



# FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Winter 2021



## New Building Update

**We have made great progress since our November newsletter!**

Our construction documents are finalized and we will begin site work in weeks. We continue to adjust scope as necessary to maintain our overall project budget. Facility completion and move-in is scheduled for late spring/early summer of 2022.

The key to our success will be obtaining all funding commitments. To date, we have raised \$11.6 million and we need \$2.4 million more, which will unlock the \$2.5 million in tax credits to reach our target of \$16.5 million.

Our great momentum is due the dedication and hard work of the Capital Campaign Committee and the Board of Directors. They have aggressively fundraised and have opened doors to new individuals, foundations and companies asking them to support the most vulnerable families in our community.

We are so close — despite trying to fundraise during a 100-year pandemic, public health crisis, economic downturn, racial unrest, and challenging political environment. Due to COVID-19, we have been granted a fraction of what the five single shelters received from state and local governments when they built their new facilities. This decrease makes private funding from individuals, corporations and foundations more critical than ever before.

**WILL  
YOU  
HELP US  
CLOSE THE GAP?**



A new family shelter is a basic and vital public need in our community, and we need the community's help. We are committed to make this important project happen for homeless families knowing it will have immediate and life-changing impact.

For additional information, please see our website [bethanyhouseservices.org/newbuildingcampaign](https://bethanyhouseservices.org/newbuildingcampaign) or call Susan Schiller at 513-557-2410.

*Your support will help us reach our goal!*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Bennett-Brown, *Human Resource Director*  
Peg Dierkers, *Chief Operating Officer*  
Kelly K. Freyler, *Chief Finance Officer*  
Taryn R. Frymire, *Housing Director*  
Deanna L. Powell, *Development Director*

**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,



Like many of you, I couldn't wait for 2021 to get here. So why does it still feel like 2020?

It will be awhile before life returns to "normal," whatever our new normal will be, but I hope and pray that what we have witnessed and learned this past year will continue to shine a spotlight on the children and families that Bethany House has been serving for the past 38 years.

The nightly news has shown the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected our city's most vulnerable populations. Bethany House families were the first to be affected by job loss, food insecurity, and then eviction.

While demand for family homelessness services in Greater Cincinnati continues to rise, the regional response system is at capacity. In 2019, nearly 1,700 families called the regional hotline for help, but only 27% received shelter or program services. In 2020, 2,100 families called the hotline, and only 21% received shelter and program services.

The families served at Bethany House reflect the demographics of poverty in our community. Regardless of the year, these are always the poorest families in our community, and the first to be negatively impacted by economic downturns and health threats.

People of color disproportionately experience homelessness locally, which has a tremendous impact on children and contributes to intergenerational cycles of poverty for families. Whether we are talking access to housing, healthcare, education, jobs or transportation, Bethany House is working hard to ensure our families receive the services they need to overcome the inequities they face daily.

I thank each of you for your support this past year. Your investment in Bethany House is an investment in the future of our families and the future of our community. We all rise together!

Susan

Susan Schiller, *Chief Executive Officer*

**Columbia University projects homelessness will increase across the nation by**

**40-45%**

**due to the COVID-19 crisis.**

## COMING FALL 2021



**ALES TO ZINFANDELS**  
2021

More information to come with in-person and virtual opportunities for tickets and sponsorship. Please call 513-557-2411 or email our Special Event Coordinator at [gwoolley@bhsinc.org](mailto:gwoolley@bhsinc.org) to learn more.

# You can give a family a new beginning!

Every day at Bethany House is a new beginning for a family experiencing homelessness. You make it possible for us to intervene and change the direction of the lives of children and their parents. In 2020, you helped Bethany House serve more than 970 families — over 3,500 individuals, of which more than 2,300 were Cincinnati's children.

## By supporting Bethany House

**YOU GIVE A CHILD** a warm bed and a safe place to sleep

**YOU HELP PARENTS** have access to life changing resources

**YOU PROVIDE CLOTHING**, shoes and coats for our children

**YOU PROVIDE MEALS** to hungry families

**YOU ENSURE** that experienced staff assess the development of our children, identify special needs and connect them to life changing services

**YOU GIVE FAMILIES HOPE** for a new beginning

Bethany House guest is welcomed to her new home with a balloon bouquet from her landlord. ►



## Here are FIVE SIMPLE WAYS to help give a Bethany House family a new beginning:

**1 ONLINE GIFTS:** Go to [bethanyhouseservices.org/donate/](https://bethanyhouseservices.org/donate/) and donate online using your credit card.

