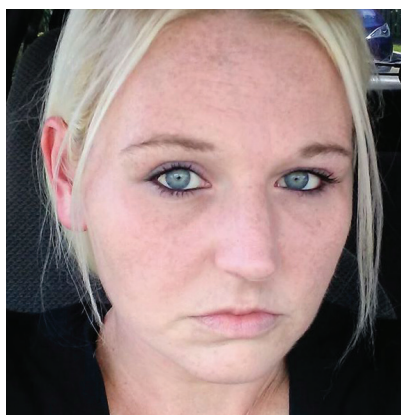




# FRONT PORCH

## NEWS | Winter 2020

### A Place To Call Home....Julie's Journey



My husband and I lost our jobs when the company where we worked was sold. We searched for jobs daily, but eventually, our utilities were disconnected. Soon after, we were evicted from our home. Having nowhere to go, we had to leave

everything behind except clothes and paperwork. After weeks of staying with various family members, we arrived at Bethany House. We were terrified because we had never been homeless or in a shelter before. I was afraid of JFS taking my children because we were homeless. As soon as we entered Bethany House, we felt safe and welcomed. They provided us with necessities, along with sheets, pillows, towels, cooking supplies and food.

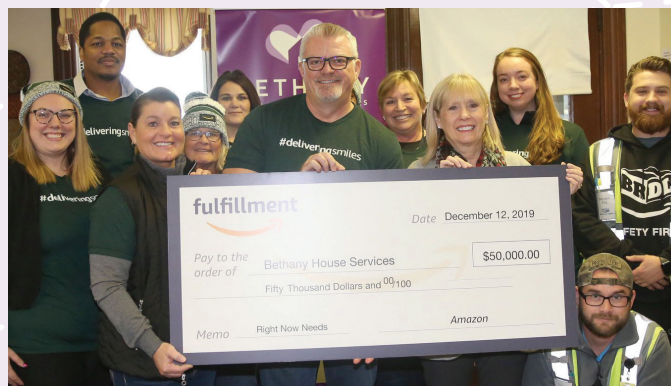
Throughout the next few weeks our case manager, Janice Clay, worked with us to get transportation for our kids to stay in the same school, which was amazing,

and our small children into daycare. She went above and beyond helping us get things straightened out with our benefits. Bethany House provided weekly classes on budgeting, parenting, women's health and many other helpful topics. We found jobs through a staffing agency, and Janice even got us steel toed boots because we couldn't begin work without them. Two days later, she informed us that she had found us housing and within a week, we were moving into our own home!

In our darkest time, no jobs and no home, Bethany House gave us shelter and made us feel at home and safe. The staff was on our side and did the hard work with us the whole way, helping to better equip us for the future. I can never repay what they have done for my family. My husband and I are currently enrolled in the Lyft Jobs Access program, and we've even started our own cake business. We're thankful for Bethany House, the staff, donors, and our case manager, who was beyond amazing. The Bethany House goal was to make sure we would be successful in the future and have the tools needed to avoid homelessness ever again. I believe every member of their staff cares about the people they work with. I will never forget my time at Bethany House, and my family will always be thankful for what they've done for us.

### Delivering Smiles

Our friends at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in NKY were delivering smiles to Bethany House just before Christmas. We were thrilled to be chosen to receive 2,000 "Box of Smiles" gifts for our families, and as you can tell from our CEO Susan Schiller's reaction, surprised with an amazing donation of \$50,000! Thank you to all of the associates at the CVG/NKY Fulfillment Center for selecting the gifts and packing the boxes for our children and their moms and dads. You certainly made all of our families at Bethany House smile with your kindness and generosity!



▲ Amazon Fulfillment Associates presenting \$50,000 to Bethany House.

