

ECHO

FALL EDITION - OCTOBER 2015
A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM
BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME

Bethany Graduates Move into New Program

High School Graduates receive continued support from Bethany in Supervised Independent Living Program



Bethany's Reber Cottage, formerly the campus infirmary, recently recieved an interior renovation to accomodate the Supervised Independent Living Program geared toward youth

supervision.

They utilize appropriate social skills and coping mechanisms to maintain healthy interactions with peers and the community.

ages 17 - 21 who are still in need of support services while they learn to live on their own. These youth have proven an ability to live with minimal

Each youth participates in 40 hours per week of combined education, therapy, community service, and employment.

The program is designed to assist youth in securing safe housing, employment, medical care, and other daily life necessities after leaving SIL and Bethany.

A focus on social supports and community resources is also provided. Bethany may be a resource after discharge from the program, at the youth's request.

From the CEO:

Autumn and the start of the school year have brought a lot of excitement to our youth. To kick off the 2015 school year the Berks County Kiwanis Club sponsored an annual event called "Back To School Bingo". The evening provided all of the youth to come together and in a fun environment play bingo to win their school supplies. Each youth left the evening with a back pack full of special snack and school supplies they need to start the year.



Youth at Back to School Bingo

It will be a busy school year with not only their course work, but also their involvement in sports, school clubs, working in the community, assisting at Bethany's farm, and participating in a variety of community service events.

To ensure our kids achieve their own personal academic success, Devin McFerren, Bethany Education Coordinator and Russ Kline, Conrad Weiser Education Coordinator provide the necessary in-school support our youth need. On campus, tutors assist youth with homework, enrichment programs, research, and studying in the Donald and LaRae Haas Learning Center.

In this issue of the Echo, you will learn more about our Supervised Independent Living Program serving high school graduates who are preparing for adult living.

We are sad to share the closure of our Helping Hands program which provided reunification for 188 children between the ages of 4 and 17. We were blessed to have the opportunity to work with these youth and their families to ensure their safety, health, and wellbeing.

You will also want to check out the article on Bethany's energy and construction projects this summer. You will be amazed to see the new look of Eck, Knorr, and Brobst Cottages.

Many people are asking how the state budget impasse is impacting Bethany. Organizations which serve youth who do not fall within "essential services," are impacted by the budget impasse. Luckily, Bethany has a line of credit and cash reserves to help us through this time. However, as of this writing, over two million dollars in outstanding invoices are owed by our state to Bethany for services rendered. Some of our friends in the human service field who do not have reserves and have used up their lines of credit are feeling a lot more pressure; and we are praying for them.



Student station in Haas Learning Center



Immanuel UCC builds church ramp

All of our services are needed to keep our community healthy and our children protected. We pray that our politicians soon come to an agreement so we can get paid for our services.

Bethany is blessed by many great friends. So many of you through your churches, businesses and service groups have come to campus and completed mission projects. With your help, we have made our church handicap accessible, the pool house much more welcoming, the gardens and benches on campus look amazing, our cottage rec rooms are inviting with new paint and carpet and so much more.... Thank you!

Looking to our future we are committed to doing everything in our power to help youth who have experienced trauma find hope, love, comfort, food, shelter, and safety at Bethany. We can only imagine what must be going through their young minds as they are taken away from their families, some living in the streets, some never knowing their mom or dad, and put into placement.

Thank you for everything that you do for these kids. Thank God for Bethany and remember with God's help all things are possible.

Ken J. Smyle



ABOUT BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME

Founded in 1863, Bethany Children's Home has provided a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid youth in their own self awareness, growth, and healing for a brighter healthier future.

Residential Programs:

Residential Treatment Program is intended for youth who require support and services to obtain skills in order to move to a less structured setting or return home.

Short Term Intensive Treatment Program is a 90-day program intended for youth whose permanency goal is reunification or for youth who require intensive initial treatment services before Residential Treatment Services begin.

Shelter Care / Emergency Services provides emergency services, crisis intervention, and immediate housing for a co-ed population.

Independent Living is geared towards youth age 16-20 who have maintained satisfactory educational progress, and focuses on advanced life skills to prepare youth to live on their own.

Supervised Independent Living is a post highschool program providing youth housing and community support to succeed in continuing education and beginning employment.