**2 CASH GIFTS:** Cash, checks, and wire transfers — all are welcome!

Please make checks payable to:  
Bethany House Services, and mail to:  
1841 Fairmount Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45214.



**3 STOCK GIFTS:** Gifts of appreciated securities are a great way to transfer assets to Bethany House as charitable contributions. Direct your donated stock to Bethany House's account by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/BHSstockdonationdirection>.

**4 PLANNED GIVING:** Please consult your financial advisor to learn more about supporting BHS through bequests, life income gifts, trust provisions, real estate, life insurance policies, or retirement plans. We recognize those who have included Bethany House as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

**5 DONOR ADVISED FUND:** Contact your financial institution, and give a family a new beginning through your DAF.

## Holiday Adopt-A-Family

Thanks to the support of 168 sponsors, 278 families in the Cincinnati area were given a very magical holiday season! With your help, and the help of our outstanding volunteers, we were able to transform our Bond Hill location into a miniature Santa's Workshop. A workshop that overflowed with the evidence of Cincinnati's kindness!

This event spanning the final weeks of December was driven by the need to bring wonder to the hearts of children, a need that you absolutely helped fill. With an enormous outpouring of generosity and gifts, children and parents who may have gone without presents in this year of financial hardship, were able to have a festive holiday. We proved that Santa is real in our actions and our hearts. The Holiday Adopt-A-Family was possible because of you! Thank you.





## 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  
November 1-December 31, 2020

### IN MEMORY OF

Dorothy Baker-Collins  
Jill Gaines  
Corrine Bolden  
Debra Reeves  
Walter Bruser  
Barbara Tuchfarber  
Catherine Buchanan  
Ronald Buchanan  
James Ceroni  
Regina and Thomas Mayerchak  
Dad  
C J Mag  
Mary Lee Davis  
Robert Davis  
Karen DeChristopher  
Christel Tyree  
Bill and K. Fette  
Mark Fette  
Donald E. Gunderson  
Steve Gunderson  
Jane Herzner  
Stuart G. Chantilas Family Fund of  
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
Esther Holthaus  
Ruth Holthaus  
Florence Hughes  
Patricia and Richard Loutzenhiser  
Charlene Kimber  
Barbara Tuchfarber  
Chloe Lucas  
Mary Bryan  
Alycen Mansell  
Nancy and John Nolan  
Chris Mayer  
Donna and Robert Mayer  
Dorothy Neuman  
Laurie and Stephen Cox  
Kandace Pandzik  
Mary Ann Falter  
Ariana N. Payne  
Carmelita Payne  
Russell W. Porter  
Ellen and Russell Porter  
John W. Riggs  
Paula K. Riggs  
Nedra Ruckman  
Deborah Maruffi  
Carol Ruehlmann-Peter  
Kathryn and Joseph Langley  
Robert Stephens  
Susan and Michael Schiller  
Martha Stockman Bennet  
Whitney DuBois  
Barbara Thacker  
Michael Stock  
Virginia Tuchfarber  
Richard Tuchfarber  
Montley and Eleanor Walker  
Mark Fette  
Donald, Fran and Barbara M. Ward  
Millie and Thomas Hines  
John Watson  
Marilyn and Ted Hospodar  
Brenda Williams  
Barbara Tuchfarber  
Roger Winterman  
Sally Wetenkamp

## Our Thanks to Local Foundations

Last year the generosity of the Greater Cincinnati community provided more than 1,000 homeless parents and children with a safe haven during the COVID-19 pandemic. Foundations stepped up and provided emergency funds to ensure that these high-risk families received the shelter and services they needed to survive the crisis and exit from shelter ready to live independently and stably in their own homes.

We are grateful to the generous foundations that have funded the needs of the children, supporting them as they struggle with school issues, separation from friends, anxiety and fear related to the pandemic, and restrictions on their activities. Thank you to the **Charles H. Dater Foundation**, **Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation**, **Jack J. Smith, Jr. Charitable Trust**, **Marge & Charles J. Schott Foundation**, **General Mills Foundation**, **Greater Cincinnati Foundation**, **Junior Women's Club of Wyoming**, **Miami Valley Christian Academy Magnified Giving program**, and the **Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust**.

