

ECHO

SUMMER/FALL 2017 ISSUE
THE NEWSLETTER FROM
BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME



Over The Edge raises \$110,000 for Bethany youth health and medical needs



On Friday, September 22nd, 75 community leaders and supporters rappelled the Lofts at 525, Lancaster Avenue in Reading to support the youth served at Bethany Children's Home. Each and every day, over ninety youth who have experienced trauma through abuse, neglect or abandonment are finding the strength, hope and courage to take back their lives. Each Edger raised a minimum of \$1000 and dedicated one hour of one day to

stand beside our youth in their healing process to let them know they have the support needed to heal.

Over the Edge is known for its signature rappelling fundraising events all over the world and helping organizations raise millions of dollars since its inception. The second annual Over The Edge for Bethany featured rappels by Senator David Argall, Jason Vanatta, Savage L&B Dodge, Slapshot, Dr. Patrick Borja of the Spine & Wellness Center, Berks County Bar Association Team, Leah Tyler of Y102 and more....

The public was welcome to attend the event and watch the Edgers rappel 525 Loft Apartments which began at 10:00 a.m. The Base Camp area provided food, fun and demonstrations from local organizations to the community. Y102 featured a live remote from 11am to 1pm.

All funds raised from the 2017 Over the Edge Campaign will provide support for the health and medical needs of the youth served at Bethany and the renovations of the Health Clinic.

A special thank you to Metropolitan Management Companies for hosting Over the Edge event and to VA Productions for being our production sponsor.



Over The Edge Event

Congratulations to our top three fundraising Edgers! Between the three of them, they raised over \$12,000!



Elizabeth "Betty" Coogan - \$5,635



Desiree Hagmayer - \$3,260



Gary Eberly - \$3,184



Bethany's Annual Tribute Breakfast



Bethany CEO, Kevin Snyder, with award winner, Peter Connors

On Friday, September 29th, 2017, Peter Connors of Connors Investment Services was recognized as the Bethany Children's Home 2017 Children's Award recipient. The award was presented at Bethany's Tribute Breakfast held at the Crowne Plaza, Wyomissing. The Children's Award is presented annually to an individual who has contributed to Bethany Children's Home in an extraordinary manner with their time, talent and treasure. Peter has been the leading advocate and voice for children and youth throughout Berks County who are seeking a Brighter Future. His compassion for youth can be seen through his years of service to youth serving organizations throughout Berks County.

served at Bethany with the The Rev. Dr. Harold A. Henning Spirit Award. In its third year, this award recognizes the recipients' compassion for developing and empowering others. Following in the grace and footsteps of Rev. Henning, the Schmehl's have served Bethany with humility, authenticity, and faithfulness.



Bethany CEO, Kevin Snyder, with award winners, Susie and Peter Schmehl

Judge Peter and Susie Schmehl were recognized for their lifetime dedication and faithfulness to the thousands of youth

Also recognized at the breakfast were our top three Over The Edge fundraisers: Elizabeth "Betty" Coogan, Desiree Hagmayer and Gary Eberly.

Speakers included Bethany Chaplain, Rev. Kim Kendrick; Bethany CEO, Kevin Snyder; Virginia Dodge of VA Productions; and Elizabeth Fortuner, a successful graduate of Bethany who gave a moving speech about her time on campus. The event was emceed by Lynn Kreider, owner of LJ Fitness.



The Artwork featured at the Tribute Breakfast was created by the youth at Bethany Children's Home. Over a period of 5 months, Resident Artist, Dustin Horne, had youth paint and design three hundred 4"x 4" canvases. The youth had a great time creating unique, one-of-a-kind paintings. Each of the paintings is signed with the youth's initials along with BCH and 2017. Enjoy your painting, hang it on a wall, set it on your desk, wherever you choose to display it, and each time you look at it remember the difference you're making in the life of a child.

