



FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Spring 2022



Progress!

We started site work in the spring of 2021 in Bond Hill — site clearing, demolition of the two group homes, and then excavation and sewer work.

We celebrated the groundbreaking in September 2021. As you can see in the pictures, we have made significant progress since then, and despite supply chain issues, we are on track to receive our Certificate of Occupancy in early August.

While the construction progress is exciting, what is really inspiring is the commitments we have already received from our community partners to provide services for our families on-site at the new shelter — medical and mental health care, life skills classes, job readiness and employment services.

Our new building will transform services for children and families experiencing homelessness in our community! The collaborations and the services we will provide will be life-changing for our children and their parents.



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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,



After almost nine years at Bethany House, this is the final Front Porch newsletter that I will write. As I announced in the fall, I am retiring the end of May.

I have loved my time here. I have learned so much and worked alongside the most dedicated people you will ever meet. I have had the support of fabulous board and committee members who were equally committed to our mission. And it has always been about our mission. **How do we care for our region's most vulnerable children and families experiencing homelessness?**

We responded to the need and expanded our shelter beds from 30 beds to 100 beds in 2015 when Mercy St. John closed their doors and then to 170 beds during the summer of 2018 when tents lined Third Street. I am always quick to point out these numbers never include all of our baby beds. Our Housing programs grew 500% during this same time, when we added two new housing programs, Shelter Diversion and Permanent Supportive Housing, and expanded our Rapid Re-Housing Programs.

During my tenure, I am proud to have played a part in the most ambitious project in the agency's history — building a new shelter. It was April of 2015 that we began work to ensure the best possible services for all of our families, regardless of where they were sheltered.

By the end of this summer, Bethany House's vision of consolidating seven locations into one shelter and comprehensive services center will become a reality when we move to our new home in Bond Hill.

I have been blessed to play a role in this work. Each day I found my inspiration in the children and families we serve. It has been a journey that I will treasure the rest of my life.

To all of you I say thank you. I want every donor and every volunteer to know that you are changing lives ... by supporting our mission, you are breaking the cycle of generational poverty and homelessness.

Together we have accomplished so much.

Gratefully,

Susan S. Schiller
Chief Executive Officer

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: 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!

JOB OPENINGS at Construction Site and at Bethany House!

Contractors at our construction site in Bond Hill have job openings. Bethany House also has job openings.

JOSTIN CONSTRUCTION

Apply here: jostinconstruction.com/job-openings/; contact Stephanie Crystal at (513) 559-9390 with any questions.

SURE MECHANICAL

Apply here: suremechanical.com/job-application/SprayKraft; contact Lesley Hammer at (513) 898-1050 with any questions.

TCF, a division of TriVersity
Apply here: www.trivc.com

BETHANY HOUSE has openings too. Apply here: bethanyhouseservices.org/careers

Reimagining the Family Shelter

FAMILY-FOCUSED DESIGN

TRAUMA-INFORMED DESIGN

PROMOTE EDUCATION,
SECURITY & HEALING

Our new shelter includes:

Private family bedrooms

On-site medical and mental health care providers

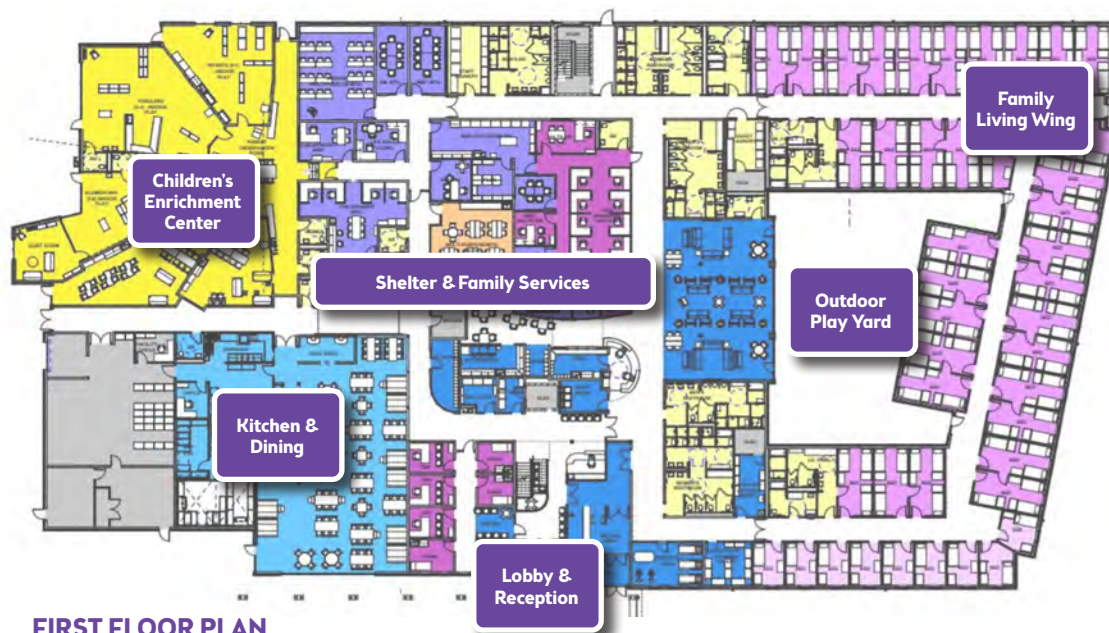
Employment services

Counseling and educational programs

Classrooms for Life Skills and Job Readiness programs

Interactive, age-based indoor enrichment areas and outdoor children's play spaces

Access to a full range of support services for every family served.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



Why Trauma-Informed Design Matters

Trauma-informed design brings the principles of trauma-informed care to life in our everyday environments. This approach realizes how the physical environment affects individuals, recognizes that it can have a physiological and emotional impact, and responds by creating supportive environments that resist retraumatization. While this approach is critically important for health care settings, given the widespread prevalence of trauma, all environments should prioritize and utilize trauma-informed design.

Trauma-informed environments promote physical, mental, and social health. They ensure physical safety from harm and danger. To support mental health, they emphasize consistency, predictability, and personal control. Finally, they facilitate social connection, community building, and participation in the design of the space (Dilani, 2018). This holistic approach aligns with the principles of trauma-informed care to create a welcoming space for staff and guests.

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing

YOUR GENEROSITY IS INSPIRING!

Toys and Games For All

We know many of our children's Christmases were made much brighter, thanks to the generous folks at City Gear. Thank you to Chris Jump who dropped off bags full of new, wrapped toys and games for boys and girls of various ages. There is sure to be lots of fun had by our families!



▲ Chris Jump bringing donations to our shelter.

Clarkson Eye Care Holds Toy and Toiletry Drive

Wow! is the first word that came to mind. Thank you to Amberly Jones and Patricia Labora of Clarkson Eye Care who held a toiletry and toy drive for staff and customers. Thousands of items were donated — toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, lotion to name a few, as well as many toys for our Bethany House children. The world is a better place because of people like you! Thank you.



▲ The Clarkson Eye Care Team smiling with donations for our families.

Mount Notre Dame Senior Chooses BHS for Capstone Project



▲ Merri Reed with donations she collected at Mt. Notre Dame High School.

Thank you to Merri Reed for choosing Bethany House for her senior Capstone Project at Mt. Notre Dame High School. Merri did a PowerPoint presentation about BHS and the impact of family homelessness at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School, collected items

and assembled 45 first aid kits, in addition to a cash donation. These items are so vital to the health and well-being of our families! We are so grateful Merri, and appreciative of MND for providing these important service learning opportunities for the young women at your school.

Keeping Our Families Warm

Thank you to the McLearn Family and Madly Good, who collected and donated winter coats and toys for our families. We are so grateful for your support of Bethany House Services. We cannot do what we do without support of generous families like yours!



▲ Thanks to the McLearn Family and Madly Good for supporting our children and families.

