



FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Fall 2021



City Council members and County Commissioners joined Capital Campaign Chairs to celebrate the groundbreaking. L to R: Kim Baird, Campaign Co-Chair, City Council Member Steve Goodin, County Commissioner Alicia Reece, City Council Member David Mann, County Commissioner Stephanie Sumerow Dumas, City Council Member Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, CEO Susan Schiller, State Representative Sedrick Denson, County Commissioner Denise Driehaus and Albert Smitherman, Campaign Co-Chair.

Groundbreaking Celebration

After a successful campaign to raise \$18.5 million, Bethany House Services celebrated the start of construction on its new shelter and comprehensive services center, with a groundbreaking on September 14 at the site of the new facility on Reading Road in Bond Hill.

"Our vision to consolidate into one location began in 2015, and thanks to more than 200 generous donors, it became a reality today," says Susan Schiller, CEO of Bethany House.

Donors included \$11 million in private donations, \$4.65 million in public funding and \$2.8 million in New Markets Tax Credit financing. Donors of \$1 million or more were Day 1 Families Fund, The Farmer Family Foundation, The Heidt Family Foundation, Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation and an anonymous donor as well as the City of Cincinnati, which donated \$4 million.

The project benefited from New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing through support from the Cincinnati

Development Fund, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and PNC Tax Credit Solutions, a PNC Real Estate business, which also served as the investor for the NMTC transaction.

A broadcast of the groundbreaking event is on the Bethany House Services Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethanyHouseServices>.



Bethany House Board of Directors were active fundraisers supporting the project. Front L to R: Nahamani Yisrael, Lucy Crane, Robie Suggs, Caroyln Washburn, CEO Susan Schiller, Sr. Lynn Heper, SC, Megan McCuen, Gail Myers. Back L to R: Kim Baird, Darin Hall, Tony Chambliss, Albert Smitherman, Bob Inkrot, Ian Van Handel.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Carolyn K. Washburn, *Chair*
Lucy A. Crane, *Vice-Chair*
Nahamani D. Yisrael, *Secretary*
Susan M. Dyer, *Treasurer*

DIRECTORS

H. Kim Baird
Gina L. Bannister
Amanda R. Bente
Vincent D. Boddy
Donald L. Brown
Cornelius A. Chambliss, Jr.
Ross A. Crawford
Darin C. Hall
Sr. Lynn Heper, SC
Robert J. Inkrot
Catherine A. Kitchin
Megan J. McCuen
M. Gail Myers
Gregory W. Olson
Albert C. Smitherman
Robie K. Suggs
David L. Tramontana
Ian A. Van Handel
Pamela A. Webb
Carole C. Williams

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Susan S. Schiller, *Chief Executive Officer*
Margaret J. Dierkers, *Chief Operating Officer*
Kelly K. Freyler, *Chief Finance Officer*
Taryn R. Frymire, *Housing Director*
Gwendolyn M. Green, *Shelter Director*
Denise V. Hill, *Family Services 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,



I am proud to say that Bethany House has continued the legacy of our founders, Sr. Mary Grafe, SC, and Sr. Delia Sizler, SC, and our Executive Director for almost 30 years, Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM.

In spite of...

- a 3 ½ year property search
- doing our first Building Campaign in the middle of a 100-year pandemic
- a building cost that increased from \$16.5M to \$18.5M
- never ever having a million-dollar donor prior to this campaign
- and most importantly, in spite of most people not realizing that we have homeless children and homeless families right here in Cincinnati.

In spite of it all, in 2021 we started construction on our new shelter and services center. This journey began in 2015, and it has taken us nearly 7 years. But we would not give up, because we saw every day at the shelter and in our housing programs the difference we could make in the lives of our families.

We knew consolidating our seven facilities would have an immediate and life changing impact on our children and their parents. It is not often that we are fortunate enough to be involved in a project that will impact our city for generations. I believe this project will do just that!

My sincere thanks to our staff, the heart and soul of Bethany House and to our Board who saw the need and committed themselves to make this building a reality.

From the beginning we knew our Capital Campaign would be a heavy lift for a small agency like Bethany House. But as we shared the need of our families, the community stepped up — private individuals, foundations and government support have made this building possible. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with so many. Together, we are changing lives.

Gratefully,

Susan S. Schiller
Chief Executive Officer



Year-End Giving Can Change Lives

2021 has continued to be challenging for many families and the need for assistance has not slowed down at Bethany House.

Since 1983 when Bethany House first opened a shelter in Mount Auburn, the majority of our contributions arrive in December. This year we need your help more than ever.

A charitable donation can provide safe shelter for children and families, while having the added benefit of a tax deduction. Consider gifts of appreciated non-cash assets instead of cash. Donating stock can also increase the size of your gift. Another option is setting up a Donor-Advised Fund. Consult with your advisor to determine the best option for you.