Services:

Music Therapy, spiritual services, arts & recreation, Safe Spaces, anger management, social services, and more are provided to every youth at Bethany.



Helping Hands Program Closes

*You have wiped their tears,
You have fed them,
You have clothed them,
You have provided them a warm bed,
You gave them HOPE!!!*

Thank you for helping Bethany provide 188 youth the care and support they needed to find and be reunited with their families this year through the Helping Hands program. It is with a very heavy heart that we announce we have received notification that the program will conclude on September 30, 2015.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement announced the following: "we had to make the decision to cut many beds from existing capacity and unfortunately cannot maintain last year's expansion due to the lack of arrival numbers."

All three programs that were awarded this grant in Pennsylvania will be closing by September 30, 2015.

Bethany is blessed to have an amazing staff and team who worked diligently and tirelessly to provide outstanding care for the youth served. Bethany is thankful to all of our donors, community friends, and advocates who helped the children through advocacy, clothing, supplies, and special activities.

Thank you for providing a brighter future for the 188 kids we cared for this year.





Bethany Becomes Energy Efficient

This past year, Bethany Children's Home applied for and received a grant from the Metropolitan Edison Sustainable Energy Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation to complete an energy audit.

The audit identified the following items to be upgraded or replaced: switch our 30-50 year old oil furnaces over to natural gas; install attic insulation; replace windows with energy efficient windows; and complete electrical upgrades.



New Boiler in Leinbach Cottage warm and toasty for the winter season.

Through an extensive study of over 20 buildings completed by STV Incorporated, Douglassville, it was concluded that Bethany could save nearly \$130,000 a year with some energy conservation upgrades.

The cost of these upgrades is just over \$800,000. However with the savings of \$130,000 a year it made "cents" for Bethany to invest in this project. Over the summer, we began changing the oil furnaces over to natural gas units, replacing windows, and installing the insulation.

With a low interest loan from the Metropolitan Edison Sustainable Energy Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation we have the ability to replace all of the oil furnaces over to gas furnaces. Bethany also received a generous philanthropic gift that will fund the remaining projects.



New windows & siding at Eck Cottage

By the end of November we will also be able to replace five cottage roofs and the Chapel roof. All of these improvements will keep our campus

We are so thankful for our community and friends who continue to provide a brighter future for our youth!!

Wells Fargo Grants \$1000 to Haas Learning Center

Maggie Kyler, Community Banking District Manager and Assistant Vice President of Wells Fargo and Hanane Aitelmajouh, Wells Fargo Wyomissing Store Manager present a \$1,000 grant to Meggan Kerber, Director of Development to purchase enrichment and learning materials for the Donald and LaRae Haas Learning Center.



Learning a Trade at Bethany



Bethany youth are learning how to use power tools in our wood shop to build furniture and craft items. We are currently in need of the following items to help build our tool supply for the woodshop. If you are interested in donating any of these, or similar items, please contact the Development Office at 610-589-6828.

- Variety Sizes of Clamps
- Vise
- KD Tools 3-Piece Assorted Pliers Set
- Metric Mechanic's Tool Set
- Porter Cable 4.5 AMP ROS Sander
- Dewalt 3 AMP Orbital Sander
- Dewalt 4-Tool 18 Volt Nicd Cordless Combo Kit
- Dewalt 15AMP 10 inch Table Saw
- Kobalt 12 inch-15AMP Dual Bevel Sliding Laser
- Compound Miter Saw
- Bostitch 12 Piece Punch and Chisel Set
- Kobalt 20 oz Steel Rip Claw Hammer
- Stanley Flat Max 20inch Hand Saw
- Kobalt 12 inch Bimetal Hacksaw with Rubber Grip
- Kobalt 3.7HP – 60 Gallon 155 PSI, 230 Volt Vertical Electrical Air Compressor

*****Home Depot or Lowes Gift Cards*****



Benefit to Support Bethany Children's Home

Come Out to Limerick Furniture on
October 24-25, 2015
3050 N. 5th Street Highway, Reading
Fairgrounds Square Mall

Celebrate their New Store and
Support Bethany Children's Home

Y102 Remote
Food by Klinger's on Carsonia
Raffles
Great Shopping
and much much more!