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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 to Bethany House this past Christmas season. Daily, the mail carrier arrived with a stack of envelopes containing financial gifts, and generous donors appeared nonstop for several weeks bearing gifts of toys, bedding, household supplies, coats, hats, and gloves of all sizes. Many volunteers assisted us with receiving and sorting gifts, breakfasts and dinners for our families, and other much-needed tasks the holidays bring. Your generosity was

overwhelming; your belief in our mission continues to inspire us.

In 2019, almost 800 children from newborn to 17 were sheltered at Bethany House. The children arrive with many problems, as homeless children are forced to deal with significant, difficult, and interrelated challenges including but not limited to – mental, behavioral and physical. They have experienced more stress and trauma in their young lives than most of us endure in 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 zero 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 your time, talent, and treasure with our families!

Susan S. Schiller, Chief Executive Officer

## Helping Families When They Need Help the Most



Parents in shelter are experiencing one of the most traumatic situations that a parent can endure – not being able to care for their children. With the support of a generous community, Bethany House is able to help them through the sadness of losing their homes and guide them to a more stable future.

During the last quarter of 2019, U.S. Bank Foundation made a generous grant to provide updates to Bethany Homes, 24 units of affordable housing for low-income families owned and operated by Bethany House. Many of the tenants are single moms; some of the tenants have experienced homelessness.

A grant from the L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation covers shelter expenses and provides post-shelter support – the additional months' rent, security deposits and utility payments required by many landlords before a low-income family can move into an apartment. Grants supporting shelter and post-shelter services are especially important to Bethany House because they enable us to move families into housing more quickly, opening beds for another homeless family to come into the safety of shelter.

Grants from TJX and the Justin R. Niklas Charitable Trust are also supporting shelter services for the families who came in from the cold this winter.

Thank you to all the foundations who funded Bethany House in 2019 – you provided safety, programming for the children, comprehensive shelter services and post-shelter stabilization for 1,175 family members – and 797 of them were under the age of 18.



## BHS Family Christmas Party



Christmas 2019 has come and gone, and the Greater Cincinnati community never fails to turn the sadness of being homeless at the holidays into the joy of knowing that so many compassionate and generous people care.

**Family Christmas Party:** Thanks to the generosity of **Dr. Rob and Julie Heidt**, Bethany House families were treated to a delicious, catered dinner at the annual Family Holiday Party, held at the beautiful Schaeper Center at Elder High School. Our families enjoyed a visit from Santa, along with many fun activities for the afternoon, and a “Box of Smiles” courtesy of the **Amazon Fulfillment Center in NKY**. Many thanks to all of our amazing donors and hard-working volunteers who helped set up, clean up, and provided special activities for the children of Bethany House.

**Macy’s & Clothes4Souls** Sharing the Warmth with Bethany House program provided our families the gift of a brand new coat as each family member was able to select a coat of their choice during the party.

The generosity of the Cincinnati community was the brightest light of the holiday season for our more than 350 families in Bethany House Shelter and Housing programs at the end of the year. **Sand Angel Foundation, Good Shepherd Church Gift Giving Project, Will Sprankles’ family, friends and colleagues Believe to Achieve event, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St. Dominic Church in Delhi, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, St. Columban Church, Doris Thomas & the Holiday Gift Bags project, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Christmas meals** and so many corporate employee and individual loving families throughout our region gave of themselves to make sure that every family challenged to achieve stable housing woke up Christmas morning knowing that their community cares about their success. Everyone had a gift to open and experienced the love and joy of the season!

Bethany House is truly grateful to everyone who had a hand in making the holidays happier for our families. Your kindness will long be remembered by not only our families with whom you shared the joy of Christmas, but also the BHS staff and volunteers who witnessed for themselves the true spirit of giving!

**“A simple act of kindness can make a tremendous impact on a person’s life.”**

**Anonymous**

## The SandAngel Foundation Holiday Stockings

Established in memory of Chris Back, a UC School of Nursing graduate, The SandAngel Foundation has supported Bethany House through their Holiday Stocking program for six years. The 2019 event was the biggest ever, thanks to the generosity of their donors and friends.

