



Bethany House Services launches capital campaign for consolidated shelter and comprehensive services center to expand and improve services to families experiencing homelessness

CINCINNATI – (Dec. 8, 2020) - Bethany House Services, Greater Cincinnati's largest provider of emergency shelter and housing programs for families experiencing homelessness, today announced the launch of its largest ever public campaign to raise funds for a new consolidated family homeless shelter and comprehensive services center. Total cost of the new center is estimated to be \$16.5 million. To date, \$10 million has been raised from generous foundations and individuals, including leadership-level gifts of \$1 million or more from Amazon's Jeff Bezos Day 1 Families Fund, the Heidt Family Foundation, the Farmer Family Foundation, the City of Cincinnati, the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation, and a local family who is choosing to remain anonymous.

"Bethany House is combining seven facilities into one consolidated family homeless shelter and comprehensive services center for families experiencing homelessness. "This facility is the top priority within the homeless system in Southwestern Ohio and will allow us to expand services to parents and children and reach more families each year," says Susan Schiller, Chief Executive Officer of Bethany House. The new shelter and services center will be located in Bond Hill.



Sketch of new facility

Explains Carolyn Washburn, chair of the Bethany House board of directors, "This facility is crucial to ensuring more families experiencing homelessness have access to a safe place to stay while they search for employment and housing. Bethany

House has continuously increased its response to meet the urgent need in the community, but our facilities have reached capacity and are holding us back. Families and staff are spread among seven locations scattered throughout the city, which is inefficient, costly, and means unequal access to programs for families.

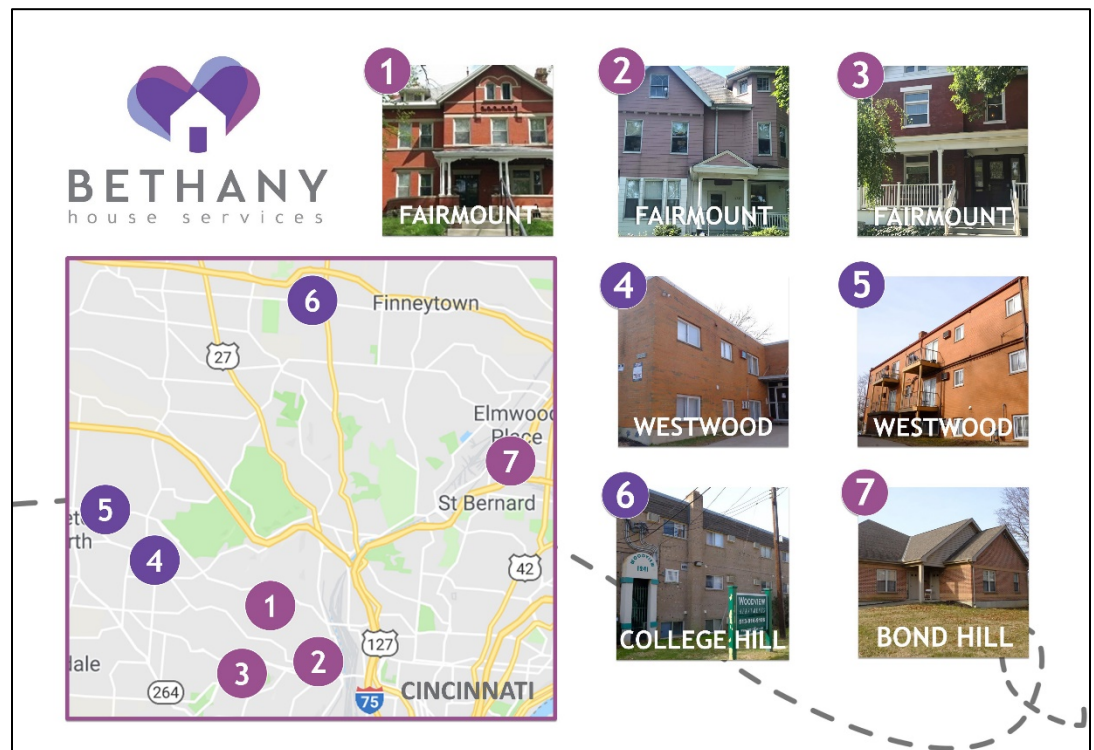
Regional data show that only about one in four families who called the homeless shelter hotline in 2019 received shelter or services. Agency-wide, Bethany House serves about 900 families each year and estimates it will provide shelter and services for an additional 100 families annually due to increased efficiencies and expanded on-site services in the new facility.

“Bethany House has an opportunity to receive \$2.5 million in New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) from the U.S. Department of the Treasury if we can reach 85 percent of our goal by the end of 2020,” explains Albert Smitherman, Bethany House Board Member and Co-chair of the Capital Campaign Committee. “For this reason, we are seeking the help of the public to help us reach this goal as quickly as possible.” An added incentive for donating by the end of the year is that a generous donor will match any donations up to \$50,000.

More information about the campaign is available at www.bethanyhouseservices.org/newbuildingcampaign.

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 client stories, programs and services, donation and volunteer opportunities.



Current Locations