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COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM

When you buy these bags, we will receive a \$1 donation.



Bethany House

Annual Report 2022

A Year of Empowering Partnerships in Nassau County



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug O'Dell".

Doug O'Dell
Executive Director

Bethany House is the place where neighbors come together to support neighbors. It is because of these *empowering partnerships* that we have been able to empower the women, and women with children, who come to us in their time of need.

For over 40 years Bethany House has been providing emergency shelter and support to women, and women with children, experiencing homelessness. Providing food, clothing and shelter in a warm and welcoming environment is at the core of our mission. This is the foundation of our work. Unfortunately, we have learned that these core services are not enough. Too many of the women we encounter have been cycling in and out of homelessness for years, or even over generations, sometimes taking their children with them. We call this phenomenon *the cycle of homelessness*.

Over the past year, we have enriched and enhanced our commitment to *breaking the cycle of homelessness, two generations at a time*. First, we have put transitional services in place in all our emergency shelters which empower women to move from insecurity to confidence, from disappointment to accomplishment, and finally from dependence to greater self-sufficiency. Next, we developed a new transitional living residential program to our continuum of services, scheduled to open in the spring of 2023, which shifts the full responsibility for growth onto the women themselves. Finally, over the next year, we will add an independent living apartment program that empowers the women we serve even more. We have not made these gains alone – we have amazing partners.

Numerous local businesses, corporations, foundations and elected officials have come forward to support the work of Bethany House. Faculty and students from universities and colleges have shared their expertise and brought services directly into our emergency shelters. More than 40 faith-based organizations share their time, talent and treasure with the women and children we serve. Finally, and most importantly, Bethany House is a place where neighbors on Long Island have come together to support their neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. These individuals and families are the heart and soul of Bethany House. We are inspired every day by our neighbors.

We thank each and every one of our neighbors, and our *empowering partners*, for their generosity and compassion.

Bethany House provides a safe place for healing and personal growth for women, and women with children, experiencing homelessness. It is built on a foundation of community support to provide a continuum of care, from uncertainty to stability.

Through our partnerships, we provide the women in our programs with trauma informed services, in-house and community-based health services, and case management focused on securing educational and employment growth opportunities and a path to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

We strive for our guests and their children to experience a sense of self-worth and belonging in response to their experience with our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Founded in 1978, Bethany House supports women, and women with children, on Long Island who are experiencing homelessness. We provide a continuum of care to take these individuals from uncertainty to stability.

At its core, Safe Ground for Families is a three-tiered, multi-generational program that seeks to break the cycle of homelessness. The three steps are:

- **Step I:** Emergency shelter and case management – food, clothing and shelter; child and family recreation; social work; milieu treatment; maintenance; meal preparation; program and volunteer coordination and health services offered directly by Bethany House with the support of the Nassau County Department of Social Services and corporate and faith-based organizations
- **Step II:** Transitional living services, and semi-independent living provided in a Bethany House residence (scheduled to open April 2023) – Women’s Empowerment Groups; individual and family counseling; speech and language, health care; and early childhood services provided in partnership with universities and other community-based organizations
- **Step III:** Independent living with optional support services, aftercare services, provided by Bethany House and funded through foundations, grants and contributions.

With this approach, we provide services intended to prevent **homelessness recidivism**, ensure **child health and wellness**, enable the achievement of **educational and career goals**, facilitate **secure employment** with **sustainable income**, and enable **greater earning potential**, and thus, the ability to **build savings**.

Bethany House would not be able to provide the array of services we do without the assistance and support of many partners. These include:

- **Nassau County Department of Social Services** – our primary referral source, our partner in achieving certification of our emergency shelters, and our consultants in addressing the myriad challenges our guests face
- **NYC Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance** – our State Oversight Agency and partner in ensuring that our programming and environment meet their rigorous standards
- **Local Universities** – who provide us with excellent student interns in social services, nursing and public relations, and we provide them with a stimulating hands-on learning environment supported by expert supervision
- **Public and Private Elementary, Middle and High School PTAs and Honor Societies** – who conduct fundraising and household supply drives to benefit Bethany House, and who also provide volunteer services tutoring, organizing and babysitting
- **Houses of Worship** – who remember the women and children during holidays and other times with gifts, goody bags, cakes, dinners, and activities both on-site and in the community

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Our list of valued partnerships continues:

- **Local Businesses in Real Estate, Insurance, Retail** and other areas – who generously donate catered meals, conduct fundraising drives among their staff, and find other creative ways to show they are deeply concerned about their neighbors
- **Private and Corporate Foundations** – who provide funds to allow us to introduce innovative programming and enriched staffing ratios
- **Individual Donors** – who touch the hearts of our staff and the women and children with their incredibly generous outreach and willingness to donate their time, energy and resources
- **Individual Volunteers**– who provide Bethany House with activities for the houses, including arts & crafts events for both the women and the children, cooking demonstrations and more; and who also provide babysitting so the mothers can participate in adult group activities.



