

FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Fall 2019

One Step Closer To Home... Anastasia's Journey



My upbringing has affected my life in many ways. Growing up in foster care isn't the prettiest story. When you are forced to live with one person after another, you never know what life has in store for you. You don't know what tomorrow will bring, literally. You can think that all is well and that you have finally found your forever home, then discover that once again you just didn't fit the bill.

Growing up in state care led to struggling with stability as a young adult. I was never taught to work through any problems when I was in

the system. If there was a problem or a difficult situation, the foster mothers would just kick me out. Being in 12 different foster homes, and having a broken adoption, affects my ability to accept that I am now an adult. It's hard working through any serious circumstances because I never had to deal with anything too long while I was a ward of the state.

I could not wait to age out of foster care. I was excited to embrace life on my own. I was ready to prove to the world that I could survive no matter how many people had tried to break me down. Leaving foster care was a huge sigh of relief but to my dismay my safety net was gone. My life continued to spiral out of control. I was on my own. Now 30 years old with six kids having endured homelessness, mental illness, drug/alcohol abuse, and domestic violence on a consistent basis, I was at my lowest when I came to Bethany House. I arrived with only my youngest daughter and the clothes on our backs. I accepted the fact that I could not care for my other children and they're currently living with their dads. During my stay at Bethany I was able to address my mental health and addiction issues. My daughter was enrolled in a star rated childcare facility and my case manager assisted in locating stable, safe, and secure housing. I finally have an opportunity to become self-sufficient and become a productive citizen in society. I will continue to strive in hopes of bringing all my kids home.

BHS receives Phenomenal Award

Bethany House was honored with the Higher Ground Ministries Phenomenal Women's Award for 2019 at their October conference. For the first time in the history of the award, Higher Ground Ministries nominated a non-profit agency rather than an individual. The award recognizes those who empower and motivate women to succeed in life.

"The mission of Bethany House Services exemplifies the essence of spiritual empowerment, integrity, and self-esteem and it is a great honor to be able to celebrate these accomplishments," stated Sallye Bonner, Co-Chair of the Phenomenal Women's Conference.

Bethany House is grateful to join a distinguished list of previous honorees. Thank you Higher Ground Ministries for this Phenomenal award!



Dorothy Finney, Director, Women's Ministry, Higher Ground Ministries

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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,



It's hard to believe I have been at Bethany House for over six years. So much has changed but so much has stayed the same. We have followed the legacy of those who came before us and continued to meet the needs of moms and children experiencing homelessness.

Today we serve over 50% of the homeless families and 62% of the homeless children. The numbers have increased and while the responsibility is overwhelming at times, the dedication of a wonderful staff and the commitment of so many generous donors and volunteers has not changed. You, our supporters, inspire us daily and we are blessed to have your support.

Our staff, our Board of Directors and all of the 800 families Bethany House served this year say THANK YOU and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Susan Schiller, *Chief Executive Officer*

Bethany House receives Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant

\$1.25 million donation is largest ever for 36-year-old agency

Bethany House Services was honored to be chosen to receive a \$1.25 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund to help solve family homelessness.

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.

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."

Bethany House Welcomes New Board Members

Jeff Eberlein is a Founding Partner of Brand It For Good, a purpose-driven marketing and promotional products company in West Chester.

Pam Webb is Vice President of Human Resources at Ohio National Financial Services and Secretary of the Ohio National Foundation Board.

Thank you, Jeff and Pam, for sharing your time and talent with Bethany House and for joining us in the fight against family homelessness in Greater Cincinnati.

2019 Ales to Zinfandels: a fun evening for a great cause!

Nearly 200 friends of Bethany House danced the evening away at our 16th annual wine and beer tasting fundraiser, Ales to Zinfandels, held on October 26 at the Glendale Lyceum. The enthusiastic crowd enjoyed a soggy, but fantastic evening of fine wines, craft beer, delicious hors d'oeuvres and fabulous desserts, all while supporting homeless families served by Bethany House.



The evening featured a live auction, more than 90 silent auction items, a "wall of wine," and fantastic music by The Mistics, who had everyone singing along and dancing all evening. Meghan, former guest at Bethany House, shared her personal, very heartwarming story of how Bethany House empowered her to obtain stable housing for her family. Says Susan Schiller, BHS Executive Director, "Thanks to our committee members and staff who worked tirelessly on this fundraiser and to our sponsors, volunteers, donors and guests! Their support puts our moms on the path to independence."