Many other foundations have helped make it possible to move families into hotels, provide everyone with masks and the other items they need to remain safe and healthy, ensure that all families have food, provide necessities for families as they move into housing, and support the implementation of safety measures for staff and families when we are all able to move back into the shelter buildings. Our thanks to the **Greater Cincinnati Foundation**, **United Way**, **James J. and Joan A. Gardner Foundation**, **SC Ministry** and the **Sister Elise Fund of SC Ministry**, the **Sutphin Family Foundation**, and the **Good Shepherd Catholic parish**.



The children and families living in Bethany Homes, our 24 units of affordable housing, also benefitted from generous grants from **U.S. Bank Foundation**, which provided funding for a playground and special COVID-19 cleaning of the common areas in the buildings. U.S. Bank employees also volunteered and delivered meals to our homeless families being sheltered in the hotels. **PNC Foundation** supported the low income Bethany Homes tenants through a grant to replace all windows in the buildings and to repair the driveways and parking areas.

## LaSalle Fathers and Sons Day

We were thrilled to have two small groups from LaSalle High School volunteer with us for Father Son Service Day! The fathers and sons were able to help us sort and organize donations, file thank you letters, and clean our house in Fairmount.

Thanks so much for your support! To have a small group volunteer at Bethany House, please email our Volunteer Coordinator at [info@bhsinc.org](mailto:info@bhsinc.org) or call 513-557-2411.



▲ Sons and fathers smile after volunteering at Bethany House

## COVID-19 Update

Last March, when COVID-19 invaded our lives, we all experienced upheaval. The families sheltered at Bethany House were impacted much more profoundly than those of us who have nice houses to “socially distance” or quarantine within.

Bethany House leadership described March, April and May as “building the airplane as we were flying it.” Closing our congregate shelters in Fairmount and Bond Hill and moving families to hotel rooms were just the first steps to keeping everyone safe and healthy. Finding ways to provide services meant one adjustment after another. Protecting families required providing safety equipment and supplies, reassigning staff, new policies and procedures, getting technology equipment to the hotels — every day meant something new.

Shelter case managers connected with parents via phone, FaceTime, and in person, as necessary. The shortage of childcare for our youngest children and virtual school for our older children have been significant barriers to single parents. Feeding the families three meals a day in 25 hotel rooms has been challenging, too. The job market continues to hinder our parents from finding work and finding apartments is equally challenging.

The impact on our children has been traumatic. Our children transitioned to virtual learning, initially without the equipment, Internet access, and in some cases, the computer knowledge to even connect to classes. We restructured our children’s programming to incorporate academic instruction time and respite care. At two apartment buildings, Kidz Zone hours were expanded noon-8PM each day and we opened a new student/parent resource center at a 3rd location, equipped with desktops and laptops for student and parent usage. Children’s services staff are on site daily to facilitate continuation of schoolwork and promote interactive family activities within their own space.

We know we are not alone. Our sincere thanks to all who keep our families fed and clothed and moving from homelessness to permanent housing — no matter how difficult circumstances are for all!



## IN HONOR OF

Jen Bahl  
Katherine Jarnigo  
Helen Baumann  
Harry and Helen  
Rabe Family Fund of  
the Greater Cincinnati  
Foundation  
Bonekemper Family  
Lawre Bonekemper  
Collin Bonekemper  
Laura Borsky  
Gregory Wolber  
Marilyn Bossman  
Tommy McEvoy  
Walter Carroll  
Marilyn and David  
Wempe  
Janice Clay  
Sr. Delia Sizler, SC  
A. David Davis  
Cara LaMond  
Amanda Deford  
Rachel Zeno  
Margaret Dierkers  
Teddy Maurer  
Jeff Eberlein  
Marjorie Montanus  
Sr. Margaret M.  
Efkanan, OSU  
Jennifer and  
Steven Lohrer  
John Feist  
Sharon Feist  
Sr. Virginia Ann  
Froehle, RSM  
Mary Beth and  
Kenneth Ganote  
Sr. Grace Ann Gratsch  
Karen and  
Jeffrey Witte  
Groh Family  
Shirley Groh  
Mark Guttman  
Leanne Pettichord  
Thomas & Katherine  
Hayes  
Emma and Jason  
Cohen  
Robert S. Heidt  
Nancy and  
Richard Klus  
Sr. Lynn Heper, SC  
Sr. Monica Lucas, SC  
Maureen Maxfield  
Mary Herbers  
Ellen Brock  
Mary and Edward  
Herbers  
Laurie Hibner  
Laurie and John  
Hibner  
Robert Inkrot  
Michael Ibold Wilger  
Foundation  
Jonathan W. Wolf  
Sharon Kemble  
Sharon and Ray  
Kemble  
Ali Kennedy  
Janette Metzger  
Steve & Eva Kishimoto  
Kyle Nakamoto  
Dwane K. Mallory  
Sharon and Tom  
Felix  
Eliot Meniffee  
Ingrid Smith  
Sydney Miccoli  
Lisa and Peter  
Miccoli

