answer to our prayers...we were approved for the Bethany House housing program. We could see a light at the end of the tunnel!

At Bethany House, the staff made me feel so comfortable. They were supportive and extremely helpful. I wasn't being judged or looked down upon for the first time in the past year. When we got the keys to our apartment, it felt like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. I didn't care that we had nothing but an air mattress and a few bags of clothes...my family finally had a place to call home.

I knew that Bethany House was there to help! For the first time ever, I felt like my family had support that would be there for us without judgement. I truly don't know where we would be without Bethany House. I don't have to worry that we will become homeless again.

Words cannot begin to express my gratitude for this wonderful organization and all they have done for my family. 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.



Because of your support, Megan and her children are stabilized in housing, and doing well. Thank you for helping them get one step closer to home.

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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.

Generous Foundations
Provide Support for
Struggling Families

With so many more families seeking shelter this year, the generosity of the Greater Cincinnati area is more needed — and appreciated — than ever. In addition to the individuals and families who send donations and/or participate in fund-raising events, Bethany House is also blessed with grants from several local foundations that are committed to helping our community’s poorest families achieve independence.

In addition to a safe place to sleep and all necessities, our shelters provide many programs that promote self-sufficiency, positive parenting, nutrition and other topics necessary for achieving and sustaining independent living. Programs for children emphasize resilience, making healthy life choices, and working with other members of the family to achieve common goals.

During the first half of 2019, these programs have been supported by grants from:

- Junior Women’s Club of Wyoming
- SC Ministry Foundation
- Scripps Howard Foundation
- The Josephine S. Russell Charitable Trust through the PNC Charitable Trusts Grant Review Committee
- Evelyn W. Dunn Charitable Trust
- Agnes Nordloh Foundation
- Robert A. and Marian K. Kennedy Charitable Trust
- A foundation that prefers to remain anonymous

These foundations have all contributed to the support of families in shelter and provide the assistance they need to establish and maintain stable homes.

Support Bethany House while you shop
at Kroger!

Did you know that you can support Bethany House and the families we serve while shopping at your local Kroger?

Simply link your Kroger Rewards card to Bethany House, and you’ll be helping homeless families in Cincinnati when you shop.



Together, we will fight family homelessness, and one day hope to make our vision to live in a community where all families have a place to call home and no one spends a night without shelter a reality!



Fat Tuesday brings Mardi Gras
fun for BHS

Started 28 years ago by the Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association, this annual culinary celebration raises funds each year to feed homeless children served by



▲ Grand Marshall: Giovanni Bernard, Cincinnati Bengals; King: Scott Sloan, 700WLW; Queen: Sheila Gray, Local 12

Bethany House, Welcome House and Brighton Center. With delicious food and tasty beverages from all over Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, Mardi Gras 2019 was a huge success!

Thank You, Mardi Gras Sponsors and Supporters!

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PNC Bank

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ProMedica

Butch and Claire Rowekamp

Sisters of Charity

Rebecca Brown M.D.

Special thanks to Mercedes Benz of Ft. Mitchell who returned for a 6th year as Title Sponsor in 2019 and to the Marge and Charles J. Schott Foundation for their generous \$10,000 sponsorship supporting homeless children at all three agencies.



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

Mardi Gras
2020

Fat Tuesday,
February 25!



ALES TO
ZINFANDELS
2019

Join us for
Ales to Zinfandels,
Saturday, Oct. 26

Featuring music by The Mistics

Bethany House Services 16th annual wine and beer tasting fundraiser, Ales to Zinfandels, is set for Oct. 26, 7-11 p.m. at The Glendale Lyceum, 865 Congress Avenue. Rana Schiff, Senior Business Partner, Kroger, chairs the event committee. All proceeds benefit Bethany House Services.

Ales to Zinfandels includes fine wines, craft beers, appetizers and desserts. Price is \$75 per person, with a “Bring a Group Party Pack” of six tickets for \$375, a savings of \$75. Early bird tickets purchased by Sept. 15 are only \$70 each.

The event will also feature live and silent auctions and more. For more information about tickets and sponsorships, go to <https://bethanyhouseservices.org/ales-to-zinfandels> or call 513-557-2411.