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



#besomebody.



▲ Friends enjoy Ales to Zinfandels. Left to right, Barb Vogt; Mercedes Ortiz; Megan Ohlinger, who shared her Bethany House experience with attendees; and Lori Hogan.



▲ Jay Johnson with Mona Morrow, WCPO Director of Community Affairs and co-host of Cincy Lifestyles. Morrow was the evening's mistress of ceremonies.



▲ The Ales To Zinfandels committee. Front: Left to right: Gail Myers; Juli Russell; Lucy Crane; Tina Norman; Maggie Carrino; Back, left to right: Deanna Powell, BHS Development Director, Rana Schiff, Chair; Peggy Scherzinger; Joanne Girty; and Gage Woolley, BHS Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator. Chair Rana Schiff said, "I am truly humbled by all the support we received with this year's event. The Ales committee, the volunteers, the sponsoring organizations, and the individuals who took time to attend the event.....THANK YOU! We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. The event was a success; can't wait until next year!"

SAVE THE DATE for Mardi Gras 29th Annual Culinary Celebration!



The first Mardi Gras for Homeless Children was organized 29 years ago in response to the death of four homeless children who perished in a garage fire in 1991.

Bethany House is grateful to the Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association and Commonwealth Hotels, LLC for their many years of dedication to the success of the Mardi Gras event, and for thousands of dollars they have provided to feed homeless children in shelter at Bethany House as a result.

You are invited to help feed homeless children in our community while celebrating Fat Tuesday at the same time. Be a sponsor, purchase single tickets or a party pack with friends!

Individual tickets make great stocking stuffers, so gift the Mardi Gras experience to your family and friends this holiday season!

For more information, to secure your sponsorship, or to purchase tickets, contact Bethany House Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator, Gage Woolley at gwoolley@bhsinc.org or (513) 557-2411.



▲ Mardi Gras Royalty: Queen, Sheila Gray; Grand Marshall, Giovanni Bernard; King, Scott Sloan; Mardi Gras clowns, chariot carriers, and members of the Ben-Gals at the 2019 event.



DURING THIS SEASON OF THANKSGIVING, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR STAFF **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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 acknowledgement 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
July 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019

IN MEMORY

Nancy Palmer

Susan and Michael Schiller

Barbara Rielly

DSIG

Heidelberg Distributing

Ms. Emily Brinkman

Ann and Barbara Wurzelbacher

Mr. Donald Robke and Ms. Wendy Elbacher

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rielly

Mr. Ralph Scherer

Barbara Thacker

Mr. Michael Stock

Mr. and Mrs. Anne Ramsay

Jackie W. Thomson

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Schaefer

Susan Kisker Hadley

Mr. and Mrs. George Clark

IN HONOR OF

Weston James Feltner

Ms. Barbara Tuchfarber

Sharon Daniels

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Smith

Erin Schultz

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Schultz

Sister Mary Stanton

Mr. & Mrs. Williams Hughes

Steve Schaefer

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Herbers

Volunteers Needed: Prepare and share a meal for families in shelter.

Our tag line here at Bethany House is "One Step Closer to Home." Groups — whether corporate, school, churches, or families — help our guests experience that motto every day by providing homemade breakfast and dinner to families sheltered at Bethany House. Mealtime is not only our guests' favorite time of the day, but our families enjoy the company of the volunteers who come in and cook for them!

Recently, the Glassmeyer family provided breakfast for guests sheltered at Bethany House.

The family members are long time volunteers at Bethany House and believe that providing a meal for

families experiencing homelessness is

a very easy way to give back. The entire family enjoys interacting with guests, especially their son who says it's one of his favorite activities.

If you and your family/company/group would like to provide a meal for families at Bethany House, reserve your spot today by emailing us at info@bhsinc.org. We especially need meals around the Holidays.

Thank you for helping our guests feel like they're one step closer to home!



▲ Julie Glassmeyer with family and friends.

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."



LEAVE A LEGACY®
Greater Cincinnati

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.

Thank You, Kroger Wellness ARG!