Board Chair Carolyn Washburn pens Op-Ed

Printed in the Cincinnati Enquirer on Sept. 26, 2021.



Sept. 14, 2021 was a day I felt extra proud to be part of this community. At a ceremony on a beautiful sunny day, more than 100 community

members gathered to break ground on Bethany House Services' new shelter and comprehensive services center.

It was the culmination of seven years of effort to bring together such a variety of people to accelerate our ability to better serve and break the cycle of generational poverty for thousands of homeless children and their moms. It was a reminder of how powerful it can be when we work together, and it was a boost of confidence in the work still to do.

After more than 38 years of sheltering homeless families in a hodgepodge collection of old, maintenance-needy buildings across the county, less than a year from now we will house all of our families, staff and community partners in one modern, efficient building. We will be able to move families into their own housing more quickly and open space to serve another 100 families a year. Kevin Finn, president and CEO of Strategies to End Homelessness, says this is the most important initiative around homelessness in

the community.

That means more struggling young parents can find housing, a job and life skills to keep their children in stable housing. It means thousands more children are consistently attending school and getting the medical and mental health care they need. Even though homeless children aren't often seen, they bear the worst of homelessness. They are sick and hungry twice as often, change schools seven or eight times a year, are diagnosed with twice the rate of learning disabilities and likely to have a major mental health disorder by the time they are just eight years old. Bethany House has improved those odds for 38 years.

But it takes all of us who were represented at that groundbreaking to walk beside the children and young moms in our community who are struggling most. This community raised an unbelievable \$18.5 million — during a pandemic — to move this project forward. We are working to raise just the last \$1 million or so to outfit the facility with some final important needs, like commercial kitchen equipment.

It takes the truly incredible staff of Bethany House, who put their arms around women and children at their most desperate time when they may not be their prettiest or their best. This new facility will make all of the difference for our team doing this hard, hard work.

It takes the more than 80 community partners who will be able to do their work here where the families are — the medical and mental health professionals, the people who will help our moms with jobs and their parenting skills, the organizations that provide child care and clothing and furniture and haircuts.

It takes the government, supplementing the private sector, using our taxpayer dollars to do work that will make the community healthier, safer and more equitable and improve the future for all of us.

It takes dozens of significant private donors, putting their own personal assets on the line and attracting others to do the same to make a difference for a generation of children.

And it takes hundreds of folks of everyday means who stretched themselves to contribute what they could to play a part and thousands who volunteer their time and skills and personal touch.

All of us can feel proud, of the community-wide commitment we are making to say family homelessness is not acceptable here and we're going to keep fighting.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all of us at Bethany House and on behalf of the families we support.

Carolyn Washburn is board chair of Bethany House Services.

Spectrum Employee Community Grant



◀ Thanks to Spectrum for supporting our children and families with the Spectrum Employee Community Grant. Left to right: Jason Kershner, Director, Government Affairs, Spectrum, State Rep. Catherine Ingram, Denise Hill, Bethany House, Jeanette Richardson, Director, Human Resources, Spectrum, and Bethany House leadership, Susan Schiller, Gwen Green, Peg Dierkers, Sarah Humphries, Janice Clay and Taryn Frymire.

Bethany House Welcomes New Board Member

Many thanks to a new member of our Board of Directors for supporting our mission and ensuring our families find stable housing and reach independence!

Vincent D. Boddy, Attorney, Bricker & Eckler, LLP

Memorials and Tributes Support Bethany House Mission

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. Gifts will be acknowledged in the Bethany House newsletter.

Memorials and Tributes received July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021

IN MEMORY OF

Joe Breiner
Eileen and Earl Kisker
John W. Brogle
Cheryl Garnett
Frank Byrne
Eileen and Earl Kisker
Lucille Carey
Shirley Dixon
Ann Cronin
Barbara Tuchfarber
R. Lou Dixon
Shirley Dixon
Lorraine Halker
Judith and Bruce Anderson
Ruth Ann Hayden
Lynne and David Whang
LaQuita S. Johnson
Roslyn Wynn
Mary & Chuck Kunes
Susan and Tim Viox
Kenneth Martin
Lisa Taylor
Neve Panyko
Marie and Michael Panyko
Robert Polewski
Barbara Tuchfarber
Susan and Michael Schiller
Janie and Thomas Schaefer
John Spohr
Susan and Ron Spohr
Martha Stockman Bennet
Whitney DuBois
Susan Tinanoff
Stephanie Jaffe

IN HONOR OF

Bass & Associates Book Drive
Elaine Sosnowski
Jaanakia Schiller
Barbara Tuchfarber
Susan Schiller
Judy and Bill Newbold
Patricia and Timothy Reilly
Erin Schultz
Sherry and Gregory Schultz
Sister Mary Stanton, RSM
Mary Schweitzer
Daniel Ansel
The Birth of our Lord Jesus
Theresa and Kenneth Mullen

Susan Schiller Announces Her Retirement

After nearly nine years of service, Susan Schiller will retire the end of May 2022 as CEO of Bethany House Services. Susan shared her thoughts below when she announced her retirement.

