



FRONT PORCH

NEWS | Fall 2022

A NEW BEGINNING



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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,



Happy Fall! I hope you are adjusting to Daylight Savings with our longer nights. Of course, fall is a change of season, a transition, leaving summer fun and adventure behind and welcoming winter coziness and connection with fireplaces, cider, and holidays of connection with those we hold most dear.

So too has it been a time of gently shedding the past and connecting to new realities for the stakeholders of Bethany House.

In May, I assumed the role of CEO, succeeding Susan Schiller’s almost nine year tenure. From the strong roots of our founders Sr. Mary Graf and Sr. Dee Sizler, and the gentle yet firm nurtured growth for 30 years from Sr. Mary Stanton, Susan moved the organization to become a comprehensive, critical resource for struggling families in Hamilton County. Bethany House is now well-positioned to engage in even deeper work with the families who reach out to us.

This summer, Bethany House also said Godspeed to Sr. Mary Stanton who passed away on July 30. Generations of current and former Bethany House staff joined Sr. Mary’s family and community of the Sisters of Mercy to express gratitude and love for the many ways Sr. Mary impacted those around her and the Cincinnati community. We also wish her closest family at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries comfort in their loss.

In September, Bethany House sold its three properties in South Fairmount that supported our earlier work to another small group home agency and moved into a brand new building on Reading Road in Bond Hill. Sr. Dee, staff, elected officials, donors, community partners, and volunteers joined in for a spectacular ribbon cutting celebration. On October 7, the first families moved in. Oh, the joy on the children’s faces as they saw the space specifically designed for them!

Now it is time to make the dream for homeless families embodied in this new building into a reality. Life skills and children’s programs will extend beyond Shelter to include the transitional Housing families. Additionally, more than 25 community partner agencies will begin to offer the services families need for long-term success onsite at Bethany House.

This expansion—and your support—inspire us every day. Thank you for moving forward into the giving season and showing the families of Bethany House that you believe in their success.

Happy Holidays,

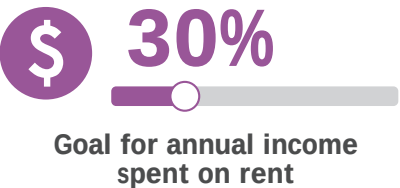
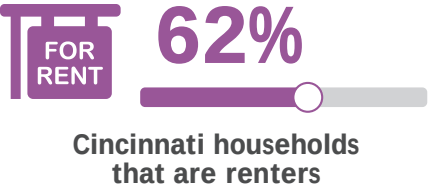
Peg

Peg Dierkers
CEO, Bethany House Services

A Crisis of Family Homelessness— and a Response

Greater Cincinnati is experiencing a housing crisis—especially for families.

From August 2021 to August 2022, median rent in the Cincinnati metro area increased a staggering 25.8%, the biggest rise among the top 50 metro areas in the United States. The City of Cincinnati faces an even more harsh reality because 62% of all households are renters. More and more of these residents are facing a “housing cost burden”—meaning they pay more than 30% of their annual income on rent.



As rental prices continue to rise and as this community faces a severe shortage of affordable housing, families are having to make impossible choices like whether to pay rent or feed their children. In the most dire circumstances, these difficult decisions lead to families becoming homeless.

As the largest organization in the region serving families experiencing homelessness, Bethany House is committed to helping families stabilize and succeed. Consider the following program expansions that will help serve more families:

BETHANY HOUSE’S NEW SHELTER EXPANDS ITS CAPACITY by allowing it to serve 43 families with up to 220 total individuals. Each family will have their own bedroom.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS providing physical and behavioral healthcare, job assistance, childcare, and other services will now be located on site.

HOUSING PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GROW, and Bethany House was just selected to take over an additional Rapid Re-Housing Program from the Salvation Army. This will serve an additional 17-20 families.

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES—which include topics such as resume writing, job searching, and parenting—will expand to be offered to parents in housing programs, in addition to shelter programs.

In the face of growing need, these enhancements will expand our region’s shelter and housing capacity, empower families on their journeys to stability, and create a stronger community, rooted in the human potential of each family.

ONE STEP CLOSER TO HOME:

A New Shelter and Comprehensive Services Center for Families



On a clear, crisp fall morning last month, over 200 supporters—including partners, donors, government officials, board members, staff members, community members, and others—gathered at 4769 Reading Road in Bond Hill for the ceremonial Ribbon Cutting and celebratory opening of Bethany House's new family shelter and comprehensive services center.

The energy and excitement were palpable. A series of speakers spoke to the impact of Bethany House's new building for the organization, the community, and most importantly, families in need.

"This organization, plain and simple, is a cornerstone in our city's mission to support our most vulnerable," said Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval of Bethany House. "This facility will have a massive transformational effect on our community. We are so proud to have partnered in making this new facility a reality."

Bethany House's new shelter and comprehensive services center—the culmination of a recently-concluded capital campaign that raised over \$20 million—centralizes all programs and administration into one site. Previously, services were scattered across seven locations.

