



FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Fall 2020

A New Family Shelter & Comprehensive Services Center

Bethany House is building a new family shelter and comprehensive services center designed to provide emergency services to homeless families and help them achieve housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

Increased Need....Increased Response

Family homelessness and poverty is an unmet need in our region. In the last five years alone, Bethany House has responded to this need, growing from 30 beds to 130 beds in 2015 and then to 170 beds in 2018. In 2019, nearly 1,700 families called the regional hotline for help but only 27% received shelter or program services. Today, as the largest family homeless shelter in Greater Cincinnati, Bethany House is uniquely positioned to meet the community need and help even more of our region's most vulnerable families return to stability and productivity.

One Step Closer to Home Campaign

Last fall, we launched a campaign that will enable Bethany House to provide more crucial support services through a new, consolidated family shelter. As you can imagine, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on the families we serve as homelessness is increasing and is expected to continue to rise substantially in the coming months.

Bethany House is bringing together public, private and tax credit support to reach our goal of \$16.5 million dollars. COVID-19 has made public funding more uncertain, which makes philanthropic and tax credit support even more crucial.

Bethany House has an opportunity to receive \$2.5M in New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) from the U.S. Department of the Treasury if we can reach 85% of our goal by the end of 2020.

An Accelerated Fundraising Timeline

It is with this timeline in mind that Bethany House is asking the community to make a capital investment in this new family shelter and comprehensive services center. By supporting this project, you are directly improving the lives and opportunities for our region's most vulnerable families.



TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT:

Serve 100 additional families – reaching more than 1,000 families annually.

Expand on-site services for all families: healthcare, employment services, counseling, and educational programming for children and adults.

Reduce the cycle of generational homelessness in our community.



By making your pledge now, your gift will help us secure essential tax credit support.

All gifts and pledges can be paid over multiple years.

Naming opportunities are a powerful way to leave a legacy and show your concern for families in need of basic necessities of life.

TO LEARN MORE about the project, visit our website at www.bethanyhouseservices.org/newbuildingcampaign or email info@bhsinc.org or call (513) 921-1131.

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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.

Cincinnati Cares!

So far this year, more than 600 children have been sheltered at Bethany House. The COVID-19 mandated confinement, changes in school procedures and loss of services provided by the schools have increased anxiety, behavioral issues and stress among the children. The following foundations have provided grant funding in 2020 to support the needs of the kids:

- Charles H. Dater Foundation
- Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation
- Jack J. Smith Jr. Charitable Trust/PNC Charitable Trust Review Committee and Karen B. Wachs, co-trustees
- Marge and Charles J. Schott Foundation
- Jr. Women's Club of Wyoming
- Summertime Kids
- Miami Valley Christian Academy — Magnified Giving program

Foundation support for expenses related to COVID-19 was provided through the **United Way/Greater Cincinnati Foundation COVID-19 Regional Response Fund**, Charles H. Dater Foundation, James J. and Joan A. Gardner Family Foundation, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO).

The **Greater Cincinnati Foundation** and the **Zonta Club** provided funding to maintain shelter operations and life skills classes for parents.

Bethany Homes, which provides 24 units of affordable housing, has received funding from the **PNC Foundation** and the **US Bank Foundation**.

The families and staff at Bethany House are grateful for the generosity and compassion demonstrated by the community through this pandemic.



Mardi Gras Sponsors and Supporters Feed Homeless Children

Shelter is critical and so is food! For 29 years, the annual Mardi Gras for Homeless Children fundraiser has helped to cover the cost of food and other critical needs for Bethany House families experiencing homelessness. Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters, volunteers and auction donors who help feed our kids every day! Thanks also to our Presenting Sponsor, Mercedes Benz of Fort Mitchell and the Wyler Family Foundation, and to long time supporters of this event and homeless children, the Marge and Charles J. Schott Foundation.



▲ L to R: Scott Sloan, 700 WLW; Shelia Gray, WKRC; and Giovanni Bernard, Cincinnati Bengals; served as the King, Queen, and Grand Marshall.



SAVE THE DATE
Mardi Gras 2021
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16!

More information to come!

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Helping Our Families During COVID 19

How COVID-19 Impacts Bethany Families

2020 has been challenging for all of us - but none more so than children and families without a home. How do you maintain “social distancing” when you are living in a shelter with 40 other parents and kids, sharing bedrooms, bathrooms, and dining rooms?

In early March Bethany House closed their two congregate shelters and collaborating with the other three family shelters, found hotel rooms for the families to keep them safe and healthy. Our precautions have been successful - to date, only one of our parents was diagnosed with the virus and recovered quickly.