It has been an honor to work alongside and learn from an unbelievably dedicated and knowledgeable staff. This staff and a committed Board of Directors responded to the increased need of families and supported our growth from 30 shelter beds to 130 beds in 2015 and to 170 beds in 2018, while continuing excellent service outcomes. We increased our housing contracts 500% and expanded services to our children. Our 24-unit apartment complex transitioned into a social enterprise, which now supports our mission.

Bethany House Services is well positioned for the future, having surpassed our capital campaign goals and begun construction on our new shelter and consolidated services center. We have diversified our revenue streams and increased our contributions — we have kept our budget balanced during a 100-year pandemic thanks to our committed donors and volunteers. Most important, we have increased the awareness of family homelessness throughout the community.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished together at Bethany House, but it's time for someone else to take the helm — and for me to spend more time with my grandchildren!

Bethany House has never been stronger, and I am confident that the best is yet to come. You'll hear much more from us in the coming months as a search for my successor is launched.

My sincere thanks for your support!
Together, we are changing lives!

All my best,

Susan Schiller



St. Dominic Parish and School Donates Bethany Basics

Thank you to the incredibly generous St. Dominic Parish and School for the carloads of household goods that were collected for our families. 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, dishes....just to name a few! These are the items that our families ALWAYS need, and we call them the Bethany Basics. We rely on the generosity of the community to provide these household items to help our families get established in their new homes.

For more information on how you can provide Bethany Basics for our families, please scan the QR code or visit our website: bethanyhouseservices.org



▲ Thanks to these wonderful donors, we have more household goods for our families.



You're Invited to Mardi Gras 2022!

For 31 years the Greater Cincinnati community has come together to remember the four children who were homeless and perished in a garage fire in 1991. Led by the Northern Kentucky Restaurant Association and Commonwealth Hotels, Mardi Gras for Homeless Children was organized to feed children without a home in our community.

You are invited to help support our children while celebrating Fat Tuesday with us! Be a sponsor, donate an auction item, purchase tickets and attend Mardi Gras at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center on March 1, 2022.

For more information, to secure your sponsorship, or to purchase tickets, contact Margaret Stevenson, 513-557-2403 or bethanyhouseservices.org/mardi-gras-for-homeless-children/

Mardi Gras
For Homeless Children

Individual tickets make great CHRISTMAS PRESENTS for the person who has everything!

Gift the Mardi Gras experience to your family and friends this holiday season!



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



The Impact of Being a Monthly Donor

Bethany House depends on recurring donors to operate our shelter. Monthly donors keep our families safe in shelter, provide a warm bed, food and clothing. Moms find work and children get to school. Most important, our families achieve housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

To become a monthly donor to Bethany House, visit our website: <https://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- 921-1131. Thank you!



Families Still in Hotel Rooms

Over 20 months ago Bethany House closed our two congregate shelters due to COVID-19 and moved families to hotel rooms to keep everyone safe and prevent the spread of the virus. But we still need help feeding our families. Please gather your family and/or friends from work, church, school or scouting, and prepare and donate dinner for our families. For details, contact us at 513-921-1131 or info@bhsinc.org.

The Bethany House Baby Blankets Drive

Thank you to Kelly Chambers and her Friday Morning Charity Instagram followers for the beautiful blankets that were hand crocheted and donated from all over the country (and world!) to Bethany House. Kelly's original goal was to have 25 blankets donated, and surpassed her goal with an amazing 49 blankets from Montana, Washington, Illinois, Texas, New York, Minesota, Wisconsin...and even Singapore!

"Every year infants, toddlers, and preschoolers arrive at the shelter," said Denise Hill, Director of Family Services "these blankets will be treasured by our little ones."



Kelly, thank you for being an ambassador for Bethany House. ►





Thank you to Victoria and friends for supporting Bethany House Services. Your lemonade was delicious, and your big hearts and lemonade stand proceeds supporting families in need are much appreciated!

Nora and Tilly Purchase School Supplies



Thank you so much to Nora and Tilly for raising money for Bethany House. When the girls came up with the idea for a lemonade stand, Nora's mom told her she could use the money to buy souvenirs during their trip to Florida. Nora replied "No, we want to give the money to the families at Bethany House." Wow — what big hearts these 8-year-olds have! The girls donated \$175 worth of school supplies.

