The high cost of caring . . .

In 2013,
– The cost of Food has increased by 3.5%
  poultry, a staple, went up 5.5%
– The cost of Utilities has increased by 7%
  and LIPA added another 4% in August alone
– The cost of Public Transportation is up by 10%
  and local taxis charge double the rate of NYC cabs
– The cost of Household Items has risen by 20%
  and paper products continue to rise quarterly

But . . .
– Reimbursement for emergency shelter has
decreased by 45% . . .
– NYS Nutrition Assistance is down 25% . . .
– HUD Grant was reduced by 20% and
  48% was cut from the FEMA allocation . . .
Bethany Welcome New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that three new Board Members will be joining our Bethany Board of Directors this year: Sister Diane Capuano, OP, Steven J. DiMare, and W. Gregory Kerwick.

Sister Diane Capuano is an Amityville Dominican Sister. She holds a Master’s Degree in Special Education from St. John’s, a Professional Diploma in Pastoral Counseling from Fordham, and a Basic Certificate in Spiritual Direction.

S. Diane is currently the Associate Director of Campus Ministry at Molloy College and, in this ministry, she has been affiliated with Bethany House for several years. S. Diane has run the very successful BOXTOWN events at Molloy each spring wherein the students sleep out in cardboard boxes in solidarity with the homeless. S. Diane says that the BOXTOWN experiences help the Molloy students to “see with new eyes and to love with a new heart.”

S. Diane has also served on Bethany’s Program Development Committee since 2007 so she is well-versed in the day-to-day workings of Bethany House.

Steve DiMare and his wife Gina have four wonderful children and have lived and raised their family in South Hempstead. In 1989, Steve and his partner started Unified Window Systems Inc., and have served the following 24 years. Unified has grown into the largest residential exterior contracting company in the tri-state area. The company currently employs more than 75 staff and supports hundreds of others. Steve is the Chairman and CEO of Unified.

Bethany House has been supported by Steve and his family for many years. Friends from Rockville Links recruited Steve to help our homeless families and, not only did he agree to join us, but he did so with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Steve has served on the Finance/Business Committee for Bethany and this year he will chair that Committee as Vice President for Finance and Business. In this position, he will also sit on the Board’s Executive Committee. Steve says that it is “completely gratifying to be involved with such a special cause.”

Greg Kerwick is a Managing Director with J.P. Morgan where he is responsible for running the Treasury Services Corporate Client Banking sales organization nationally. He has 28 years management experience in the financial services industry, and has held senior management positions in Sales, Marketing, Product and Strategy. Greg and his wife Caryn have a lovely home in Port Washington and are raising four wonderful and talented sons there.

As many of you know, Greg is the son of our dear friends, Connie and the late Bill Kerwick whose involvement with Bethany dates back to 1991. Greg said he is “happy to participate in whatever way Bethany feels I can add value.” He’s looking forward to playing a larger role in the success of Bethany!

We welcome S. Diane, Steve, and Greg to our Board of Directors and thank them for their dedication to Bethany and their special love of God’s homeless poor!

Sister Says . . .

Bethany Welcome New Board Members

Sister Diane Capuano

What’s in a Word: Comfort

An elderly woman staying with us at Bethany had lost her car keys while shopping. She was overwhelmed and very frightened. She called Bethany. "Comfort . . ." A little boy whose family was moving to their apartment asked if he could take the teddy bear and the pillow from him room at Bethany. "Comfort . . ."

The mother of a handicapped child came home early – her child had been laughed at at school. She needed to talk to our staff. "Comfort . . ."

A teenager told his mom he was OK with this shelter stuff. He hugged her and said, "We’re home now!" "Comfort . . ."

What makes Bethany House different from other shelters? It can be summarized in one word: "Comfort . . ."

Our families come to us in crisis, the crisis of homelessness – they are often immobilized; they are frightened, disillusioned, and very cautious. And – they are always uncomfortable.

Our job is to restore balance for them – to make them comfortable once more.

All of us are blessed not only with a home, but with the sincere desire to see that others also have a home. That is why you support a place like Bethany – because together we can end homelessness, one family at a time. Every day, we at Bethany look into the eyes of frightened women and young children and we welcome them into our home. And we do this in your name.