When the economy started opening up over the summer, we were asked to vacate seven of our 22 hotel rooms. We found a replacement hotel in Sharonville. Now in early November, we have been asked to vacate the remaining 15 rooms. As this newsletter goes to press, we are still searching for hotel rooms and/or apartments for our families.

The commitment — and problem-solving ability — of Bethany House staff has been remarkable. Families have continued to be moved from shelter to permanent housing in spite of increased difficulty finding housing. Keeping homeless children in school is always challenging, but the pandemic presents new obstacles daily. We are thankful for the dedicated staff who face every day with grit and determination.

A silver lining to the pandemic has been the level of collaboration within our community — the family shelters, other homeless services providers, the county, the city, the United Way, local foundations and individual donors all worked together to keep our families safe! Thank you to all for sharing your knowledge, resources and support.



Dinner Time at the Hotel

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, Bethany House has been blessed with amazing volunteers who have provided dinner for our families housed in hotels. We are grateful for each and every individual, corporate group, restaurant, church congregation, etc., that cooked or catered a meal for our families. Thank you for making dinner time special for our families!

If you want to cook or cater a meal for our families, please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator at info@bhsinc.org or call (513) 557-2411.



▲ U.S. Bank hired local catering company Soul Secrets to deliver warm meals for our families in July.



▲ The United Way of Greater Cincinnati helped us by volunteering to provide dinners on three different nights!

CLIENT STORIES

Indiasia's Story

Indiasia, and her two daughters had been living with family friends. Eventually, her friend didn't have the space for her and her children any longer and asked her to find a place of her own.



▲ Indiasia after graduation.

With the help of Bethany House's Shelter Diversion program, she and the girls found housing and moved into a three-bedroom home within 30 days and avoided moving into shelter. Indiasia feels that she has really grown through her experience at Bethany House. “My case manager inspired me and gave me the confidence I needed to complete my coursework and get my high school diploma.”

“I could have ended up a statistic. I'm proud of my success and I want to help other families in similar situations. I want to be a part of their success stories!”

Shalondrea's Story

When she found out that she was pregnant, Shalondrea was asked to leave home. After moving around from friend to friend, she ended up living in her car. She and her young son arrived at Bethany House recently. Shalondrea states that the Bethany House staff motivates her to get her life together and they work hard to help her stay focused on what she needs to do to be successful at finding a job and caring for her son. She says that Bethany House has taught her how to be a good mother and she is grateful they have a place to lay their heads at night.



▲ Shalondrea and her son.

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. Below are Memorials and Tributes received January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

IN MEMORY OF

- Maxine Alexander**
Michael and Tricia Roddy
Susan and Michael Schiller

Elnora Bailey
Darlene Rauh

Joyce Bartish
Andrew and Alice Bartish

Patrice Booz
Constance Ryan Seiter

Claire Boyd
Susan Eberle

Lynn Brauch
Barbara Mers

Edna Brinkman
Thomas E. Brinkman, Sr.

Robert and Anna Mae Bruser
Barbara Bruser

Catherine Buchanan
Ronald Buchanan

Cecilia Cerroni
Sarah Hammers

Kelly Chambers
Russell B. Naber and Pamela J. Senefeld

June D. Cookman
Helen McGillicuddy

Mary Lee Davis
Robert Davis

Joseph Dierkers
Joan C. Dierkers

Jacob Doran
Tim and Mary Lou Kern, Sr.

Jack Ellis
Ellis Kaimann

Mackenzie English
Sean English

George Floyd
Carolyn McCabe and Joe Wiman

Laetitia Frankowski
Eileen Thome
- Mary Grossheim**
Duane and Kathleen Berwanger

Donna Growl
Shirley A. Dixon

Frank Harkavy
Samuel Harkavy

William Hepperle
Joseph and Charlene Hatton

Bob Hesse
Bruce and Judith Anderson

Dick Huffman
Mary Freedman

Victor J. Hyland
John H. Cooper Electrical Contracting Co.

Judy and Dan Jensen
Christina Valentine and David Valentine

Don Kaimann
Ellis Kaimann

Fred Klaiss
Jerome and Erika Judd

Brian and Beth Kasson

Robert and Janet Inkrot

Greg and Jackie Schaiper

Susan and Michael Schiller

Dorothy Kurtiak
James and Paulette Joyce

Joni Lipsey
Mr. and Mrs. John Nolan

Walter Litkovitz
Mary Litkovitz

Chris Mayer
Robert and Donna Mayer

Bethany House needs you...