Bethany House and our guests are fortunate to have a powerful partnership with Lauren Geddes Duff, a NYC based interior designer

When our guests first arrive, they come with very little in the way of material possessions. Once they obtain a lease for a permanent home, imagine how daunting it must be to think about furnishing the space with no possessions and very limited funds. And how unsettling for any children involved! In many instances, Lauren Geddes Duff has come to the rescue.

Lauren consults with the guests and their children to figure out the color pallet for their new homes, and then donates most of the furniture, artwork, decorations and necessities. Together with helpers, Stephen and Ethan Melbinger, they build the furniture, hang artwork, and set everything up, transforming the new space into a comfortable, beautiful home. Many thanks to Lauren and her crew for their extraordinary commitment to helping women and children at Bethany House successfully transition to permanent housing!



The benefits of the enhanced case management services are exemplified in the discharge summary for one of our recent “graduates.” The narrative below reflects comprehensive, holistic services.



Ms. M, a middle-aged woman with a significant mental health diagnosis, had lived with her parents until one died, and she spent the next two years couch surfing with family. She had not been motivated or determined to be on her own at the beginning of her 11-month stay with Bethany House. During her stay, case management staff assisted her in securing and maintaining a steady mental health treatment plan with South Nassau Counseling Center, which included weekly visits with her therapist and a monthly visit with her psychiatrist. She took on responsibility for her medication regimen and is always aware and proactive of when refills are due. Two types of transportation were secured for her, for medical appointments and for leisure transportation such as shopping or local trips. She obtained her NY State ID, a document she had never had. With the assistance of the Bethany counseling services, she was able to improve on her socialization skills such as emotions, language and tone. Ultimately, she obtained permanent supportive housing with a community-based provider with all the support services already in place, in addition to Bethany House’s aftercare services. Ms. M. has proudly offered to return and share her positive experience with guests at Bethany!

In 2022, we:

- Moved forward with our vision of creating a **three-step approach to service delivery, entitled, “Safe Ground for Families Transitional Services,”** which expands our services beyond emergency shelter and case management, to enhanced support for education and career development so that women, and women with children, can break the cycle of homelessness.
- **Developed manuals and guest agreements** for Step II Transitional Housing for highly motivated women, and women with children, to reside in our Bethany West home outside the social service system, so that they may further develop their education and career goals, as well as save money to ensure housing stability once they obtain permanent housing. This program will be wholly funded by grants and contributions.
- Strengthened our **Quality Improvement** functions to include a formal case record review process, a staff satisfaction survey, and more frequent guest satisfaction surveys.
- Were **officially licensed and certified** in August 2022, in each of our homes, by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Services (OTDA) as part of the new certification process for shelters throughout New York, whereby we met or exceeded all their rigorous standards for program, environment, safety and security.
- **Re-opened Bethany Too**, which had been closed for 8 months due to lower utilization of emergency beds throughout Nassau County, as a shelter for single women; our other two shelters are now specifically designated for women with children.
- **Further expanded our list of partnerships** with volunteers, community-based service organizations, corporate partners, foundations and individual donors.
- **Were faced with continuing COVID** challenges where it was disruptive and difficult to provide services to women and children who had to be moved to hotels on a temporary basis when they contracted COVID.

The following is an overview of Bethany House's income and expenses for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

Total Support & Revenue:	\$2,494,747
Program Expenses:	\$1,530,332
Management & General Expenses:	\$ 339,958
Fundraising Expenses:	<u>\$ 28,225</u>
Total Expenses:	\$1,898,515
Total Assets:	\$3,400,085
Total Liabilities:	\$ 239,214
Ending Net Assets:	\$3,160,871

Bethany House of Nassau County Corporation is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Chairperson
Vice Chair & Treasurer
Secretary
Members

Maryanne Pedersen
Bonnie Ryan Arrante
Lancelot Theobald, Jr.
Jeanne Adams
Ellen Furuya
Lisa King
Kia Moore
Christine Vetrano
Angela Zimmerman

PHOTOS on Cover Page (clockwise from top left): Maria and Gabrielle of Yoga & Brunch LI, flanking DawnMarie Goins, Bethany House Assistant Executive Director; Anaya, Mia and Lindon of Freeport Girl Scout Troop #1395; Libby McGowan and Noel Hopkins of The Garden City Welcoming Club, with Douglas O'Dell, Executive Director, and Jane McCabe, Volunteer Coordinator, of Bethany House; Bombas Community Giving Partners program; Stop & Shop Community Bag Program (Merrick, Hempstead and Baldwin locations); Paul Cassamasina of Massapequa Park Bike Club



**625 DeMott Avenue
Baldwin, NY 11510
www.bhny.org**