Thank you for all you do to help us. There are so many worthy charities that need your support but none is more deserving than Bethany - we thank you for your generosity and we assure you that your support will directly assist our families as they struggle with our help [and your help] to return to financial stability and a true sense of Comfort.

Random Acts of Kindness

Birthday parties for the children at Bethany House recently got a big boost. At our homes, a child’s birthday is never forgotten. A birthday cake and a special present were always provided, but now we’ve gotten an extra helping hand. Birthdaywishes.org, an organization founded in Massachusetts in 2002, has recently expanded its reach to Long Island, and they are now bringing birthday parties to children staying at Bethany.

Once a month, Jamie Rapfogel, who started the Long Island branch of Birthdaywishes.org five years ago, contacts the Bethany staff, asking for each child’s first name, gender, age, their likes or wishes, and the total number of children staying with us. If a child expresses interest in a particular theme like cars or Disney, the decorations reflect their choice. A spectacular party is held for all the children celebrating their birthdays that specific month, and this is done in each of our residences.

To see the smiles and happy faces of the birthday children is just breathtaking! Both Moms and children are in awe as they notice the decorated walls and tablecloth and birthday plates. Four or five gifts are presented to each child, with grateful Moms overcome with appreciation. This is just one more way that Bethany House and Birthdaywishes.org provide comfort to our families.

Currently Birthdaywishes.org is looking for volunteers to help with the parties at Bethany House. Please contact Jamie Rapfogel at jamie@birthdaywishes.org if you are able to help out!
17th Annual Golf Outing - Another Huge Success!

The venue was different but the scene was familiar: a spectacular golf course bustling with 114 golfers and friends, all who came to raise needed funds for Bethany House’s women and children. On July 29, 2013, Bethany’s 17th Annual Golf Outing was held at the Pine Hollow Country Club in East Norwich, New York. Between the live and silent auction, raffles and many donations, more than $94,000 was raised. Due to the hard work and careful planning of Co-chairs, Steve DiMare and Chris Heckman, and their dedicated Committee, a smooth and successful day of golf and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

Our 2013 Honoree was Jerry Dikowitz who is a Senior Vice President of E. Gluck Corporation and resides with his family in Plainview. Jerry was honored for his faithful generosity to Bethany House and for his dedication to rebuilding his hometown of Roosevelt.

Choking up occasionally during his speech, Jerry told the audience what a great town Roosevelt was when he grew up there in the 1960s: a small town comprised of only one square mile that was home to many nationalities, religions, and ethnicities who all learned from one another and lived harmoniously together. The neighborhood seemed like a Utopia to Jerry and his friends, but all this changed and Jerry’s family was forced to move away as crime and unrest became prominent in the area. But Jerry never forgot his wonderful childhood in this little town, and he returned to Roosevelt to visit. Seeing the misfortune and the many challenges that the present residents of Roosevelt have to endure, Jerry vowed to find a way to give back to Roosevelt for all that it had done to shape him and his childhood friends and to make them what they are today – successful, well-grounded, and caring individuals. During this quest, Jerry found Bethany House, which won his heart as he saw that this organization gives people the tools they need to get a good education, helps to restore their dignity, and renews their hope for a better future. In closing, through some tears, Jerry stated, “No one can ever tell me that you can’t go home again . . . I did.”

We at Bethany House thank Jerry, his many friends and family members, and all our faithful donors for their generous support of Bethany’s work with homeless families. In particular, we thank Sceptre Tours of Rockville Centre for their outstanding generosity in providing the five-star trip to Ireland’s castles for our special raffle.

We sincerely appreciate all the support and friendship that comes to Bethany through our Golf Outings – we could never do this gentle work without your help, and we treasure your friendship!