Nora's proud grandfather is pictured here with the girls at their lemonade stand.



A Birthday Tradition

Roohi and her son have had a tradition every year on his birthday to donate items to a local shelter. This year for his 7th birthday they decided to donate school supplies for our families and kids. These items are so important for our children to be successful in school. Thanks so much and happy early birthday!



Elli is an 8th grader who has been assembling and selling Bedtime Boxes and then uses the money raised to

buy Bethany Basics for our families. She told her mom that she feels that many people support the bigger service organizations and causes, which is great, but she feels that many people "forget the families."



Shop on Amazon Smile and help homeless children and families



It's so easy!
Here are the steps:

- 1 Visit smile.amazon.com
- 2 Sign into your Amazon account, or create an account
- 3 Find and select Bethany House Services
- 4 SHOP!

You can start shopping and earning rewards to help homeless families at Bethany House right away on qualifying purchases.

Learn more at smile.amazon.com.

Thank you for your support of Bethany House!

2021 Ales to Zinfandels: A fun evening for a great cause!

Over 200 friends of Bethany House danced the evening away at our 18th annual wine and beer tasting fundraiser, Ales to Zinfandels, held on October 23 at the Newport Syndicate. The enthusiastic crowd enjoyed a fantastic evening of fine wines, craft beer, delicious hors d'oeuvres and fabulous desserts, all while supporting homeless families served by Bethany House.

The event featured a live auction, more than 80 silent auction items, a "wall of wine," and music by The Ultra Sonics, who had the attendees singing along and dancing all evening. Says Susan Schiller, Bethany House CEO, "All who supported the event have made an enormous difference in the lives of our families."

Our sincere thanks to our celebrity master of ceremonies and auctioneer Dennis Janson,

commentator for WCPO.com and former Sports Anchor for 9 On Your Side, and the committee planning the event. They included Kate Bindus, Lucy Crane, Carolyn Fast, Joanne Girty, Jennifer Homer, Mary Huttlinger, Erika Judd, Karen McHale, Megan McCuen, Chris Michel, Gail Myers, Joyce Purcell, Nickii Rhodes, Jackie Schaiper, Peggy Scherzinger, Gia Williams and Challis Wood. Says Schiller, "I am truly humbled by all the support we received with this year's event. The committee, the volunteers, the sponsors, 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."



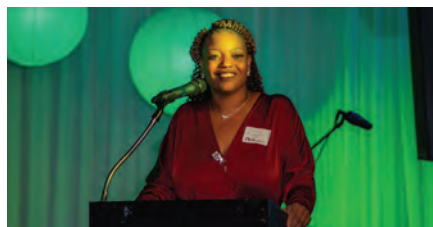
▲ Committee members that made it all happen — the Ales to Zinfandels Committee, left to right: Susan Schiller, BHS CEO; Lucy Crane; Joanne Girty; Challis Wood; Carolyn Fast; Peggy Scherzinger; Megan McCuen; Gage Woolley, BHS Staff; Jackie Schaiper; Gail Myers; and Margaret Stevenson, BHS Staff.



▲ Carolyn Washburn, BHS Board Chair (center) with friends Karen Dews (left) and Tamara Behrens (right).



▲ Robie Suggs & Alena Speed: Robie Suggs, BHS board member (left) with her friend Alena Speed.



▲ Maia, a former client of Bethany House Services, shared the moving story of how BHS made a huge difference in her life and the lives of her children.



▲ Dennis Janson, commentator for WCPO.com and former Sports Anchor for 9 On Your Side, was the celebrity master of ceremonies and auctioneer.



◀ Left to right: Susan Schiller, BHS CEO, with Mike and Megan McCuen. Megan is a BHS board member.



◀ Sue Dyer, BHS board treasurer, with her husband Terry.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



Rohs Family Fund

BRONZE SPONSORS



Laurie & Kim Baird



Kathy & Dave Schmidt

Bethany House Services
1841 Fairmount Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214
513-921-1131
bethanyhouseservices.org



Bethany House Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please direct any comments concerning this publication to: Bethany House Services, 1841 Fairmount Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45214. Bethany House Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.



1841 Fairmount Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati OH
Permit No. 7053

SAVE THE DATE



Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras for
Homeless Children

Fat Tuesday

March 1, 2022 | 6:30-10:00 pm

Northern Kentucky Convention Center

For information, sponsorship opportunities,
tickets, or to donate auction items, contact
Margaret Stevenson at 513-557-2403 or
mstevenson@bhsinc.org

Be a Bethany Benefactor.



LEAVE A LEGACY®

**Join a circle of supporters who have
made a bequest to Bethany House.**

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

Leave a Legacy that will last many lifetimes.