Very special thanks to the Back family for your continued support of families in shelter at Bethany House. Your kindness will long be remembered by not only the 221 family members receiving these amazing gifts, but also by everyone at Bethany House fortunate enough to see the delight on the faces of our children and their parents as they receive their special SandAngel gifts.

Thank you for sharing the joy of the holiday season with our families!



▲ Excited children at the Holiday Stocking party.



▲ Holiday Stocking gifts, ready to go to Bethany House families.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Roger Ashbaugh**  
Ms. Jackie Baumgartner

**Cecelia Cerroni**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mayerchak

**James Cerroni**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mayerchak

**Margaret Cerroni**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mayerchak

**Anne Collins-Kerry**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Wadelin

**Jack and Ann Ellis**  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ellis

**Norma I. Ferguson**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Steffen

**Bill and Florence Hughes**  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Loutzenhiser

**Susan Kisker Hadley**  
Dr. and Mrs. Earl Kisker

**Walter Litkovitz**  
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Mrs. Susan and Mr. Michael Schiller

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mayer

**Nancy Palmer**  
Mrs. Susan and Mr. Michael Schiller

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**Sarah Richter**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Keefe

**Emmy Rosenberg**  
Mr. Joseph Mischell

**Carol Ruehlmann-Peter**  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Langley

**Stuart B. Sutphin III**  
Mrs. Christina Kohnen

**Lawrence Tobe**  
Mrs. Mary Ellen and Mr. John Roberts

**Virginia Tuchfarber (nee Timmerman)**  
Mr. Richard Tuchfarber

**Denise Ward**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hines

**Roger Winterman**  
Ms. Sally Wetenkamp

**Michael Wilger**  
Michael Ibold Wilger Foundation

## IN HONOR OF

**Jackie and Wally Carroll**  
Mr. and Mrs. David Wempe

**Kyle Dant**  
Mr. Todd Budin

**Peg Dierkers**  
Mr. Teddy Maurer

**Sr. Mary Efke**  
Mrs. Kimberly Gruber

**Dr. Ian Foley**  
Pat Kacvinsky

**Sr. Virginia Froehle**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ganote

**Bob Inkrot**  
Michael Ibold Wilger Foundation

**Mary Alice Koch**  
Mr. Todd Augustine

**Kathy Monk**  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Baker

**Greg Peal**  
Ms. Lauren Midkiff

**Erin Schultz**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Schultz

**Diane Simmonds**  
Ms. Darla Dawson

**Sr. Delia Sizler**  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clark

**Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM**  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Baiman

**The Birth of our Lord Jesus**  
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford McClintock

**Barb Tuchfarber**  
Anonymous

**Carolyn Washburn**  
Ed & Joann Hubert Family Foundation, Inc

**Barney Wright**  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Watkins

**Megan Zoellner**  
Ms. Susan Zoellner

## Bed Bath & Beyond Donates Socks for Families

Thanks to Bed Bath & Beyond on Glenway Avenue and Store Manager, Shawna, for their donation of socks for our families. The Bed Bath & Beyond store recently ran a buy one, get one promotional deal for socks, in which shoppers can keep one pair for themselves and donate a pair to families currently in shelter at Bethany House. Over 100 pairs of nice, warm socks for our families were delivered to Bethany House, and we are so grateful to the store, Shawna, and the many customers of Bed Bath & Beyond for their generosity!



