EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES FUND

The Bethany House Emergency Assistance for Families Fund assists with the unexpected financial needs of homeless women and children.

Since its beginnings in 2004, Bethany’s EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE for FAMILIES FUND [EAF] has gone far in helping us to respond to the overwhelming needs of our homeless families. Some of the needs are quite basic: clothing, shoes, baby items, transportation monies and medications; others often mean the difference between a woman keeping or losing her employment: a small amount of money for a car repair or for emergency daycare costs. Yet other needs demand a gentle response even though most agencies do not provide such assistance: fee for a child’s class trip; partial cost of a child’s team uniform; transportation for a week at a summer day camp; funeral or burial costs.

In addition, many of our working families have found good, decent apartments but cannot afford the monthly rents on their limited incomes - we have been able to make the difference through our EAF Subsidy Program! Some of our older single women who live on a fixed social security income are able to make ends meet through this program in which they receive a monthly stipend toward their rent or basic needs and, in turn, come back to Bethany and lend a hand filling some of our needs. And, as a family moves from Bethany to their own apartment, they literally have nothing. Sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, dishes and silverware, pots and kitchen utensils, as well as cleaning materials are all necessities that are supplied by our EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE for FAMILIES FUND.

Bethany exhausts all other avenues of possible funding streams before assisting from the fund. The Emergency Assistance Fund application is completed by one of Bethany’s Case Managers and reviewed by the Director of Residential Services; the Executive Director authorizes the final approval.

This project is on-going in order to provide help for a brief but reasonable period of time while the family stabilizes. Bethany House has received support for this Fund from: The BJ’s Charitable Foundation, The Nassau County Bar Association WE CARE Fund, The Hassler Family Foundation, a grant from Newsday Charities, a fund of the McCormick Foundation, and revenue collected at BOXTOWN [a consciousness-raising event held annually at Molloy College wherein the students sleep out in cardboard boxes in solidarity with the homeless].

The crisis of homelessness in Nassau County has soared higher than ever before. Bethany House alone feeds, houses, and provides comprehensive services up to 75 mothers and children nightly. Bethany House has been working with homeless families since 1978 and has recently developed the Emergency Assistance Fund to support homeless families and individuals on a slightly longer-term basis so that their homelessness is ended, not merely interrupted. During this fiscal year 598 families and their 467 children have been assisted by The EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE for FAMILIES FUND.

For more information, please call (516) 546-7970
Thank you for your interest and concern.