...to become a monthly donor!
Your support of Bethany House will change the lives of at-risk families seeking to achieve housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency. With increasing family homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic, your monthly gift to Bethany House will provide hope for Cincinnati's most vulnerable families.

To become a monthly donor to Bethany House, visit our website: bethanyhouseservices.org/donate/ and simply check the box marked "Make this a recurring gift". For more information, please email info@bhsinc.org or call (513) 557-2402. Thank you!

Christmas in July

Can openers. Wastebaskets. Cleaning supplies. Soap. These are some of the items many would consider "basic." However, without them families run the risk of compromised health and poor nutrition. The impact of these items, especially on children, cannot be overestimated! To accomplish our mission, we provide everyday items for our families as they exit shelter into their own homes.

For two decades, the good people at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish have held their annual "Christmas in July" and have collected much-needed items for our families. This year was no different as they provided a car full of items and gift cards for our families! Thank you for helping our families move into their new homes.

To do your own donation drive please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator at info@bhsinc.org or visit our website to learn more about Bethany Basics at bethanyhouseservices.org/what-our-families-need/.



Bethany House Welcomes New Board Members

Susan L. Macy, MBA, BSN, RN, Tri Health. Susan is currently the Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of Good Samaritan Region.

Megan J. McCuen, is a licensed Physical Therapist specializing in geriatrics and is a registered yoga instructor teaching and volunteering in the community.

Gregory W. Olson, CEO of Urban Sites, is currently "The Immediate Past" Board Chair of the OTR Chamber and its Executive Committee. Greg also serves in various leadership capacities with several other local organizations.

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

CARES Act Makes Charitable Deduction Tax Free

As you consider your year-end contributions, did you know that because of the CARES act, you can take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you don't itemize?

You can now make cash contributions to qualified non-profits like Bethany House, to be deducted up to 100% of your Adjusted Gross Income for 2020!

2020 Ales to Zinfandels Goes Virtual!

Bethany House's 17th annual Ales to Zinfandels fundraiser pivoted from a one-night wine tasting to a three-night virtual event due to COVID-19. Each evening showcased Bethany House families, staff and volunteers providing testimonials on the impact the agency has on Cincinnati's most vulnerable families.

Through the generosity of dedicated Ales to Zinfandels sponsors, donors, and participants, we will be able to provide continued emergency shelter and housing programs for local families experiencing homelessness. Thank you!



◀ Pizza cooked by the chef.



▲ The Ales to Zinfandels production team with hosts Jatara McGee and Chef Brandon Fortener.

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A Beautiful Day on the Course



Our 27th Annual Golf Classic was held once again at Legendary Run Golf Course. We were excited to have 20 teams sign up in the middle of a pandemic and enjoy a hot day on the course. To keep everyone safe, teams were assigned a tee time, we packaged lunch, had a gift card for dinner, and made sure everyone who wanted their own cart got one! Congratulations to our winners!



▲ L to R: Golfers Greg Vollmer, John Banchy, Rhonda Sheakley, and Terry Horan smile for a photo at the Golf Classic.



▲ L to R: Dave Bockrath, Cincinnati Bengals great, Ickey Woods, Matt Mikula, Jacob Inesta, and Tyler Kerlin.

WINNERS

1st Place Team:
Art Hathaway, Dave Mueller, Ed Feldmann, Todd Johnson

2nd Place Team:
Jordan Huizenga, Jim Hood, Jacob Holbrook, Roger Schorr

Women's Closest to the Pin: Kim Burgess

Women's Longest Drive: Kim Burgess

Men's Closest to the Pin: Mike Gay

Men's Longest Drive: Jordan Roth

PLAYER GIFT SPONSOR

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Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

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Memorials and tributes continued.

- Frank “The Dog” McCuen
Melanie Holroyd

Dodie Meehan
Gerald and Julia Sullivan

Eileen Murphy
Barbara Hammel and Sandy Smith

His Dear Mother
Michael Murphy

Neve Panyko
Michael and Marie Panyko

Russell W. Porter
Ellen Porter

Mary Richter
Edward and Laurie Exson, Jr.