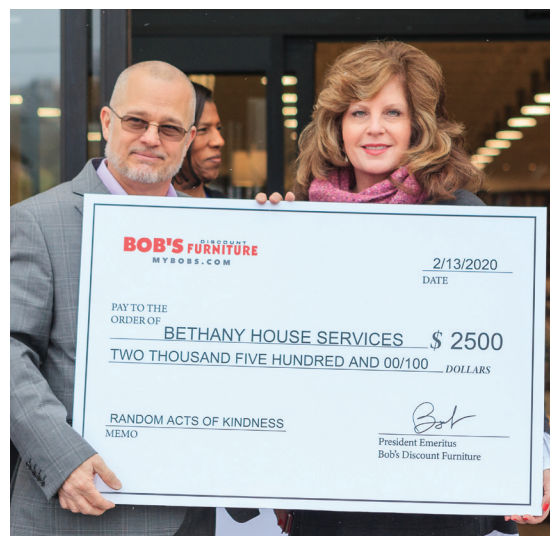
▲ Store Manager, Shawna, with Special Events Coordinator, Gage.

## Bob's Random Acts of Kindness

For every new store they open, Bob's Discount Furniture donates a "Random Acts of Kindness" check to a local non-profit and school through Bob's Outreach Program. The mission of the program is to help children and families thrive. Bob's assists children and families in need with their shelter, education, and health care requirements, and also support those who support others, including military and first responders. Bob's Discount Furniture believes these are the building blocks of a safe and secure community.

On February 13, Bob's opened five new stores across the country, including one on Colerain Avenue in Cincinnati. Each of the five stores selected a non-profit and local school to receive a Random Acts of Kindness check for \$2,500, and the new Bob's Discount Furniture Store on Colerain Avenue selected Bethany House to receive their donation.

Thank you to Bob's Discount Furniture for your belief in the Bethany House mission. Welcome to Cincinnati!



▲ Bob's Discount Furniture Manager, Vince Hornik presents a Random Acts of Kindness check for \$2,500 to BHS Development Director, Deanna Powell.



## The Season of Giving

The Willow Event Center, in conjunction with several of their vendors, hosted a fantastic Thanksgiving Brunch Party for Bethany House families. The event marked the culmination of National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, and helped to raise awareness of family homelessness in the Greater Cincinnati community.

Thanks to Willow Event Center owner, Drew Hester, Bethany House families enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, along with fun and games to help them ring in the Season of Giving. The brunch would not have been possible without the generous donations from Willow food vendors including A Catered Affair, Chef's Choice Catering, Village Pantry Catering, Vonderhaar's Catering, Inc. In addition, vendors like Queen City Transportation, Say Cheese Photo Booth, and Cakes by Reva all donated their products and services to help make the inaugural event a huge success for the families served at Bethany House.

"By Thanksgiving, 2019, Bethany House had housed and fed more than 650 Cincinnati children and their parents," said Peg Dierkers, Bethany House COO. "It was a perfect time of year to both share the joy of the season with our families and raise awareness of the hunger and homelessness problem in our neighborhoods, as we sat across the table and gave thanks together. We are overwhelmed at the generosity of Drew Hester at Willow Event Center and these wonderful companies who came together to show the families that the community cares about them."



▲ One of the craft tables set up for BHS children to enjoy.

## IT'S IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE IS COUNTED!

For each person not counted, Cincinnati and Hamilton County lose \$1,814. Due to an undercount in the 2010 Census, it's estimated that a total of \$34 billion of federal funding was lost during the last decade in Cincinnati (\$16.4 billion) and Hamilton County (\$17.6 Billion).

United States®  
**Census 2020**



**It's easy, safe and important.**  
Census.Ohio.Gov

Unfortunately, in 2010, some Cincinnati and Hamilton County communities who needed help the most, had the fewest number of people participate.

Businesses depend upon Census data to make decisions about where to locate, hire and invest.

The Census determines each state's number of representatives in Congress. Ohio lost two congressional seats as a result of the 2010 Census. Not counted in Ohio means not represented in Congress.

**The 2020 Census will be easier than ever and all Census information is confidential!**

You have options! Online is the easiest way to complete your Census. It's safe and secure. In addition to online, you can also respond to the Census by phone or by mail.

