Bethany House has a Turning Point -
Merger with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

"What we did so very well before we are now able to do even better!"

Since its beginnings in 1978, Bethany House has grown from a small ministry of the Amityville Dominican Sisters to a corporate entity consisting of three residences, numerous innovative service programs, a competent and dedicated staff, and led by a most energetic, committed Board of Directors. During these past twenty years, Bethany House has faithfully responded to the pressing needs for safe emergency shelter and comprehensive services required by hundreds of women and their children who have been caught in the crisis of homelessness.

On June 1, 1998, the Boards of Directors of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Bethany House created and signed a merger agreement which joined these two vital organizations into one entity, providing a stability and security to Bethany House that was impossible to attain as a small organization. Under the merger agreement, Bethany House has become a Division of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul while retaining its autonomy of Mission and service to homeless women and children. The resources and the programs of Bethany joined with those of this prestigious agency, thus enabling Bethany House to serve God's people "with an extra hundred hands." Bethany has committed to continue to seek out its needed funding, both private and public, so that its programs may continue to exist and new ones may grow. The Society has taken over the administrative tasks of financial and corporate operation and has provided Bethany's staff with an excellent benefit package. In addition, St. Vincent de Paul is able and willing to help Bethany when periods of cash shortfall [due to the time lines of federal grants] make smooth operation difficult. It is indeed the perfect answer for Bethany House!

At each crossroads during these twenty years, St. Vincent de Paul has stood by and with Bethany House as each agency endeavored to serve God's poor and homeless. And again, at this Turning Point, we come together as two realities merge to form a new synergy, and provide us both with renewed energy, vitality, and strength. Bethany House and the Society bring much to each other, and each does so with a deep level of respect and admiration. After only six months of collaboration and cooperation between the two agencies, it has become clear that this merger is the most effective way to insure that the uniqueness of Bethany House be preserved while its programs are enriched and enhanced by the experience and extensive networking of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Vision Statement for Bethany House that was created by our Board's Strategic Planning Committee in 1994, states:
Bethany House has often been on the cutting edge of creative response to the needs of those who are homeless.
And now, even more than during its earlier history, the Board and Administration of Bethany House are prepared to launch out onto yet unchartered paths to create "a path of our own." How truly wonderful for Bethany that this new "path" intertwines with that of the fine, and dedicated members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul!
At this special time of Thanksgiving, we want to express our gratitude to you for your generous support of Box Town 3 which was held at Molloy College on October 22, 1998.

Your kindness will help Bethany House to provide for the many needs of the homeless families who come to its doors.

God bless you for remembering us!

The women and children of Bethany House

This was to be "home" for the night - no lights, no heat, no telephone, no Internet - just a box and a blanket to stave off the damp cold night air.
Breakfast with Santa

at B. K. Sweeney's Restaurant
636 Franklin Avenue, Garden City, NY

Santa will be our special guest
on
Saturday, December 12, 1998
from 9 AM to 11 AM

Bring your gift or donation*
for the children of Bethany House
and enjoy a delicious complimentary breakfast buffet,
kindness of the Sweeney Family and the
friends of Bethany House

*Suggested Minimum Donation: $15.00

Gifts for the children
Face Painting
Candy Canes
Fun!!!

Bethany House provides shelter and supportive services to women and children who are homeless, regardless of cause, and has served the Long Island community since 1978.
The average person spends 365 hours a month at home - imagine what it's like not to have one . . .

Today, homelessness is a harsh reality for over 40,000 Long Islanders - and more than half of them are children.

Join us at Bethany House in our efforts to change this reality - provide a gift for a homeless child or family as you help decorate Bethany's Christmas Tree for its twenty first anniversary.

A $5 donation will provide warm slippers for a little child and an ornament for Bethany's Tree.

A $10 donation will provide mittens and a hat for a homeless child and an ornament for Bethany's Tree.

A $20 donation will provide a cozy blanket and sleeper for a homeless baby and an ornament for Bethany's Tree.

A $25 donation will provide a warm sweater for Mom and an ornament for Bethany's Tree.

A $50 donation will provide snow boots for our homeless children or blankets for a homeless family and an ornament for Bethany's Tree.

A $100 donation will provide Christmas dinner for our guests and an ornament for our Tree.

YES! I WANT TO HELP BETHANY HOUSE TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND THEIR MOMS AT CHRISTMAS. ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION FOR: $_____

NAME:________________________________________________________________________ PHONE:____________________________________

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to BETHANY HOUSE and mail it to: 102 WHITEHOUSE AVENUE, ROOSEVELT, NY 11575 - ATTENTION: SISTER AIMEE
The Children's Corner: Touched by An Angel

Hi again, everybody! I'm Maritza, and it's good to be talking with you again. It's been a busy time at Bethany and we have nine children playing each evening with the toys and games that all of you bring for us. Now that it's getting colder, we like to come home to Bethany after school and have hot chocolate and cookies. Then we do our homework while Awilda makes us a great dinner - the other night she cooked ten pounds of chicken and there wasn't a single piece left over!

I have a special story to tell you about how we were touched by an angel. Two weeks ago we went to see a wonderful group of kids who live in Garden City and go the church at St. Ann's and St. Joseph's Parishes. There were over 50 kids who came together to help us out. We needed make lots of "hospitality packets" for the moms and kids who stay at Bethany - we fill a packet with little shampoos, tooth paste, tooth brush, soap, lotion, and other goodies so that the staff at Bethany can put it on the pillow for each guest. Once the packet is filled, we put a little note inside that says it was packed by A Kid Who Cares.

We were all very busy filling these packets and signing our names on the notes. It was lots of fun. When we got back to Bethany, we found one very special note that said:

This packet was made especially for YOU by An Angel - A "Kid Who Cares"

The Angel who wrote that note surely touched us all. Thank you, Angel!

Fund-raising Updates:

Tee Time: Bethany's Second Annual Golf Outing Doubled Success of First

On June 15, 1998, Bethany’s Golf Outing Chairpersons [Emmet Agoglia, Joe Grzymalski, Bill Kerwick, Tom Sedita, and Tom York] surprised even themselves with the overwhelming success of the second annual tournament! Despite the drizzle, spirits were high as all enjoyed a relaxing day at the Garden City Country Club and helped raise needed funds to support the work of Bethany House. THANK YOU to all who worked and all who played to make this event so successful!

HARVEST MOON Raffle raises over $15,000!

Many thanks to all of you who purchased raffle tickets and/or sent donations to support the programs that care for the women and children of Bethany House. Many new donations came from our friends in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and we are most grateful for this additional support.

MOLLOY COLLEGE FACULTY and STUDENTS support REST STOP with TOWN

On the coldest night in October, the stouthearted faculty members and students of Molloy College "slept out" in cardboard boxes in solidarity with the homeless. As darkness crept in, an amazing "village of boxes" sprung up in the Cedar Grove on Molloy's campus. It was exceptionally raw and damp, but the warmth of so many caring people has a way of setting a place on fire! More than $10,000 was raised to assist REST STOP [Bethany's Program for women and children who are not eligible for any assistance under Welfare Reform]. Thank you, Molloy, for all the ways you help those in need. At present, fourteen persons [six women and their eight children] are being assisted under the REST STOP Program.
THE AVERAGE PERSON SPENDS 365 HOURS A MONTH AT HOME.

Imagine...

WHAT IT'S LIKE NOT TO HAVE ONE -

Did you know... In only seven years [1989-96],
New York State fell from 25th to LAST in the nation
in the ranking for states that provide affordable one-
bedroom apartments for their constituents.