Calibrated CrossFit Gives Back

The generosity of the Cincinnati community continues to amaze! The fine folks at Calibrated CrossFit set up a Giving Tree at the gym with Bethany Basics items listed on the tags. Amanda Palmer said the tags were gone in a couple of days and the items dropped off for Bethany House filled two cars. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Bethany Basics items that many of us take for granted are so important to our clients. We are beyond grateful!

Calibrated Cross Fit and helpers delivering Christmas cheer. ▶



TOGETHER WE ARE CHANGING LIVES!

25 Days of Bethany House

Thank you to Kiley Hammond, Beth Williams and Pilot Chemical who hosted "25 Days of Bethany House" in December for our families. The generosity of the Pilot Chemical employees was overwhelming! We honestly could hardly walk through the shelter lobby. Employees collected New Mom Hamper Kits and Family Hamper Kits with hundreds of items being donated to Bethany House in addition to meals that were provided for shelter families. We are so grateful for your support.



▲ The Pilot Chemical team donating Bethany House basic items.

St. Columban Brightens the Holidays

Supporters of Bethany House for decades, the parishioners of St. Columban Parish once again collected and donated Christmas gifts for our families. Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners, toys, clothing, household goods and gift cards were delivered to our families for Christmas. Your donations have touched thousands over the years!



▲ St. Columban Parishioners smiling while bringing donations to our apartment shelters.

Coats for All

Thank you to Pastor Penny Magee and the Mt. Washington United Methodist Church for holding a coat, hat and glove drive for Bethany House. Our families arrive at our shelter with everything they own in one or two garbage bags, so clothing is always needed. We are so appreciative of these warm clothes this winter!



▲ Penny Magee dropping off warm weather clothes.

Thank You St. Ursula Students

It is always impressive to see high school students giving back to their community. Thank you to the St. Ursula Academy Ohio Junior Classics League who held a donation drive for Bethany House. New, good quality household items when setting up a household, often for the first time, is critical to success. You ladies rocked it!



▲ St. Ursula students with donations at our main shelter.

Students Collect Coats

We are so grateful for these impressive 6th graders from Xavier University Montessori Lab School who initiated a drive and collected over 60 new children's winter coats. We know how harsh Cincinnati winters can be, and these coats will help keep our children warm. This is another wonderful example of kids helping kids. One student told Denise Hill, Family Services Director, that she "wants to work in public service" and thought "this was a great way to start helping people." These students are sure to be great leaders one day.



▲ Xavier University Montessori Lab School students with Denise Hill, our Family Services Director.

Memorials and Tributes Support Our Mission

Send a message of support, respect, gratitude or love while supporting the mission and the work of Bethany House.

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 is sent in your name to the individual you are honoring or the family of the person remembered. Gifts are also acknowledged in the Bethany House newsletter.

Memorials and Tributes received October 1, 2021, through February 28, 2022.

IN HONOR OF

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Sisters of Charity
Girl Scout Troop 4060
Andrew Ulmer

Greater Cincinnati
Association of Black Journalists and Kyle Inskeep

Scott Bridge
Nate Allen

David Durbin
Mark Johnson
Greta Bachhuber
Nathan Bachhuber

Alberta Baldock
Denise Salyers

Matthew Barnes
Patricia and Barney Barnes

Allison Blackburn
Anne Crowley
Walter & Jackie Carroll
Marilyn and David Wempe

Timothy Dewald
Samantha Dewald
John Feist
Sharon & John Feist

Whitman Feltner
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Joyce Ferrell
Mary Schweitzer

Thomas & Galbraith
Donna Coffey

Cathy Habes
Laura Shugrue

Thomas Hauer
Margo Moats

Katie Hausfeld
Rebecca Novacek

Dr. Robert & Julie Heidt
Nancy and Richard Klus
Mary and Michael McGraw

Amy & Steve Holter
Sr. Lynn Heper, SC
Martha Bens
Ruth and Paul Leugers

Robert Inkrot
Patty and Thomas Keckeis

Jonathan, Carla and Amaya

Susan Heng
Charles F. Jung
Macy Raymond

Kevin and Nancy Kappa
Kim Bretnitz

John and Laura Luken
Gerri and Vince Pellegrino

Patricia Hennie
Susan Morency

Steve & Eva Kishimoto
Kyle Nakamoto

Lynda Leugers
Jennifer Leugers

Amy McDuffie
Brian Reynolds

Jack Mischler
Ellen Nazarenus

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Sandra S. Peak

Laura & Peter Roberts
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Christy Howell