Liquid Courage

To build on the excitement of our biggest fundraiser of the year, we kicked off our Over The Edge series of events with a beautiful cocktail party and auction at the elegant Reading Planetarium on Tuesday, September 12. Over 120 Edgers, sponsors, community supporters and volunteers came together for food, fun and fabulous live and silent auction items. Dave Brennan of Special Occasions by Panevino provided our guests with delicious food and beverages. The donated auction items included trips, wine, jewelry, sports tickets and most poignantly, artwork created by several youth from Bethany. Dustin Horne, resident artist, spoke about the artists and the effect that the art program has on all Bethany youth. Bethany's medical professional,

Dr. Lyndsay Gardner, also made an impassioned and eloquent plea for funds to improve the health and wellness on campus. Bethany was honored to have Alisha Leavelle, Head of Business Development at Ideal Concepts in Allentown, share her life journey and how she overcame her struggles and now helps others in the community. A great time was had by all and we thank everyone that attended and made the evening a success!



Bethany Alumni Picnic, August 12th

On Saturday, August 12th, over 60 alumni, friends and family gathered for an alumni picnic at Bethany's pool pavilion. Alumni were treated to a delicious cookout, music from Irv and Jody Weinreich, swimming in the pool and reminiscing. Carl Bloss provided access to the archives and tidbits from Bethany's long history. Tours were conducted of several of the cottages and the church. A garden dedication at More Memorial was held to honor the legacy of Anna Mae Barron Augustine who passed away on April 25, 2017. The Augustine family along with many of Anna Mae's friends joined in this special tribute.





Special Thanks to our 2017 Sponsors for Going Over the Edge For Bethany Children's Home

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EDGER SUPPORTERS

Keystone Tees • Jimmie Kramer's Peanut Bar
PA National Guard • Phillips Office Solutions
Queen City Family Restaurant • We Logo It

Around Bethany's Campus...

Summer Has Come to an End, but Fall is here! *By Sarah Sechrist*

Can you believe that summer has come to an end and our youth have returned to school? It's hard to believe that the long days of sunshine and swimming are behind us for the season. However, we don't leave the summer without fun memories and exciting stories.

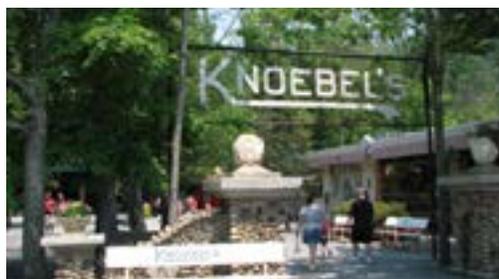
The pool was the center of a lot of our great events as well as daily fun for our kiddos. Hot days were relieved by the cool water and youth were given the opportunity to relax poolside each day. Wednesday Night Activities were

held weekly in the pool pavilion as well. We were fortunate enough to have some great meals supplied by Moe's, Tosco's, Tony's Pizza, and Redners. The activities were capped off by our Annual Boat Race at the pool. Reed Cottage was victorious with an excellent boat design captained by resident Dylan. Brobst Cottage gave them a great run for their money though! We had a very entertaining belly-flop contest won by Eck Resident Levi.

Continued on Page 10



Campus Incentive Beach Trip



Knoebels Trip sponsored by St. Paul's UCC, Robesonia



Campus Youth Awards



Summer fun donations from Tabor Church



New Goshenhoppen Youth Day & Messy Game Night



Board Games donated to youth



Bethany Ladies Committee hosts Fiesta Night on campus



Senior Graduation Dinner



Voices Up Day of Services on Campus



Baptisms on Campus with Pastor Kim



Tulpehocken UCC Richland donates backpacks and Bibles



Sons of American Legion of Quakertown visit campus & provided a picnic lunch

And in the community...



Church of the Good Shepherd
Blessing of Gifts



Alumni Marty Hartranft Dedication
at Fightin' Phils



Panevino Charity Golf
Outing for Bethany



Pastor Kim preaching at
General Synod



L&B Dodge School Supply Drive



Duffel and Laundry Bags donation
from Frieden's UCC



Sweet Cases donation from
Gravel Hill Church



Donations from Solomons UCC



Apron donations from Fashion
Sewing & Chat Chapter of ASG



Motivational bag donation
from Voices Up



Bethany attends the
55th Annual PCC Conference



Donations from Core Health
Chiropractic Hello Summer Festival



Back to School Bingo with Kiwanis
Club of Greater Reading - Berks Co.