Margaret Morgan  
Gary Morgan  
Katy Morris  
Jon Morris  
Tara Noland  
Burkehaven Family  
Foundation  
Paul and Becky’s  
Nuptials  
Annette Beatty  
PNC Bank - Personal  
Wealth team  
Lisa Sampson  
Deanna Powell  
Barbara Tuchfarber  
Maureen and Drew  
Ramsay  
Annemarie Scobey  
Polachecks  
Matt Rosen  
Jeff Rosen  
Phil Rosile  
Jeffrey Zaenger  
Tim Roth  
Barbara and Victor  
Roth  
Susan Schiller  
Anjanette and  
Michael Stautberg  
Jane and Larry  
Bennett  
Lea and Stephen  
Brinker  
Erin Schultz  
Sherry and Gregory  
Schultz  
Mary D. Schweitzer  
Julie and TJ Wood  
Sr. Delia Sizler  
Nancy and Frank  
Clark  
Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM  
Margaret Scully  
Emily Hampp and A.  
Stevens-Gleason  
Shelley Hampp  
The Cain Family  
Eugene W. Koesters  
Marie Thomas  
Janie and Thomas  
Schaefer  
Trina and Alecia  
Erin Harper  
Barbara Tuchfarber  
Ann DeGroot  
Jerry Warner  
Amy Moertle  
Carolyn Washburn  
Jennifer Eismeier  
Roy Whitford  
Leslie and Peter  
Whitford  
Ethan Wood  
John Wood  
Barney Wright  
Gina and  
Christopher Watkins

## Susan Schiller Honored as C-Suite Award Winner

Susan Schiller, CEO of Bethany House Services, is a recipient of the 2020 Business Courier’s C-Suite Awards! The annual C-Suite awards program honors top-level executives who have shown outstanding leadership and driven stellar performance at Greater Cincinnati businesses and nonprofits. Susan won for top Chief Executive Officer. VonLehman CPA & Advisory Firm sponsored this year’s awards. Susan was one of 41 finalists for the honor and one of 14 to be selected. We are so proud of this honor because it is a testament to the flexibility and resiliency Bethany House showed in navigating 2020.

In accepting the award, Schiller gave credit to the dedicated staff and committed volunteers and especially, the families. “My inspiration comes from the homeless children and their parents who come to Bethany House every day. As a community, we have to ensure every family has a place to call home and no spends a night without shelter.”



▲ Susan Schiller accepting her C-Suite award from Colleen Swanson of VonLehman CPA & Advisory Firm.



## The Bethany Basics

As families exit shelter into their own homes, we make sure each is equipped with the basics to set up housekeeping, like bed sheets, blankets, pots and pans, waste baskets...just to name a few! These are the items that all our families ALWAYS need, and we call them the Bethany Basics.



▲ Shelter Assistant Mary Watkins receives Bethany Basics donations.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ARCHIE!

For their good friend, Archie's birthday, Rebecca Myers and friends decided to celebrate by donating Bethany Basics items in his honor to a family

moving from the shelter into permanent housing. Thanks to them, one lucky family will now have all the necessary items to set up housekeeping in their new home! Thank you, Rebecca and friends, and we hope you had a great birthday, Archie!

## THANK YOU CINCINNATI WOMAN'S CLUB

The Cincinnati Women's Club donated two large boxes of warm clothing and Bethany Basics for our families! As part of their 12 Days of Giving program they collected items for many nonprofits in the city and we are so happy they thought of our children, moms, and dads!



▲ L to R: CEO Susan Schiller with Kacey Schmidt of the Cincinnati Woman's Club.

Though the holidays have passed, we all know that winter carries on even once the trees and lights come down. If the spirit of giving still sits at your doorstep, please consider donating Bethany Basics or other new items for our families by contacting us at [info@bhsinc.org](mailto:info@bhsinc.org) or call 513-921-1131, or visiting our website, [bethanyhouseservices.org](http://bethanyhouseservices.org).