5% of all Sales will Benefit
Bethany Children's Home

Home Goods Collection For Bethany

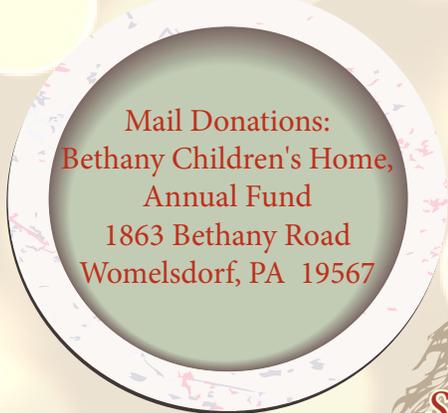
Donate Any of the Following Items at the
Store and Receive a
\$25.00 Gift Card to Limerick Furniture

***** Note: All items must be NEW and unused*****

Twin Sheet Sets
Twin Blankets
Twin Comforters
Twin Bed in Bags
Pillows - Bed and Decorative
Bath Towels

Gift Cards to: Limerick Furniture, Boscov's,
Target, Wal-Mart, etc.

Merry Christmas



Mail Donations:
Bethany Children's Home,
Annual Fund
1863 Bethany Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

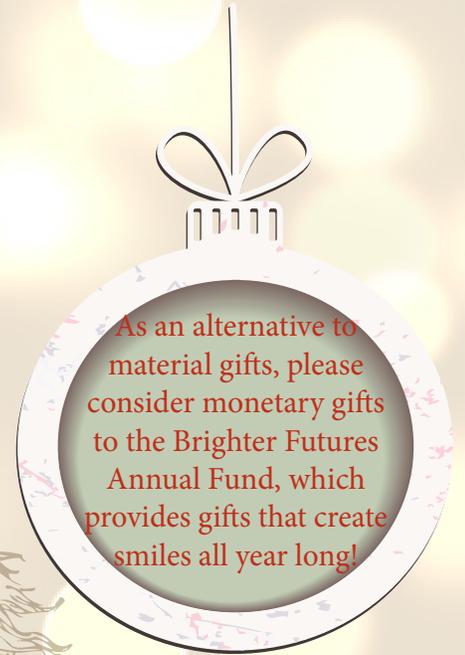
Thank you
for your
willingness
and generosity to
provide a
wonderful

Christmas and
Holiday Season for
our Bethany Youth.

Your special gifts will
bring many smiles
during this time.

So that the elves may sort and wrap, we
ask that all gifts be delivered by
Sunday, December 20, 2015

**Any gifts received after December 21 may be
held for birthdays and special occasions.*



As an alternative to
material gifts, please
consider monetary gifts
to the Brighter Futures
Annual Fund, which
provides gifts that create
smiles all year long!

Sunday, December 6, 2015

12:00pm – 4:00pm

Monday, December 7-Friday, December 11, 2015

9:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday, December 13, 2015

12:00pm – 4:00pm

Monday, December 14-Thursday, December 17, 2015

9:00am – 4:00pm

CLOSED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015 – STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 20, 2015

12:00pm – 4:00pm

*If an alternative date/time is needed, please call the Development Office at 610-589-6827
to schedule an appointment for drop-off.*

GIFT RECEIVING AREA

Christmas gifts will be received at Smith
Lodge - located just before the church.

There is plenty of parking.
Look for the signs on campus!



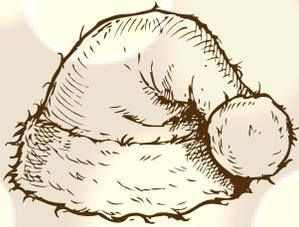
Christmas at Bethany Children's Home

Current residents of Bethany are between the ages of 13-21.
We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with consideration for parental warnings, modesty, and safety.

Please do not wrap general gifts and note that Bethany cannot accept toys, used clothing, or opened personal products.

Call us with questions anytime at
610-589-6827.

Financial gifts designated for the
"Brighter Futures Fund" provide for
youth needs and activities
throughout the year!