Weikel Sportswear donation



Visit from UCC Trinity, Bloomsburg

Christmas at

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.

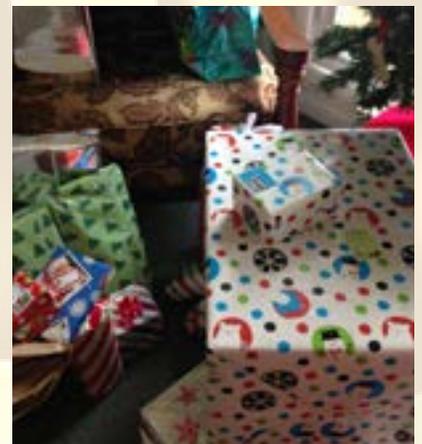
So that the elves may sort and wrap, we ask that all gifts be delivered by

Sunday, December 17, 2017

**Any gifts received after December 17 may be held for birthdays and special occasions.*



Mail Donations:
Bethany Children's Home,
Brighter Futures
1863 Bethany Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567



Sunday, December 3, 2017

Monday, December 4-Friday, December 8, 2017

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Monday, December 11-Friday, December 15, 2017

Sunday, December 17, 2017

12:00pm – 4:00pm

9:00am – 4:00pm

12:00pm – 4:00pm

9:00am – 4:00pm

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.

Current residents of Bethany are between the ages of 14-16. 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.

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!



Bethany Children's Home

2017 Bethany Christmas Wish List

ACTIVITY ITEMS:

Art and Craft Kits, Adult Coloring Books, Paint By Number, Tie Dye Kits, Card Stock, Paint Brushes, Glue Sticks, Stress Balls, Gel Pens, Hand Held Games, Board Games, Scrapbook Paper, Sharpies, Wooden Bird Houses/Wooden Crafts to Paint, Stretched Canvas (various sizes), and Canvas Boards

COTTAGE NEEDS:

Small bins with handles to hold toiletries, wash cloths, bed pillows, twin mattress pads, bath towels, pool towels, shower curtain liners, shower curtain rings, kitchen dish cloths/towels, twin comforters, 4 slice toasters, coffeemakers, blenders, flashlights, nightlights, kitchen utensils (large spoons/spatulas), baking supplies(cookie sheets, cookbooks, muffin pans), BBQ Grilling Sets

HOBBIES/GAMES:

Teen/Young Adult Series Books, Books for grade 1-5 reading levels, jigsaw puzzles, hard bound journals, popular board games.

RECREATION:

Bike Helmets, 21" + Bicycles, Adult Bicycle Helmets, Skateboards, Skateboard helmets, Official Size Footballs, Official Size Volleyballs, Official Size Basketballs, pool sticks, hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks and balls, softballs, rollerblades, swimming goggles, pool toys and noodles, baseball equipment including bats, gloves, balls, helmets and bases, yoga mats, yoga/Pilates DVD's, Fishing Rods, Fishing Equipment, Pickle ball equipment, Boxing Gloves and Equipment, Paracord

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

1" binders, pocket folders, daily planners, poster board

GIFT CARDS:

(To Support Independent Learning Skills)

Walmart, Target, Lowe's, Home Depot, Five Below, TJ Maxx/Marshall's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Famous Footwear, Payless Shoes, Game Stop, Boyer's IGA, Redner's, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Ross, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Red Box and Netflix.

TEEN GIRLS CLOTHING:

(Juniors and Misses sizes please)

Sweatpants- Sizes Small-2X, Panties - size 5,6,7,8, Sports Bras/Bralettes- Sizes Small-2XL, Socks-all types, Pajamas- all sizes, bath robes, tank tops, slippers, gym shorts.

TEEN BOYS CLOTHING:

(Men's sizes please)

Sweatpants for men-Sizes Small-2XL, Underwear-All men sizes and styles, Socks-all types, Pajama pants-Sizes Small - 2XL, white t-shirts - all sizes, gym shorts, slippers or slides

ACCESSORIES:

Hair straighteners, curling irons, curling iron wavers, hair dryers, umbrellas, electric digital alarm clock with no radio, collapsible hampers or wash baskets, rain ponchos, rain boots, wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper

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!