Upcoming Events

- **Bethany House’s Annual Fashion Show and Awards Dinner**
  - Date: October 23, 2013
  - Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
  - Location: Rockville Links
  - Price: $70.00

- **Christmas Boutique at Rockville Links**
  - Date: December 5, 2013
  - Location: Rockville Links

- **Breakfast With Santa**
  - Date: TBA

- **Toys For Our Kids**
  - Date: December 22, 2013
  - Location: Molloy College

- **BOXTOWN XV at Molloy**
  - Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014
  - Time: 9:00 PM
  - Location: Molloy College

- **Bethany’s 18th Annual Golf Outing**
  - Date: Monday, July 28, 2014
  - Time: 9:30 AM
  - Location: Pine Hollow Country Club

**Bethany House 17th Annual Golf Outing Donors**

- Alain & Ellen Riter
- Amanda Watcher
- Atlantic, Tomorrow’s Office
- Burt & Gloria Acquaviva
- Bethany Staff
- Marc Tamez, PGA Pro Golfer
- Marcellino Middletown
- Brian B. Law, PGA, Pine Hollow CC
- Bury Our Restaurant
- Michael Tartamella, Pro Golfer
- Carineau Melillo
- Mid Island Air Service
- Celebrity Moving and James Gansett
- ChefChina Phaye
- Nick & Mary Salerno
- Chip Rosensett
- Olive Oil
- Chris & Joanne Hecken
- Palm Beach Resort & Spa
- Cold Spring Golf Club
- Pine Hollow Country Club
- Connie and Ken Kuprana
- Pinepark Country Club
- David and Lorraine Greenfield
- Puffball Dogs & Golf
- E. Gluck Corporation
- Queenie and Tim Sullivan
- Ralph's Tavern
- Frenchmen's Reserve
- Robert Fufianni
- George Martin Original Restaurant
- Rockville Centre
- Greg & Caron Kerwick
- Sceptre Tours
- Griffin Restaurant
- Sheila and Lou Pizzala
- Ri on the River
- Homestead Golf & Country Club
- Olde Fish House
- Jonathan's Landing Golf Club
- Jordan Lobster Farm
- Kemhaged Country Club
- Linda Wilkens
- Bethany House Golf Outing
- Martin Humphrey
- Mediterranean Golf
- Michael Tartamella, Pro Golfer
- All are generous donors of our golf outings which will be posted in our annual Newsletter.

See more exclusive pictures online at | bethanyhouseny.com
Talking with Steve DiMare, you realize that he hasn’t been involved with Bethany House for a very long time – just four years; but in that short time, what he has accomplished for Bethany has been remarkable.

This year will mark the third time that Steve will serve as Co-chair of the Golf Outing Committee, Bethany’s largest fund raising event. As a result of his attention to details and his enthusiastic ideas, Bethany House has asked Steve to chair the Finance/Business Committee of the Board of Directors and to join its Executive Committee. There is no doubt that Steve will rise to the occasion, as his input and direction have consistently been invaluable to Bethany House.

Steve came to know Bethany by attending a golf outing with friends, and he was on the mailing list when Bethany sent out a request for a crib. One young mother who had found both an apartment and a job, was moving from the residence, and she needed a portable crib to bring to her babysitter’s home. If there was no crib, then there would be no babysitter, and thus, no job. Steve bought a crib and delivered it to Bethany One where he was thanked profusely. Steve recalled, “One would have thought it was a pot of gold.” That story, that small act of kindness, of giving to a specific person with a specific need, profoundly affected DiMare, who felt such deep gratitude.

“With many charities, one can just write a check. Here, you know the story, the family, and you see the difference a donation makes.” From that tiny portable crib, Steve moved on to host a fund raising event at the Rockville Links Country Club called Get to Know Bethany House. There, he introduced a variety of new people to Bethany in hopes that many of them would become involved in Bethany’s work. He also donated dinner for four at Taro a Segno, the Italian Gun Club, which garnered $6,100.00 at a past Valentine’s party’s live auction, also in support of Bethany House. With Steve’s business and political affiliations, he arranged an opportunity for members of Bethany’s Board and Staff to meet with Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano to discuss the struggles we face and the strategies we need to deal with, such as underutilization and funding cuts. Mr. Mangano cleared up a misunderstanding with the Department of Social Services and the Office of Housing, and now, because of his efforts, our homes are all fully occupied once again.