The Kroger Co. Wellness Associate Resource Group (ARG) held their inaugural event on September 5 at Union Hall in OTR to benefit Bethany House Services. A lovely evening was enjoyed by all of the attendees, which included Kroger Executives, CEO Rodney McMullan; Senior Vice President Human Resources Tim Massa; Group Vice President, Jessica Adelman; New Business Development, Rana Schiff; and President, Kroger Health, Colleen Lindholz, also Executive Sponsor, Wellness ARG.

Many wonderful items and experiences were auctioned off, and delicious food was enjoyed courtesy of the Cincinnati Cooks Catering program, in partnership with Kroger's Zero Hunger, Zero Waste initiative.

Former Bethany House guest, Nahamani Yisrael, shared her story of rising from the despair of homelessness to a successful career thanks to the assistance she and her children received during their time at Bethany House. Those in attendance at the event were astonished to hear Nahamani tell of her experience and were greatly moved by the work of Bethany House to empower local families like Nahamani's.



▲ Pictured from left to right, from Kroger: Billien McCowan, Tim Massa, Jessica Adelman, Rana Schiff, Anastasia Frey, Rodney McMullen, Colleen Lindholz.

The Kroger event not only raised awareness about family homelessness in our community, but also raised over \$8,000 for the Bethany House shelter. Special thanks to Colleen Lindholz and the Wellness ARG for your incredible support!



▲ Welcome to the Kroger ARG Wellness event.

Welcome home, Daymia and Dominique and families!

Daymia and Dominique were both thrilled and thankful to be selected for New Life Furniture's "Make a House a Home" Design project in September. Designers from DIGS Real Estate-Design-Construction along with New Life Furniture staff, selected furnishings and accessories from their warehouse, based on the needs and wishes of each family.

The BIG REVEAL was planned as each family left Bethany House's shelter for their new apartment. Squeals of delight and tears of gratitude were expressed by each of the new home owners when their new homes were revealed. Brian, one of the DIGS designers, said "I was so excited to help make each house a home!"

Thank you to New Life Furniture CEO Dana Saxton and the New Life team for partnering with Bethany House and to DIGS for making the transition from shelter to housing such an exciting time for two of our families!



▲ Dominique and her sons at their new home with the New Life Furniture design team.

What a wonderful gift! Thank you Quest Diagnostics!

Kathleen Fender, Operations Manager at Quest Diagnostics, recently presented a check for \$10,000 to Deanna Powell, Bethany House Development Director, to support the families and the mission of Bethany House.

Kathleen and her associates are members of Quest's Midwest Region team which recently won a prestigious quality award. For winning the award, employees were able to select non-profit organizations aligned with Quest's vision of empowering better health.

"It is an absolute honor to present Bethany House with this check and hope this can immediately impact their shelter services in a positive way" said Fender. "We're proud to call Bethany House our neighbor."



▲ BHS Development Director, Deanna Powell, with Quest associates Kathleen Fender, Denny Rieman, Tari Randall, and Melissa Fitzgerald.

P & G Volunteers Spruce up Fairmount

On Tuesday, October 8th, 25 employees from P&G shared their time with Bethany House for one of our biggest cleaning days of the year. These wonderful volunteers worked tirelessly for almost eight hours as they cleaned various areas of the shelter, landscaped around our buildings, painted, trimmed trees and bushes, power washed siding, and everything in between to help beautify our facilities and welcome our guests entering the shelter.



▲ Amazing volunteers from P&G on our front porch steps at Bethany House.

Back to School with Marathon

Thanks to the generosity of the Marathon Petroleum Company, children at Bethany House had all of the required supplies in new backpacks for their first day of school! The impact of homelessness on children is staggering to children and school attendance

is critical both academically and socially.

We are very grateful to Marathon Petroleum Company for helping our kids get their school year started in such a positive way!



▲ L-R: Mark Russell, Supply Chain Management, Cincinnati Renewable Fuels; Gage Woolley, Bethany House Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator; Isaac Perkins, Human Resources Supervisor, Marathon Petroleum Company.

Happy Birthday, Savoy!

Savoy and her family regularly volunteer for Bethany House by providing meals for our guests. For her birthday this year, Savoy, a junior at Seven Hills, asked her friends to donate items for Bethany House in lieu of gifts.

Savoy hopes that the gifts will be a blessing, and help a Bethany House family with a new beginning. Thank you, Savoy, for your generosity to the families we serve. We hope your birthday was extra special, just like you!