It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

**DID YOU KNOW....** Census data is used to distribute more than \$675 billion per year for 10 years in federal and state funding for vital programs (like education, transportation, health care, local job opportunities) that help local families and individuals in need, including seniors, young people, and homeless families.

Visit <http://2020census.gov> #2020Census or [www.GreaterCincyCounts.com](http://www.GreaterCincyCounts.com)

#GreaterCincyCounts  
#Census2020  
#YouMatterBeCounted

## Are you Interested in Leaving a Legacy for Cincinnati's Homeless Families?

A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way to create a lasting legacy of support to homeless children and their parents in our community.



**Suggested language for making a bequest to Bethany House Services:**  
*"I give, devise, and bequeath to Bethany House Services, 1841 Fairmount Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45214, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for its general purpose."*

**TO LEARN MORE** about how you can leave a legacy to Bethany House in support of families experiencing homelessness, please contact us at (513) 921-1131.

## Smiling for Erica

Bethany House was pleased to honor the memory of Erica J. Holloman, and increase awareness of Triple Negative Breast Cancer when they accepted the donation of over 100 bras from The Erica J. Holloman Foundation Inc. After a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery, Erica died of Breast cancer in June of 2011. The first year after her surgery, the foundation donated 70 bras to women who found themselves as Erica did, in need of new bras and the second year, 200 bras were donated. The Erica J. Holloman Foundation has donated over 6,000 new bras, with hundreds of bras being donated to Bethany House through the years.

Very special thanks to Josie Holloman-Adams, President of the Erica J. Holloman Foundation, for this incredible donation to the ladies in shelter at Bethany House.



▲ Josie Holloman-Adams, President of the Erica J. Holloman Foundation, Bobby Adams, and BHS Development Director, Deanna Powell. Inset: Smiling for Erica donations.

## Norwood MS Student Council



▲ Norwood Middle School Student Council members and their Advisor, Lauren Kang, present children's socks to Peg Dierkers, Bethany House COO.

Norwood Middle School Student Council members, along with their Advisor, Mrs. Lauren Kang, led a school wide donation drive to provide socks for children currently in shelter at Bethany House. The students learned about Bethany House and the number of children residing in our shelter from BHS Development Director, Deanna Powell, during her visit to the school in November. They decided they wanted to make a difference, so they took action. They made posters and placed them throughout the school and made daily announcements to encourage their peers to donate.

After the holidays, Peg Dierkers, Bethany House COO, visited the Student Council members at the school to receive the donation. Having the opportunity to explain her work with families experiencing homelessness, as well as her appreciation for the middle school students' project, Peg helped the students to understand that even a simple act of kindness like providing a pair of socks to a child can make a difference. Thank you, Mrs. Kang, Student Council members and Norwood Middle School for caring about families in our community!

## Give Back Party 2020

Christy & Stuart Stockton sure know how to throw a party!

Thanks to the Stockton's for selecting Bethany House as the beneficiary of their January 2020 "Give Back Party!" The Stockton's host the party annually in their home, with the only requirement being that guests must bring an item from our wish list or a cash donation to Bethany House to attend. Over 50 guests partied with the Stockton's and provided these amazing items along with cash/gift cards totaling more than \$3,600 to help families served at Bethany House to take one step closer to a home of their own. What a great way to start the New Year by giving back!



▲ Some of the items donated to BHS from the party attendees.



▲ Christy Stockton delivers items from the Give Back Party to Bethany House.



## Calling all Lime scooter riders!

Did you know that your change is making an impact on the lives of local families experiencing homelessness? We are happy to announce that Bethany House has been selected as the Lime Hero partner in Cincinnati!



Lime is using proceeds from its Lime Hero program – which allows local riders to round up the cost of their ride to support Bethany House Services. Within Ohio alone, more than 200,000 riders have ridden a distance equal to five trips to the moon.