**Mail Donations to: Bethany Children's Home, Brighter Futures,
1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567**

Summer Fun article *(Continued from Page 6)*

Reading Recreation sponsored a Girls Leadership program summer. Four young ladies participated in groups revolving around inner beauty, independence, self-esteem, confidence and growth. They were also able to partake in two incredible off campus trips. The first trip was to RACC where they were given a private tour of the college and met with several administrators to discuss their futures. Our second trip at the end of August was to Goggleworks where the girls were able to handcraft their own glass paperweights in the Hot Glass studio. Both trips were unique opportunities and each girl was especially grateful. The goal is to continue the Girls Leadership program each summer.

Summer in the Rec Department was capped off by our incentive trip to Ocean City, Maryland. Eight youth spent three days on the beach and boardwalk as a reward for their positive behavior, leadership, and dedication to the program at BCH. All of the youth spent hours in the ocean, sunbathed, enjoyed each other's company and relaxed on their mini vacation. Some of our braver youth went on some thrilling rides on the boardwalk and had an absolute blast. It is always a humbling experience to watch our young people reap the rewards of their positive behavior. We are grateful to all those who helped these youth achieve this incentive as well as support us to be able to take them on this trip.

The Rec Department would like to personally thank each and every one of you who helped us have such a fantastic summer with our youth. Your dedication to keeping them active and engaged does not go unnoticed. Without your support and supervision we would not be able to achieve what we do each summer. We hope that everyone had a great summer with our youth, and are looking forward to the change in season and programming. Keep your eyes peeled for more incentive trips, events, and new activities this fall!



L&B Dodge Christmas Event for Bethany on Sat. December 9th!

For every vehicle sold in December at L&B Dodge, \$50 will be donated directly to Bethany Children's Home. They will be also collecting Christmas gifts (see wish list on page 9) to fill a Jeep!

Visit the dealership on Saturday, December 9th from 11am - 3pm for food, fun and Santa photos with your two-legged and four-legged family members!

Bring a donation in that day and receive a piece of Bethany artwork!



Thank You Wells Fargo!

On October 11th, 2017, Bethany Children's Home was honored by Maggie Kyler with a \$1,000 grant from the Community Connections Program.

The grant will be used for Education Support Services for our youth.

Central Pennsylvania Community Connections Program



We proudly recognize

Bethany Children's Home

Wells Fargo is proud to support nonprofits that work to strengthen our communities. Through corporate and foundation grants, we share our success by giving back to nonprofit organizations that address vital community needs and issues, including community development, education, human services, environmental and civic projects.

Lauren S. Hoffner
Lauren Hoffner, Region Bank President, Central Pennsylvania



Thank you to our Summer Concert Series SPONSORS

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Mark Allen of
Morgan Stanley

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Berks Packing - Bethany Children's Home Ladies Committee
Coca Cola of Reading - Dieffenbach's Potato Chips

The Bethany Concert Series is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and The National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Concert Series is funded in part through a grant from Berks Arts Council and the Wyomissing Foundation.





1863 Bethany Road
 Womelsdorf, PA 19567
www.bethanyhome.org
 610-589-4501

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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. Everyday youth who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned are taking back their lives with the help of Bethany.

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

Programs: Bethany offers individualized programs for youth who for whatever reason cannot live with their family or a substitute family. From Emergency services to longer term Residential Treatment programs, Bethany supports youth while they heal and prepare for the next steps of their journey.

To learn more, visit www.bethanyhome.org and follow us on:



Bethany Children's Home is an approved EITC organization for the FY 2017-2018. Education Improvement Tax Credit funds will be used to enhance the academic support and enrichment programs provided at Bethany through the

Haas Learning Center. Funds from EITC benefit education remediation for youth served at Bethany. The program focuses on a balance of individualized services and group learning based on academic and educational needs.

To find out how to support Bethany through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program program, go to: www.bethanyhome.org/get-involved/eitc/ or call **610-589-6828**

A Simple Gift

through your will or estate will help us with what we do today and far into the future. It's a simple gift that costs nothing during your lifetime. To learn more about Bethany's planned giving program, please call 610-689-6827 or www.bethanyhome.org