2015 Bethany Christmas Wish List

Accessories (Men's and Women's): Hair straighteners, watches, umbrellas, Adidas/Axe spray, washable duffel bags, electric digital alarm clock (no radios)

Recreation/Music: Official Size Balls, Basketball Nets, Baseballs, Softballs, Tennis Balls, Bike Helmets, Bikes, Rollerblades, West Music Gift Cards, iTunes Gift Cards, Books for Teens

Clothing - (Men's, Women's): Camisoles/tanks, ladies robes, gym shorts and white t-shirts, Women's and Men's slippers, pajamas, underwear, socks, Nike athletic socks

Art Studio: Stretched canvas (various sizes), canvas boards, metal cookie cutters (for clay), wood rolling pins, puzzles, hard bound journals

Cottage Needs: Bed pillows, twin mattress pads, bath towels, shower curtain liners, kitchen dish towels, 1" binders

Gift Cards: Wal-Mart, Target, Home Depot, Lowes, TJ MAXX/Marshalls, Maurices, Ross, Rue21, Sneaker Villa, Champs, Dick's Sporting Goods, Famous Footwear, Foot Locker, Aeropostle, American Eagle, Hollister, Game Stop, Boyer's Market, IGA, Giant, Redners, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Turkey Hill, JoAnn Fabrics, AC Moore, Michaels, Hobby Lobby, Red Box, and popular area restaurants



Bethany Children's Home Tribute Breakfast

Friday, October 23, 2015
7:30 - 9:00 AM

Doors Open at 7:00 AM
Crowne Plaza, Wyomissing
Breakfast Buffet & Program

Recognizing:

2015 Children's Award

Dr. Betsy Adams
Retired Principal Conrad Weiser School District

2015 Rev. Harold A. Henning Spirit Award

Lee Arbuster
Retail Consultant, Owner & Partner Great Valu Supermarkets

Sponsored by:



Have you reserved your spot for the Tribute Breakfast? Sponsorship opportunities and reservations are still available!

You can complete your sponsorship or reservation online at www.bethanyhome.org/events/tribute-breakfast or Call us at 610-589-6828!

We look forward to seeing you at the Breakfast, sponsored by Customer's Bank.

Meet Reverend Kim Kendrick, Bausman Memorial Supply Pastor

Reverend Kim Kendrick is providing new energy to Bausman Memorial chapel on the campus of Bethany Children's Home. Serving as Supply Pastor, Kim is engaging Bethany youth in worship through praise, sharing, liturgy, and music.

"I am honored that Bethany Children's Home and I have connected. In our short period of time I have witnessed the presence of the Divine during our worship. The music, the prayers, and the new levels of participation each speak to the unceasing work of the Holy Spirit within this community," said Rev. Kim.

Recently, youth learned the order of

worship and the meaning of why we do what we do. Kim is inspiring youth to find an understanding of faith and to identify the strength they can find within their faith.

Kim serves as the Associate Pastor at Living Water UCC in Philadelphia. She was recently ordained by the Philadelphia Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

She is a Class of 2014 graduate from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and a Certificate in Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Kim serves the UCC locally as a committee



co-chair for the UCC's Mid-Atlantic Regional Youth Event. Nationally, Kim is part of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns. Rev Kim is an OWL (Our Whole Lives) facilitator, leading workshops on Human Sexuality and Spirituality for Youth and Young Adults.



*With a very simple gift
you can help us do what we do today
even better tomorrow.*



For information on Bethany's planned giving opportunities, contact the Development Office at 610-589-6828



On Saturday, July 25, 2015, family and friends of alumni Marty Hartranft gathered at Bethany Children's Home to celebrate Marty's life and dedicate a tree in his memory.

Pictured above are Marty's siblings: Willie Hartranft, Jack Hartranft, and Martha Hartranft Kopchak along with Kevin Snyder, Bethany CEO.

An afternoon of fellowship was held in Smith Lodge.



We had the joy of working with Leander Quint as our summer intern, who traveled here from Germany!

Leander assisted in several departments including archives and development, and met with directors of music therapy, social services, and more! We are thankful we had a chance to know Leander and we wish him well in his future!

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Development Department and Archives as an intern, please contact Meggan Kerber at 610-589-6828.

Interns have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Bethany's rich history and work closely with our Archivist Carl Bloss, assist with annual events, and learn about development and marketing for non-profits.