With Steve’s recent appointment to the Board of Directors and the Finance/Business Committee of Bethany House, he hopes that his expertise, gained in running a mid-size business, will help Bethany as we also continue to grow: from just a small three-bed shelter 35 years ago to an organization with five residences and a comprehensive component of services. Steve’s goal is to assist Bethany to become even more efficient, to have its Mission and its operations become more clearly understood by its Board and Committees, and to spread the word about Bethany so that more people will get involved.

Steve’s main joy has always been his family. He smiles and his eyes twinkle when asked about his wife, Gina, whom he met in high school. His greatest delight has been watching his four children develop and grow into their different career paths. His daughters, Danielle, Brittanii, and Amanda, have also helped Bethany House on several occasions, and his son, Steven, is active in Athletes Helping Athletes, working with middle and high school youth.

As Chairman and CEO of Unified Window Systems, Inc., Steve has no airs about him. He started his company from the bottom up, from lugging windows and getting rid of garbage to installing, contracting and selling. His company, with five branches, has over 120 employees and is the largest construction company of its kind on Long Island. His employees, who come from all walks of life, are treated with respect and trained to be truthful in every aspect of customer dealings. There are no high-pressure salespeople working at this company. Steve emphasizes, “When Hurricane Sandy hit Long Island last October, there were many opportunities to take advantage of the situation or to do the right thing. Unified always chose to do the right thing and didn’t raise prices as many other suppliers had done, outrageously gouging customers during the hurricane aftermath.”

When talking with Steve, you get the impression not of your average fast-talking, deceptive businessman, but instead of a good man who prides himself on being honest and modest: no taking advantage, no exaggerations – a good product at a fair price; no arrogance, just charm and decency; and a lot of good advice.

You can feel Steve’s warmth and sincerity as he talks – a person who cares deeply about his family, his business, and his community, and is passionate about many worthy causes. Bethany House has had the good fortune to be one of Steve’s passions, and we are so very grateful!

Jane McCabe

Bethany House’s 13th Annual Fashion Show and Awards Dinner

Bethany House will host its 13th Annual Fashion Show and Awards Dinner on Wednesday evening, October 23, 2013 at Rockville Links Country Club in Rockville Centre. Fashions for ladies and men will be supplied by Chicos of Garden City, Bertalia of Rockville Centre, and Estelle’s Dressy Dresses. Casual, business and evening attire will be modeled by our own Bethany House residents and graduates, accompanied by some handsome male escorts.

Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres start at 6 PM with a three-course dinner and a dessert bar following. A Chinese Auction of more than 30 baskets bursting with exquisite gifts and a variety of gift certificates from local merchants and restaurants will be raffled. Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a week’s vacation at the prestigious Orange Lake Country Club in Kissimmee, Florida.

Bethany’s awards will be presented to Sister Margie Kelly, CSJ, our 2013 Woman of Compassion, to Iris Goldfeder, our 2013 Woman of Accomplishment, and to St. John’s University Staff Members who are Bethany’s Angels for 2013.

For information and tickets, please call [516] 868-6866. But hurry – we are selling out quickly!
Hi again, everybody – I'm Shadrach! I want to talk with you today about Comfort. Because I was badly abused before I came to Bethany, I know first-hand how important comfort is. Do you know that here, in New York, a child is abused or neglected every six minutes? It's hard to believe, but it's true. Here at Bethany House we all work together to see that everyone, especially our children, feel comfortable and safe. In fact, I take it as a special part of my job to be sure that no one is mean to our kids because KIDS need lots of Comfort.

As you probably know, dogs have a special ability to sense pain and discomfort in people. When someone comes to Bethany, I always know if they are hurting inside. I try to be of some comfort to them – I sit at their feet and lean against them a little so they know I care. That's really all anyone wants to know – that you care!

Each of us has lots of chances to show others that they are important to us. I hope all of you kids who read my column will join me in this special work of bringing Comfort to everyone we meet. When I go out for my walk, we usually pass a shabby house where an old woman lives alone [except for her 12 cats!], and I always bark a little so she knows I'm passing by. It only takes a second, but she's told me that it makes her feel good to know that I remember her. She sits at her front window and waits for me every morning. It makes me feel good, too!

So – think about little ways you can bring Comfort – you're never too young or too old to give someone a hug or share a kind word. I'm counting on you, my friends... love somebody back to life!

With Love and Comfort, Shadrach xxx