▲ Members of the planning committee gathered recently at the Glendale Lyceum to check out the space and work on plans for an exciting and fun evening. They are (front, left to right): Maggie Carrino; Lucy Crane; Gail Myers; Connor Cleves; (back, left to right): Madina Washburn, BHS Intern; Peggy Scherzinger; Rana Schiff, Chair; Gage Woolley, BHS Special Events/Volunteer Coordinator; and Deanna Powell, BHS Development Director. Not pictured: Alois Barreras, Liz McKinnon, Tina Norman, Imani Rogers and Juli Russell

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
January 1, 2019 through July 1, 2019

- IN MEMORY**
- Jane Benke
Ann Elyce Benke
- Patrice Booze
Great Friends Working Cooperatively (GFWC)
- Claire Boyd
Susan Eberle
- Lydia Brinker
Michael and Susan Schiller
Stephen and Lea Brinker
- Shirley B. Graff
Scott Moore
- Esther Holthaus
Ruth Holthaus
- Raymond Huseman
Jeanne Franz
- Martin King
David and Tara Chapin
- Susan Kisker Hadley
Irwin and Sandra Bollinger
Melitta Marx
- Cecil Lenoni
Sarah Hammers
- Chris Mayer
Robert and Donna Mayer
- Neve Panyko
Michael and Marie Panyko
- Rita Vogt
Michael and Susan Schiller

- IN HONOR OF**
- Lucy Crane & Paul Sullivan Wedding
Kathy Meinke
- Ellen Paulsen
Annie and Al Garner
- Jodi George
Scripps Howard Foundation
- Mother's Day
Montgomery Presbyterian Church
- Peg Dierkers
Teddy Maurer
- God
Sukhchain and Sukhbir Gill
- Chet Guess
Anonymous
- Robert Heidt
Michael and Susan Schiller
Richard and Nancy Klus
- Mary Lawrence Hartman
St. Ursula Academy
- Erin Schultz
Gregory and Sherry Schultz
- Sr. Mary Stanton
Johanne Armstrong
- Mary Winton
Ruth Holthaus

26th Annual
Golf Classic
A perfect day on the course!



Mother Nature ushered in a perfect day for our golfers as they hit the greens for the 26th Annual Bethany House Golf Classic held on June 3, 2019 at Legendary Run Golf Course. Our golfers enjoyed a great day regardless of their scorecard, all while supporting our Bethany House families.

Special thanks to our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and amazing emcee and honorary captain, Mike McConnell of 700 WLW, who made the day a success!

TITLE SPONSOR



CART SPONSOR



LUNCH SPONSOR

Cincinnati Mine Machinery

BIRDIE SPONSORS

McGraw Insurance/Fifth Third Insurance • Total Quality Logistics
Messer Construction • Turner Construction • Matt and Shannon Yung
Platte Architecture + Design

LUNCH AND DRINK PROVIDERS

LaRosa's Pizza • Alpine Valley Pure Service • PepsiCo.

Congratulations to our Winners!



▲ 1st Place Women's Team L. to R.: Rose McGuire, MC Mike McConnell, Sherry Williams, Amy Holter, and Joan Wurtenberger



▲ 1st Place Men's Team, sponsored by Art Hathaway L. to R.: Art Hathaway, Ed Feldmann, Eric DeMichelle, and Todd Johnson

Babies, Babies and More Babies

In the first six months of 2019, Bethany House has had more newborns than ever arrive at our door directly from the hospital! The first home for ten babies (including a set of twins!) was Bethany House.

Your support can make a difference in even the littlest lives at Bethany House. Perhaps your business/women's group/department, etc. would consider hosting a "baby shower" for Bethany House, to help us help new mothers in shelter when their babies are born. The most critical items needed would include:

- Diapers and Wipes
- Onesies, Gowns or Pajamas and blankets
- Formula—organic/sensitive formulas, Good Start, Gentlelease
- Pedialyte
- Pack and Plays
- Sheets for Pack and Plays
- Strollers
- Car Seats
- Baby Carriers

New and/or gently used items would be appreciated.

For more information, or to plan your organization's "Shower" for Bethany House babies, please contact us at info@bhsinc.org or 513-921-1131.



FC Cincinnati Community Partner

Our families were treated to a new and exciting experience when FC Cincinnati featured Bethany House as the community partner of the match at the U.S. Open Cup match with Louisville City FC at Nippert Stadium as the Community Partner of the Match.

The Bethany House award winning video, *Faces of Homelessness* was shown for all FC fans to see. Public Service Announcements were read during the match, helping to bring awareness about homeless families in our community. Our families, die-hard FC fans who had never had the opportunity to attend a match before, sat through the rain as FC Cincinnati prevailed with an exciting win in overtime. Thank you, FC Cincinnati, for supporting Bethany House.



▲ Bethany House children with FC Cincinnati's mascot, Gary the Lion

Hooked For Life

Our children and their parents were recently introduced to the joy and sport of fishing thanks to a program called "Hooked for Life." Parents enjoyed an escape from the noise of violent neighborhoods and children loved the green grass, rolling hills and a first-ever fishing tournament. Everyone learned how to bait a hook, catch a fish, and release it back to the water.

