Turning Point

Bethany House - a place to come when there's no place to go...

Bethany House is a not-for-profit agency founded in 1978 in response to a growing need for emergency shelter and services for women and their children who are caught in the crisis of homelessness and are without alternatives.

Bethany House has defined its Mission as a call to provide a concrete response to the belief that every individual deserves and needs adequate food, clothing, shelter and safety. In addition, these resources should be provided in nurturing surroundings and a sustaining environment.

In September of 1978, three Dominican Sisters of Amityville rented a small house in Roosevelt on Long Island and opened their doors and hearts to the frightened families who came to them in need of shelter, guidance and comfort. As the crisis of homelessness grew in the mid 1980's, Bethany House expanded into a larger facility which is known as Bethany One, which has a capacity for twelve individuals. Two additional residences - "Bethany, too!" and Bethany South - have since been added, giving Bethany the capability to house thirty-five women and children nightly.

With the additional bedroom space came the expansion of professional support services so that crisis of homelessness would not simply be alleviated, it would actually be ended. In fact, of the homeless women and children who have stayed with us for more than two weeks, 92 percent have found safe, appropriate permanent housing and have stabilized their lives after this crisis.

Each case receives individual attention from seasoned case workers who have extensive experience in dealing with the unique problems faced by persons who have become homeless, particularly with families who are in this crisis. And, because Bethany is a community-based organization and part of the human services arena, we are in an excellent position to channel resources and to effect change.

What is it that makes Bethany "the place to come when there's no place to go?" If you have never been there, it is difficult to understand. But once you have experienced the love and concern of our unique staff and volunteers, you will know Bethany's sense of peace and well-being that softens the most hardened heart and revitalizes the most exhausted spirit. As one of our guests put it, "There is a presence in this house that reaches out and encircles you with its energy and strength - most say it is irresistible; all say it is from God."

From our earliest days, the CROCUS has been the symbol of Bethany House because this brave little flower breaks through cold, hard ground as it dares to push all obstacles aside and clears new ground for growth.

This has been Bethany's history as well, and the crocus has come to stand for the determination, strength, and quiet resiliency of Bethany's spirit.

Sister Aimee
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Homelessness is hard on children...

Will you buy a Bethany LOTTO ticket – you get 31 chances to win AND you give homeless families "another chance" at life!
Here's how to participate in Bethany LOTTO:

IMPORTANT: You have a chance to win each and every day - 31 opportunities per ticket!!

AND winning tickets are put back in the pot so you might actually win several times!

So...

Just fill out the information on the ticket[s] to the right.

Send the ticket[s] and your check to Bethany House on or before April 30, 1998.

Wait for your phone call[s] saying you are a lucky WINNER!

All proceeds will directly assist the homeless women and children of Bethany House’s three facilities.

Daily winners will be notified by phone and a check mailed to each winner. The full month of winners will be published at our Second Annual Golf Outing to be held on June 15, 1998 at the Garden City Country Club. This fund raising activity is part of our effort to raise $50,000 in order to provide for the many needs of our homeless guests.

We sincerely appreciate your support of our work!
The Children's Corner

Hi everybody - I'm Maritza, and I'm back to tell you more about Bethany House. The picture you see on the side was drawn by one of the little children - they love to play and draw pictures and have stories read to them. These children are just like you and me except for one thing...they are homeless. It's very scary for children to see their mom worrying and not be able to help. I hope you will help our children - I try to, but I'm little myself. Big people can make a real difference for kids when they help us.

Let me tell you a story: two weeks ago, a four year old girl named Susie was staying at Bethany with her mom and her two brothers. Susie asked Eileen (one of our great staff) to give her something to drink. It was cold, and Eileen made her hot chocolate and gave her some cookies. Susie was so happy - she turned to Eileen and said, "I LOVE Shelters, but THIS is the best one of all." You see - Eileen made a BIG difference because she cared. We need YOU to care, too.

The sad part of the story is that Susie, who is only four, has already been in other homeless shelters and...the happiest and most stable places she has known in her young life have been shelters. Bethany House is great, but it's not HOME. Susie needs a REAL HOME - will YOU help us to get one for her and her family? Just buy a Bethany LOTTO ticket on the other page - you get 31 chances to win AND you give homeless families "another chance" at life!

Maritza x x x

THE AVERAGE PERSON SPENDS 365 HOURS A MONTH AT HOME.

Imagine...

WHAT IT'S LIKE NOT TO HAVE ONE -

Bethany House of Nassau County
102 WHITEHOUSE AVENUE
ROOSEVELT NY 11575
516 868-6866

"a place to come when there's no place to go..."