BCH Community Enjoys Wednesday Nights



Members of Bethany's Ladies Committee serve dinner to youth, staff during Fiesta Night

Every Wednesday during the summer our Bethany community gathers at the pool for a meal and activity. This has been a tradition at Bethany for many years and our campus community looks forward to each one.

The Recreation department organizes and plans several special activities for Wednesday nights. Some of the favorites include "Fiesta Night," "Carnival Night," and "Italian Night."

These activities are a great opportunity for our community to bond while playing silly games and working together as a

cottage or team.

The summer kicks off with a softball game and cookout, setting the tone for a fun summer. Our annual "Gondola Boat Race" on Italian Night is a standing tradition at the end of the summer.

Cottages work for several weeks to build a boat out of cardboard and other materials to race in the pool. These activities serve to build comradery and pride throughout the cottages and campus.

If you are interested in sponsoring or volunteering at a Wednesday Night activity, call 610-589-6827.

Bethany History: Did You Know?

Anniversary Day celebrations were discontinued from 1942-1945 due to World War II, and enforced rations and hardships suffered in the Bethany community and beyond. The celebration was restored in 1946.

Bethany Echo



At their quarterly meeting in October 1944, the Bethany Board of Managers granted authority for the publication of a quarterly periodical, to be known as the Bethany ECHO.

BCH Pool House Freshly Painted



New Goshenhoppen UCC painted Bethany's pool house as a mission project this summer. Bethany is grateful for the fresh pool house and the hard work put in by this group! The group completed this project as part of a week long work mission.



COMING SOON!
BETHANY'S ONLINE STORE!
WATCH FACEBOOK AND CHECK YOUR
EMAIL FOR THE GRAND OPENING
ANNOUNCEMENT!

New Summer Concert Series a Success



Bethany made new friends this summer at our first Summer Concert Series in July and August. Artist included Stephanie Grace, The Dave Mell Blues Band, The Wallace Brothers Band, Caroline Reese, and Cloud Party. Hundreds of fans traveled to see their favorite musicians play on our scenic campus.

Bethany youth enjoyed the shows and hosted cottage stands where they sold baked goods and crafts to raise money for cottage trips. We look forward to hosting the series again in 2016!

152nd Anniversary Day Community Celebration

Bethany would like to thank our local community, Anniversary Day sponsors, volunteers, and all of our friends, staff, and youth who made this day a wonderful celebration! Burning House Band, Haley Sheeler, Matt Miskie, and The Keystone Band were fantastic, and we enjoyed visiting with some our new friends from the petting zoo! See you all next summer!



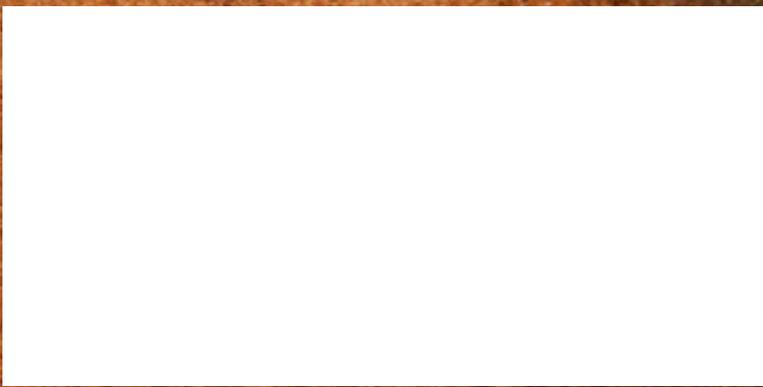
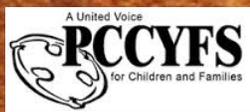


1863 Bethany Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.bethanyhome.org

610-589-4501

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



Bethany Annual Fall Fest Set for October 12th!

Each year on Columbus Day, the Bethany community comes together to celebrate the beginning of fall. We welcome the season with Autumn and Halloween crafts, face painting, fun snacks like candied apples, hayrides, and games. This year we are adding a Fishing Derby! Staff enjoy volunteering for different jobs, to make the experience magical for our whole community! Fall Fest is presented by our Rec. Department. If you would like more information on supporting our youth through fun holiday events, please contact our Development Office at 610-589-6827