John W. Riggs
Paula K. Riggs

Jean Rossman
Sandra Geiser

Karl Rust
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Joanne Ruth
Walter Ruth

Kathleen Stautberg
Thomas and Janie Schaefer
Allan and Elaine Meyer
Barbara Tuchfarber
Susan and Michael Schiller
Martha Stockman Bennet
Whitney DuBois
Barbara Thacker
Michael Stock
Robert L. Wassler
Jane F. Wassler
Vincent Wilmes
Donald and Sandra Wilmes

IN HONOR OF
@talliesinyoung (twitter)
Alex Burnett

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Kevin and Anne Keefe

Biden/Harris
Katie Fiorelli

Barbara Bruser
Bonnie Pollard

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Beverly Luers
Humana

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Shannon Lutz

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Gregory and Sherry Schultz

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William Sprankles
Andy and Ari Cohen

Mary Stanton
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Alexis Suer
Martha Walter

Carolyn Washburn
Katherine Hoffman

James Williams
Community Health Systems

Gage Woolley
Barbara Bruser

From Chromebooks to Crayola Markers

Thank you to Dr. O’dell M. Owens and Interact For Health!

Interact For Health provided a \$10,000 grant to assist Bethany House with COVID-19 expenses. We were able to purchase chrome books and a specialized chrome book charging/ storage cart to help keep our children on track with their studies and prepare them for their virtual beginning to the school year.



Thank you to Corporate and Bigger Than Sneakers!

When Bethany House brought awareness to the fact that many of the students we serve had no access to technology outside the classroom, Corporate and Bigger Than Sneakers stepped up to raise funds toward the purchase of new laptops to help our students keep up with their classwork during the pandemic.

Through the generosity of their clients and a weeklong Facebook campaign, Corporate and Bigger Than Sneakers provided 40 chrome books to the students in shelter at Bethany House. Thank you, Matt Tomamichael and Corporate staff for your tremendous support of our students!



Thank you Manek family!

Special thanks to the Manek family for their tremendous donation of school supplies for our children. From book bags to binders to crayons, paper and markers, our students were ready to head back to school virtually. For our infants and toddlers, the Manek’s brought educational toys to help them enjoy learning, too.



▲ Manek family with school supply donation.

Masking Up to Stay Safe!

Keeping 150-170 people in masks at our five shelters has definitely been a challenge and we are so grateful to all who came to our rescue. Your donations have kept our children and families safe during the pandemic. Thanks to all for sharing your time and talent!



▲ Face masks sewn by MVCA Moms Prayer Group.



▲ Christy Stockton sewing masks for families staying with us.

“Max Gives” to Bethany House

Thanks to Tina DuShane for dropping by Bethany House this summer with a check for \$5,000! The amazing people at Thomas & Galbraith Heating, Cooling & Plumbing made this wonderful donation happen through their matching donation program, Max Gives. Your donation will certainly help the families who need it most!



▲ L to R: Deanna Powell, Development Director; Tina DuShane, Engagement Ambassador, Williams Comfort Air, and Barbara Bruser, BHS Development Associate.

2,400 Pounds of Food!

Did you know that homeless children go hungry twice as often as non-homeless children?

Thanks to the effort of The Kroger Co. Health and Wellness ARG (Associate Resource Group) the children and families staying at Bethany House recently received a tremendous food donation. Each of the 90 boxes of food donated to our families weighed nearly 27 pounds! This incredible donation was a gift to all of the families in both the Bethany House shelter and housing programs, and is greatly appreciated by every one of them. Thank you to all of the amazing members of the ARG for your support!



▲ Kroger employees and volunteers dropping off boxes of food to our shelter.

Alice Peacock Live

Bethany House is grateful to American Folk singer, Alice Peacock for her support of families experiencing homelessness in Cincinnati. During the summer quarantine, Alice hosted Facebook live concerts, singing and playing her beautiful music. A believer in our mission, she requested that her listeners support Bethany House, resulting in over \$2,100 in donations in donations to help make a difference in the lives of our families. Thank you, Alice, for sharing the mission of Bethany House with your faithful followers.



▲ Thanks to Alice Peacock for supporting our children and families.

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.

BETHANY HOUSE SERVICES

Bethany House Services
1841 Fairmount Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214
513.921.1131
www.bethanyhouseservices.org



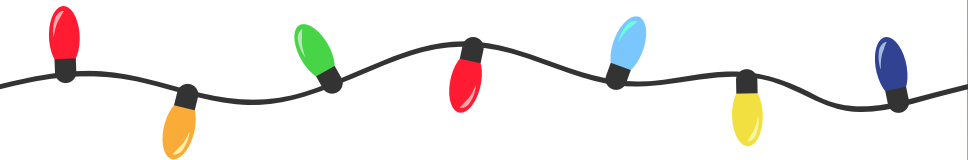
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Make Christmas Bright for the Children of Bethany House



You can make a BIG difference this Christmas and ensure that every family gets their holiday wish this season. Sign up to help our families by either scanning the QR code or going to our website and downloading our forms to adopt a Bethany House family!

TO LEARN MORE on how to adopt a family, please email info@bhsinc.org.

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