## BHS Staff Receive A Surprise

It's been a challenging time for all of us, including for our staff members who serve our families every day, often putting their health and safety at risk. Elena Teran wanted to provide an extra holiday treat for our staff by providing \$50 gift cards to various



▲ L to R: Human Resources Director, Mary Brown; Shelter Director, Gwen Green; and donor Elena Teran.

local restaurants. Not only did she provide this wonderful surprise for our staff, she also brought Bethany Basics items and gift cards for toys for our children. From all of us at Bethany House, thank you, Elena!

## CHUMS Gives Back

Thanks to Cincinnati CHUMS, Inc. and Karen for stopping by and dropping off pajamas and socks for our families. This was the perfect donation for our families right before Christmas to help them get into the holiday spirit. We are so grateful for your continued support! Thank you!



▲ L to R: Bethany House CEO Susan Schiller with Cincinnati CHUMS member Karen.

## Board Games Galore!

At the beginning of the pandemic, everyone wanted games and puzzles to help occupy their time in quarantine! Our families experiencing homelessness didn't have the same "fun" options besides the old existing games we had at the shelter. Luckily, Nikki, her family, and her friends came to the rescue! With their support, we were able to get over 100 new board games for families. We are so grateful that our families were able to spend some quality time hosting game nights with their children due to your generosity. Thank you!



▲ 100 new board games under the Christmas tree.



## Feed our Families!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Do you want to help our families this New Year but don't know how? Consider volunteering to cook (or cater) a homemade meal! Dinners are Sunday through Thursday evening.

Recently, it was Taco Tuesday and Colleen Lechlak, her family, and friends provided dinner for guests sheltered at Bethany House. They prepared and cooked all the food from the comfort of their home, and then dropped it off to our staff so we could safely deliver the meal. Our families LOVED the home-cooked meal!



On Christmas Eve, The Kappa family cooked an amazing homemade meal for our families staying at the hotel with ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, and mac and cheese!



Luckily, Kevin is also friends with Santa and he showed up to hand out toys and gifts to our families.

To serve our children and families by providing a meal, please email [info@bhsinc.org](mailto:info@bhsinc.org) to get a list of available dates, details, and instructions!

## Preston Brown Foundation Virtual Holiday Giving Event

In conjunction with our partners at UpSpring, the Preston Brown Foundation selected two families from Bethany House to participate in a 2020 Virtual Christmas Shopping



▲ Our moms picking up their shopping bag from UpSpring.

experience, sponsored by Macy's. The children received toys and clothes, and the parents a \$100 Kroger gift card for a delicious holiday meal! Thank you to the Preston Brown Foundation for making our families wishes come true this holiday season!



## Literacy & Love

In October, we collaborated with New Church of Montgomery and Blue Manatee Literacy Project and Bookstore to host a book drive for our families and children staying at our shelter. Due to the generosity of the community, over 130 books were donated to the shelter celebrating diversity and inclusion! They range from baby books through adult fiction titles. Not only did Blue Manatee donate 130 books, they also gave 15% of the proceeds of each sale back to Bethany House. Thank you for helping our children learn!



## Rock the Block with Habitat for Humanity

Recently, we partnered with Habitat for Humanity for their annual Rock the Block event! They hosted volunteers all over the city with some of them coming to Bethany House to help us beautify our spaces. The group mulched, raked, painted, and helped us replace a rotted out pergola. Thank you so much for helping keep our spaces clean and beautiful!



▲ Freshly mulched and cleaned Housing and Administration buildings.



▲ A volunteer replaces a wooden beam on the pergola.

## 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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Cincinnati, OH 45214

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## Be a Superhero and Become a Monthly Donor!



Bethany House needs you to become a super hero and provide hope for Cincinnati's most vulnerable families! With a monthly gift, you can **PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT** allowing us to build a community where all families have a place to call home and no one spends a night without shelter.

To become a monthly donor to Bethany House, scan the code below or visit our website: [bethanyhouseservices.org/donate/](http://bethanyhouseservices.org/donate/) and simply check the box marked "Make this a recurring gift".



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
please email  
[info@bhsinc.org](mailto:info@bhsinc.org)  
or call (513) 557-2402.  
Thank you!

◀ A child staying at Bethany House dressed as Superman for Halloween.



**LEAVE A LEGACY®**

## 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.