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Candice Liska

David Heidelberg
Greg and Lila Wells

Lynn Younger
Susan Schiller

Mary and Peter Rebold
Delia Sizler

Nancy and Frank Clark
Paul Smith

Jaclyn Wolff
Sperry

Janette and Matt Yauch

Jennifer Spurlock
Patricia Carey

Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM
Colette Summitt

Daniel Ansel
Cheryl and Jerry Wilkerson

Mary Maxwell
Lynne Mayo

Barbara Tuchfarber
Ann DeGroot

Baby Wadsworth
Carissa Price

Peter Whitford
Jean and Jean & Kurt Whitford

Carolyn Washburn
Harry Robinson

Carole C. Williams
Michelle Olmsted

Zion Baptist Church
Evelyn McKinney

"If we build it...they will come!"

Since we began the journey of first planning and then paying for a new facility, I have repeated the *Field of Dreams* quote — "if we build it, they will come." I firmly believed that our community partners, who have worked with us for decades, would join us in serving our communities' most vulnerable children and families in our new facility.



I am happy to report that our vision will become a reality in 2022! All of our families will have access to a full range of support services and our children will have expanded educational and socialization services thanks to our communities' best providers!

All of this is possible only because of the commitment made by so many over the decades to support our mission and our families.

Susan Schiller, CEO

More than Shelter!

Rebecca, along with her mother and four daughters, lived at the Bethany House shelter for several months. The three generations of this family received safety, beds, food, clothing, and all other necessities.



Reflecting on her shelter stay, Rebecca said she learned so much through the Life Skills classes and working closely with the Bethany team — her case manager, shelter and housing staff. She gained the self-confidence and the motivation to find a good job, which allowed her to secure housing for her family.

Vowing to never be homeless again, Rebecca shared how the experience had a negative impact on her children. She is so grateful for Bethany House's Starting Strong program for younger children and Bridging the Education Gap for school age children. These opportunities set her children on a path for success as well.

Today, Rebecca is renting a 4-bedroom house and has full-time employment at a technology company in their shipping and receiving department in Erlanger and her kids are doing well in school. This is what we mean by More than Shelter!

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!

Bishop Lewis "Bobby" Hilton, Chief of Staff, Office of Hamilton County Commission President Stephanie Summerow Dumas and Senior Pastor, Word of Deliverance Ministries for the World, Inc.

The Need Increases!

Bethany House continues to respond to the increasing need of homeless families. We grew from one 30-bed shelter to five shelters and 170 beds (this doesn't include our baby beds). In 2021, we provided over 60,000 bed nights to homeless children and their parents — this was a 16% increase from 52,000 bed nights we provided in 2020.

We are only able to respond to our community's need because of our donors and funders who believe as we do, that all children and families deserve food, clothing and a home!

Private Foundations help Change Lives

The generosity of the Greater Cincinnati community toward families struggling with homelessness during the two-year pandemic has been inspirational. The past several months has brought unprecedented support for the children and parents sheltered at Bethany House.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES



The extraordinary needs of families in shelter during the past eight months of COVID were met by extraordinary staff with the support of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, SC Ministry Foundation, Lawrence Home, Evelyn W. Dunn Charitable Trust, Scripps Howard Foundation, Justin R. Niklas Family Foundation, PNC Charitable Trusts, Robert A. & Marian K. Kennedy Trust, and the Stella M. Buerger Charitable Trust.

SUPPORT AFTER LEAVING SHELTER



Educational programs for parents that provide a foundation for stabilizing the family after leaving shelter were supported by PNC Foundation, the Zonta Club of Cincinnati, Difference Maker Legacy Fund, and the Sister Elise Fund of the SC Ministry Foundation.