The new facility, which incorporates numerous elements of trauma-informed design, includes 43 private family bedrooms, on-site medical and mental health care, employment services, counseling and educational programs, age-based indoor enrichment areas and outdoor children's play spaces, as well as access to a full range of support services for all client families.

Most importantly, the new facility enhances Bethany House's ability to serve families in need—families like Joaslyn Tolbert's. Speaking at the Ribbon Cutting, Joaslyn shared, "When I came to [Bethany House], it seemed as if everything in front of my eyes was crumbling...But today is the end result of what Bethany House Services has done for me—I am thriving."

Bethany House Board President Carolyn Washburn asserted, "All of us can feel proud, not just of this new facility but of what it represents—the community-wide commitment we are making together to say family homelessness is not acceptable here, and we're going to keep fighting. This is not the end; it is the beginning."



Remembering Sr. Mary



Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM, Bethany House's first Executive Director, passed away on July 30th this summer. Bethany House mourns the loss of a visionary leader and servant and celebrates her lasting impact on families in need.

Sr. Mary was a pioneer in her 29 years serving families at Bethany House. Ever-dedicated to the most vulnerable in our community, she was also a cofounder of Catholics United for the Poor and served as Mission Director at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. Sr. Mary received the Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year award in 1999 and the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

Without Sr. Mary's trailblazing leadership, Bethany House's growth into the largest family homelessness provider in the region would not have been possible. She leaves a legacy of faith, justice, and dignity for both Bethany House and the families it serves.

Summer Fun and Back to School



Just as schools were finally rebalancing from the pandemic, the summer came. For children experiencing homelessness, the summer months can be especially challenging without the meals, structure, and social interactions that school provides.

Addressing this critical need, Bethany House's Family Services Department (FSD) organized a series of summer camps and field trips throughout the summer. Three summer camps—operated by Project Connect, Upspring, and Camp Joy—provided students with a variety of opportunities geared towards building self-esteem, having fun while learning, and expanding their surroundings. Upspring's summer camp was specifically for children experiencing homelessness and is structured so that the morning has academic-focused lessons delivered by licensed teachers and the afternoon includes social and physical enrichment activities.

Additionally, in partnership with Innovative Opening Solutions (IOS), FSD also threw a great Back-to-School party at Parky's Farm in August. IOS brought volunteers to face paint, manage the bounce house, and so much more—in addition to providing backpacks stuffed with school supplies for every student!

With all the uncertainties of life in shelter, FSD helps both parents and kids navigate weekly challenges for school-aged children. There are nearly 100 kids living at Bethany House currently attending school, and FSD is already planning for upcoming Thanksgiving, Christmas, and end-of-year celebrations!

Commemorative Bricks: Leave Your Legacy!

From now until November 30th, you can order an engraved brick for only \$250 to be placed at Bethany House's new building.

Visit www.bethanyhouseservices.org/bricks to learn more and to order your brick(s) today.

Oh, What a Night!



Bethany House's 19th Annual Ales to Zinfandels beer and wine tasting event was a huge success! Over 150 supporters gathered at the Glendale Lyceum on Saturday, October 15th for a festive night of eating, drinking, and dancing to raise money for Bethany House's critical shelter and housing programs.

Total proceeds from the event totaled over \$83,000, making it the most successful event in Bethany House's history!

A very special thanks to all who attended the event, made purchases, or supported the event in other ways, especially Presenting Sponsors, the Heidt Family Foundation and Ed & Joann Hubert Family Foundation, and Gold Sponsor, FocusCFO.

We look forward to seeing you next year for this event's 20th anniversary!



Putting Your Assets to Work for Families in Need

As year-end approaches, please consider strategically using your financial assets to help vulnerable families in our community:

STOCK

When you donate appreciated stock, Bethany House will immediately sell the stock and use the proceeds to serve families. You are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock, and you will not have to pay any capital gains taxes.

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

If you are 70 ½ years or older, you can annually donate up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the withdrawal. This donation will count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and thus allow you to lower your taxable income as you help families in need.

DONOR ADVISED FUND (GIFT FUND)

If you have a Donor Advised Fund, consider putting these assets into action by making a donation to Bethany House today. You can make a big impact!

Legal Name: Bethany House Services, Inc.
Tax ID: 31-1101401

QUESTIONS? Contact Daniel Flynn at 513-557-2214 or dflynn@bhsinc.org.

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Bring holiday joy to children at Bethany House!



The holiday season is nearly upon us, and Bethany House families are dreaming of a joyous visit from Santa for their beloved children. Children bear the brunt of homelessness, and YOU can turn this around for families in shelter and transitional housing.

Please consider being an Adopt-a-Family sponsor this holiday season. Your family, work team, church, or any other group can help bring holiday cheer to one or more of 300 families.

If interested, please visit the Bethany House website at www.bethanyhouseservices.org or go directly to <https://tinyurl.com/BHSAadoptAFamily> to select your family!

On behalf of hundreds of smiling children and parents come Christmas Day, THANK YOU in advance for your generosity!

ADOPT
a **FAMILY**
For Christmas



ONLINE
Day of
Giving

SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday,
November 17th**

**Bethany House will
host its first-ever
Online Day of Giving.**

There will be emails and social media posts throughout the day about the impact of your donation!