Thanks to Kingdom Warriors for providing lunch, Joan Hopkins for hosting this event, Sandy Downing for coordinating and sponsoring the event, and the Summertime Kids grant through the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for providing the funding!



▲ A volunteer unhooking a catfish



▲ Children learning how to fish for the first time

BHS Gets Pampered

Our thanks to Alice Schneider for hosting a ‘Pampered Chef’ party and donating wish list items to Bethany House. These products will help our staff as they prepare meals for families at the shelter. Thank you, Alice, for your very generous donation to Bethany House!



▲ BHS Child/Parent Coordinator, Denise Hill, showing off one of the donations from Alice Schneider’s Pampered Chef party

Happy Birthday, Ryker!

Did you know that nearly 70% of the homeless individuals sheltered at Bethany House are children?



For his 6th birthday, Ryker Hollatz and his mom, Kelly, decided to ask their party guests to bring sporting goods and “playground” toys in lieu of gifts, which they donated for our children at Bethany House. Thank you, Ryker, for making all of our children happy by sharing your gifts with them, and we hope you had a very happy birthday!

Brownies Donate Books to Bethany House

Special thanks to 2nd and 3rd grade Brownie Troop #47892 from Our Lady of Lourdes School and their troop leader, for selecting Bethany House as their service project! The girls collected tubs of books and donated them to the shelter for children to enjoy.



A Note From Saint Ursula Academy



Dear Bethany House,
Thank you for allowing us to come together as a service group to make brunch. We enjoyed our time there and were happy to see how the food we made put a smile on the faces of those at the home. We look forward to working with you again next year. Have a great summer!
— Saint Ursula

Thank you Colerain High School and Magnified Giving!

Thank you to students at Colerain High School for selecting Bethany House to receive a \$1,000 Magnified Giving grant. Magnified Giving partners with local middle and high schools to teach students about philanthropy. Students volunteer with qualifying organizations and are taught to evaluate the benefit of the organization to their community. They then “grant” Magnified Giving funds to the organization of their choice.

Special thanks to Mrs. Kerry Martini and her class, in particular, students Abby and Breanna, for believing in the mission and work of Bethany House.



▲ L. to R.: Magnified Giving check presentation photo: Mrs. Martini, Colerain students Breanna & Abby, and Gage Woolley, Bethany House Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator

Connexus Credit Union

Thank you to Connexus Credit Union for your generous donation of \$3,000! We are so grateful for your support which allows us to impact the lives of families staying with us.



▲ Gage Woolley, BHS Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator, Tina Wocher, Connexus Credit Union Branch Manager, and Susan Schiller, Bethany House Executive Director

Second Graders Donate Their Birthday Gifts

Second graders celebrated their April birthdays at Villa Madonna Academy Elementary by collecting donations for Bethany House. These motivated and generous students raised almost \$700! Special thanks to the birthday boys and girls, pictured: Ruby, TT, Ele & Otto, Ben, Andrew, and Gus, and all of your friends for your donations.



Christmas in July!

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church hosted their annual Christmas in July donation drive for Bethany House. Members of the church donated thousands of dollars’ worth of items for our families staying the shelter. Thank you to Susan Staub for organizing this event.

Something Wonderful for Bethany House



“Something Wonderful”, the New Church of Montgomery’s inaugural art show recently showcased local artists from the Greater Cincinnati area. This fun, creative event was conceived as an innovative way to raise funds for the families served by Bethany House Services.

The event raised over \$600 for Bethany House, as well as raising awareness of family homelessness in our community. Organizers of the art show, called the event a “success” and said that everyone involved truly enjoyed participating, knowing what a great cause they were supporting. Thank you, New Church for your generosity, creative spirit and support for the families we serve!



▲ Artwork for sale at New Church of Montgomery art show



▲ Thanks to Immaculate Heart of Mary for our Christmas in July

BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

Bethany House Services
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www.bethanyhouseservices.org



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ALES TO ZINFANDELS 2019

SAVE THE DATE!

Enjoy an evening of fine wines and craft beers, food pairings, and desserts, auctions and live music by The Mistics at

16th Annual Ales To Zinfandels

**Saturday, October 26, 2019
7:00 to 11:00 p.m.**

Glendale Lyceum

\$75 per person - Early Bird tickets purchased before September 1, only \$70 per person

Bring a Group Party Pack of six tickets for \$375, a savings of \$75

For information, tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or to donate auction items, visit <https://bethanyhouseservices.org/ales-to-zinfandels/> or contact us at 513-557-2411 or by email at info@bhsinc.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

Mardi Gras for Homeless Children

29th Annual Culinary Celebration

Northern Kentucky Convention Center

For information, sponsorship opportunities, tickets, or to donate auction items, please contact us at 513-557-2411 or info@bhsinc.org.