“We’re thrilled to partner with Bethany House Services to support their tremendously poignant work,” said Lime’s Ohio General Manager, Crew Cypher. “As an Ohio native, I know how impactful service organizations can be helping to change lives and I’m glad Lime is providing a little extra assist. By signing up for Lime Hero, scooter riders will help strengthen their communities and provide a brighter outlook for our younger residents.”

Next time you ride a LIME scooter, be sure to click on “Donate a slice of your LIME ride!” and round up your ride to donate to local families experiencing homelessness.

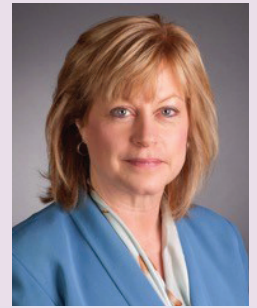
## International Women’s Day Celebration at Urban Artifact

Bethany House was thrilled to partner with Urban Artifact Brewery to celebrate International Women’s Day. Over 25 guests attended and enjoyed a tasting of four craft beers. Hannah, the only female brewer at Urban Artifact, led a tour of their event space and brewery. Thanks to everyone who joined us, over \$250 was raised to benefit families currently staying in the shelter.



## Meet Bethany House COO, Peg Dierkers

Bethany House has more than doubled our services to Cincinnati homeless families in the last five years. At the same time, funders have exponentially increased accountability for



▲ Peg Dierkers

use of their funds by requiring more extensive reporting and by expecting that specific quantitative program outcome benchmarks are met. Finally, families who are homeless are presenting at Bethany House with increasingly complex and multiple barriers to maintaining stable housing. And for all of these reasons, additional support and resources have been added at the leadership level to orchestrate the most innovative and high quality services to families – meet our Chief Operating Officer, Peg Dierkers.

Peg assumed the role of COO in October of 2019, creating a bridge between the Shelter and Housing programs operations as well as assuming lead responsibility for several special projects. In this way, donors, families and funders of Bethany House can be assured that staff efforts are synchronized to best meet the needs of families for long term success, new sources of revenue are being explored, and that Bethany House continues to make a leadership contribution in the design of homeless services in the Cincinnati community network. One of the most important special projects that Peg will lead is the program planning for our new consolidated services center in Bond Hill. Staff will strategically and purposefully design and plan for the changes in professional practice required and the additional services opportunities possible when all Bethany House Shelter and Housing services are located under one roof in space tailor made to best support families’ success.

## BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

Bethany House Services  
1841 Fairmount Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45214  
513.921.1131  
[www.bethanyhouseservices.org](http://www.bethanyhouseservices.org)



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can double, or even triple, your donation to Bethany House? Many companies offer a matching gift program to encourage philanthropy among their employees. Some companies will even match the gifts of their spouses and retirees.

If your company is one that will match contributions, you simply complete a matching gift form, either on-line or paper, and you may be able to double, or even triple, the impact of your gift. Contributions of any amount will make a difference and help Bethany House achieve its vision, to live in a community where all families have a place to call home and no one spends a night without shelter.

Examples of local companies that will match gifts:

- AK Steel Corporation
- Chiquita Brands International, Inc.
- Cincinnati Bell
- Coca Cola
- Fifth Third Bancorp
- General Electric Company
- Ohio National Financial Services
- Peter Cremer North America

For questions, please contact  
Barbara Bruser, Development  
Department Coordinator, at  
[bbruser@bhsinc.org](mailto:bbruser@bhsinc.org)



## FORE THE KIDS

Your support of the Annual Golf Classic  
will provide basic necessities to our  
families including “Back to School” supplies  
for children sheltered at Bethany House.

**Monday, June 1, 2020**  
**Legendary Run Golf Course**

Shotgun start at NOON | Scramble format

For more information, to secure your sponsorship,  
or register your foursome please contact Gage Woolley,  
BHS Special Event Coordinator at 513-557-2411  
or [gwoolley@bhsinc.org](mailto:gwoolley@bhsinc.org).