▲ Savoy and her friends celebrating her birthday.



▲ Savoy with the generous donations for Bethany House.

Thank You Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP Volunteers

Employees from Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP recently volunteered their time at our Bond Hill facility. This wonderful volunteer group worked in two shifts during the day, helping us prepare the space for multifunctional use to better serve our guests. Thank you for sharing your time with us, and for all of your efforts to help make our Bond Hill facility a warm and welcoming place for families.



▲ The Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP team poses after their volunteer opportunity.

Lauren's Lemonade Stand



Five year old Lauren recently heard about other children her age who didn't have a home and she decided that she needed to do something about it. With the help of her mom, Joanna, Lauren set up a lemonade stand to help children who are less fortunate. She chose Bethany House to be the recipient of her generous efforts, and at .50 cents per cup, Lauren was able to donate over \$100 to the children residing at Bethany House!

Thank you, Lauren, for helping children in your community who need it most with your amazing donation! And, Joanna, we know how proud you must be (rightly so!) of your amazing five year old daughter. Thank you for helping raise awareness of family homelessness, and for making a difference in the lives of the children and their parents at Bethany House!

Pictures are Worth a Thousand Words

Pictures are worth a thousand words and we think you'll agree! Two of our Fairmount shelter bathrooms had major plumbing and ventilation issues from decades of heavy use by so many homeless families.

Our special thanks to long time Bethany House donor, Tom Mahoney, VP at Cintas. Tom recruited Alan Born & Jim Nicheols of Born Builders, as well as Tara Biller of New Life Designs to lead the project. Tara recruited additional support and generosity from Angela Esposito, Gretchen White, and Alex Groves of Pure Granite, Tom Deyhle of Deyhle Electric, Steve Cornett of C & W Custom Woodworking, and Jeff Frieze and Melissa Kehayes of Kitchen Cabinet Distributors.

The results of these generous donors add up to PRICELESS for Bethany House families. Their donations were combined with a HUD-funded Emergency Solutions Grant to complete the renovations.



Funders Help Families!

Summer is always a hectic time at Bethany House and this year was no exception. With almost 300 children running around between June and mid-September, it was a very busy place! Families visited King's Island, played Laster Tag, went to movie theaters, the Zoo, and COSI. These activities were made possible through generous grants from Summertime Kids and the Charles H. Dater Foundation.

New playground equipment is on the way thanks to GameTime for their matching grant and to the Charles H. Dater Foundation for providing matching funds.

Families moving into housing usually have none of the basic necessities for setting up a livable space for a family. Those who have been in housing occasionally face a financial crisis due to illness, unexpected expenses, or loss of a job. Both groups benefit from the Bethany House post-shelter support program, which can help rent payments, utility arrears, etc. on a temporary basis to ensure that the family does not lose their home. This program has been funded by the City of Cincinnati, Evelyn W. Dunn Charitable Trust, Agnes Nordloh Foundation, Robert A. and Marian K. Kennedy Charitable Trust, Stella M. Burger Charitable Trust, and the Sister Elise Fund of the SC Ministry.



BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

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You can make a child's holiday wish come true this Christmas season!

As you prepare for the festivities of the holiday season, please consider making your best donation to the homeless children and parents sheltered at Bethany House. More families in our community are experiencing homelessness than ever before, and we need your help.

Nearly 70% of the individuals we serve at Bethany House are children and it is the children who bear the brunt of homelessness. Bethany House provides safety, stability, and the basic necessities every day while caring for the most vulnerable of our community. You can make a difference this Christmas and ensure that no child spends the night without shelter.

Thank you for helping Bethany House bring homeless children in Cincinnati one step closer to home for Christmas.

Wishing you and yours the joy of the season and the warmth of home.

Bethany House Board and Staff

My Christmas Wish!



2019 YEAR END GIVING



As you plan your 2019 year-end giving, thank you for considering Bethany House. You can make a difference in the lives of families experiencing homelessness right here in our community!

TO DONATE TO BETHANY HOUSE:

- 1 Use the envelope provided in this newsletter to mail your check or credit card information
- 2 Visit our website: bethanyhouseservices.org/donate/
- 3 Call us at (513) 557-2402

Bethany House Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, so your donation is tax deductible.