We are very grateful to all of our funders, who make it possible to turn the dream of living independently into reality for hundreds of families each year.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN



Children's programs have been modified to meet the changing needs during times of in-class and virtual learning. During the past seven months, the Charles H. Dater Foundation, Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation, C. Scott Riley III Foundation, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and Summertime Kids funding supported the educational, physical and social needs of more than 450 children during a very difficult time in their lives.

SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Bethany Homes, which provides affordable housing for low-income families, received a generous grant from the U.S. Bank Foundation to keep families healthy and safe through the epidemic.

IN MEMORY OF

Jen Amable Anonymous Anita Carter Jennifer Williams Theresa and Thomas Tiemeier	Shirley Groh John Niehaus Kathy Brandstetter Gregory Ross Karen and William O'Brien Niehaus Financial Services LLC Teresa Groh Lisa Scheck Connie and Steven Fulton Paul and Colleen Bachna Caryn and Dave Purdy Maureen and James Nelson Mary and James Bernard Mary and Edward Herbers
Shirley Ashbaugh Jackie Baumgartner Patricia M. Babb Kate Babb Shone Patricia R. Barnes Terrance Riley Claire Boyd Susan Eberle Richard Bozian Patricia and Robert Shryock Gerald J. Breen Gregory Harness Mary Blom Forrest and Kathy Longway Vivien Finnigan Janet and Robert Inkrot Jeanne Longway Alex and Lynn Schneider Millie and Thomas Hines Craig Jones Susan Swain Cecilia Cerroni Regina and Thomas Mayerchak Marcy Conner Dennis Conner Dad CJ Mag Lance Drinnen Mandy Huecker Janice Echols John and Nancy Brinker Theresa Friscone Susan Graham Melinda Fosse Gina Bisazza Helen Wong Jordan Person Sally Freund Linda Woods Marguerite and John Panyko Cliff Webb Kendra McKeever Randy and Theresa Gavalya-Davis Nancy and Frank Doyle Lorraine Becker Loretta and Richard Homick Buena and Kishor Joshi Mary Uleman Maria Martinez Kathy and Skip Mastantuono	Christine Gruber Ann Howard Jane Herzner Fred Herzner JoAnn Janzen Susan and Michael Schiller Earl E. Kisker Carol Schardine Susan Kisker Hadley Eileen and Earl Kisker Barbara Kramer Jennifer Eismeier Osier Robin M. Krisher Patricia Anderson Richard H. Lonneman Mildred A. Lonneman Lynn Manchise Louis Manchise Mary Jane Meyer Carol Schardine Vani Mohan Aruna Vadlamani Robert G. Pfeiffenberger Susan Zoellner Kenny Rager Millie and Thomas Hines Claire Rowekamp Carolyn and Todd Taylor Roger and Irma Sand Elaine Grace Dave Roettker Susan and Michael Schiller Erin Schultz Sherry and Gregory Schultz John Spohr Susan and Ron Spohr Martha Stockman Bennet Whitney DuBois Barbara Thacker Michael Stock Roger Winterman Sally Wetenkamp

Remember Bethany House Families in Your Will



Leave a gift in your will and impact generations to come. All it takes is a quick call to your lawyer to add a charitable gift to your will.

Bethany House Services
1841 Fairmount Avenue
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513-921-1131
bethanyhouseservices.org



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VOLUNTEER AT BETHANY HOUSE

Bethany House families deserve the best of all of us!

We are already planning new volunteer opportunities to serve 180+ people a day in our new shelter in Bond Hill. We will be looking for volunteers to help us during the morning, afternoon, and evening. Look for announcements on our new opportunities on our website, Facebook, and our e-newsletters in the coming months!



Families Still in Hotel Rooms

Two years ago, Bethany House closed our two congregate shelters due to COVID-19 and moved families to hotel rooms to keep everyone safe and to 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.



Community Rewards Program

Please link your Kroger Rewards Card to Bethany House. Community Rewards is easy to use and while you are shopping for you family, you are feeding our families!



Shop on Amazon Smile and help homeless children and families

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

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!

Learn more at smile.amazon.com.

Thank you for your support of Bethany House!

