

# Bethany Children's Home Alumni/Archives Newsletter

November 2021



*Jennifer M. Koch, Archivist*  
*Carl Bloss, Archivist Emeritus*

## **Bethany Legacy Brick Campaign**

Become a permanent part of the Bethany Landscape, for you or for a member of your family! Add a brick to the walkway of More Memorial Park. The **Legacy Brick Campaign** is in full swing, and you still have time to be part of Phase 1!

There are several ways to place your order. You can use the link below, you can fill out the sheet provided as the final page of this newsletter, or you can call into your Development Alumni Coordinator Jennifer Koch at: 610-589-4501, ext. 305 and she will assist you in placing your order.

<https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/bethanychildrenshome/>

## **A houseparent interview, perfect for the holiday season - Linda Guillory Walthour (1987-2006)**

“We ran our cottage like it was one big family, when I looked at the pictures of our kids, they all looked really happy.” Linda and her husband served as relief houseparents at Hess Cottage and then full-time houseparents in Knorr Cottage.

When it came to holidays and the children had no families or they were living at Bethany, they were treated to all the holidays should be. When the children had no place to go, “We were given permission to take them home with us and we would have a family Christmas.” Christmas was, “CRAZY”, and no matter “how old they are they will never going to forget their Christmas at Bethany; I would wrap everything...each gift, and it would take hours to unwrap all the gifts.” In between all the gifts being opened they would mix it up with laughter and snacks.

Linda remembered one girl: “She sat on the chair crying, I asked her why she was crying, and she said, ‘These people don’t know me, and they have bought me all of this stuff, I went home to my family and received a used purse from my grandmother and that was Christmas, I come here, and they take care of us.’ I explained to her that it isn’t her fault that she is here, and that people do care, and they want to see the children of Bethany have joy, feel love, and know happiness.”

The same process today is used to make sure that the residents make a list, and they are given the opportunity to unwrap gifts that are individualized to their specific wishes. Linda expressed that Christmas at Bethany was exciting and full of activity. “As the houseparent you had to keep records of what each child was getting and making sure that you were checking off the items as they were received and wrapped.” Different than it is now, houseparents never got time off during this time as they were responsible for wrapping all the gifts for their household. There weren’t volunteers. In addition to the

list Linda kept, on Christmas morning the residents were responsible to keep a list of each gift and from where it came, so that they each wrote an individualized thank-you note to the gift giver.

“You couldn’t see the floor! Each resident would have 100 gifts! You will never again see the Christmas that those children saw here on our campus.” After the gifts were opened, residents would lay their gifts out on their bed after taking them up in large boxes and laundry baskets. Linda would take a picture to give to the youth as a memory of their time and that day.

When Linda and her husband were here, any youth who resided at Bethany was obligated to go to church services; if they were unable to commit to that obligation and participate in the religious program, unless their own religion didn’t permit it, they were not able to reside at Bethany.

“Church was every Sunday on campus, it was mandatory and there was always a church service before youth went home for the holiday(s); I did worship dance and youth participated. There was a wine goblet with a candle inside, white silk skirts with puffy white tops with an overlay of sparkle. It made for an ethereal and beautiful sight for the enjoyment of the entire campus.”

The residents who were allowed to go home at that time would return to campus on Dec. 26 around 7 p.m. and there would be light fare to eat as they were opening their gifts. Other activities included making Christmas cookies of which they would always take a box home to their family, as a gift. They would make ornaments and place them on the tree in their cottage, and Bethany would supply the youth with a small amount of money to go shopping for their family. They would visit Walmart and 5 Below to purchase items for their family.

A funny story she wanted to share about the holiday season was specifically about one Fall Fest and the “Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin” contest. Their cottage won! “It was the biggest pumpkin I had seen and here we were carting it to our cottage, because we won! We made pumpkin pies and when I say we made them, they were coming out of our ears; everyone on campus got a pie, the residents took pies home to their family, we had pies in the freezer and pulled them out throughout the year! Wherever we could stick a pie, we did ... it was a HUGE thing!” During November, each day they wrote on a note about “something they were thankful for and that they wanted to remember.”

The message Linda had for the youth of Bethany today is: Take advantage of the opportunity Bethany provides you to guide your own future; it is up to you.”

### Artwork from the Youth of Bethany Children’s Home



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

We have some wonderfully talented young adults on our campus, and this is Art Therapy in action!

Here is a little bit about each young artist and how the art and music therapy programs are affecting them here on the Bethany campus.

(1) SU, 17, Eck – “I like art in general, anything I can make and put my feelings into like I do with my music; I am in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and I hope to soon be part of the music program.”

The piece we shared with you is an album cover for his music. He writes rap, creating vocals and instrumental tracks for his visions. “The art program is positive for me and allows me to bring out all the things I am feeling. When I need to decompress, I write and create. To date, my catalog is very extensive, I am currently working on a project that relates to my struggles and frustrations.” He said the art program really lets you explore hidden talents and allows you to try different media including tapestry, graphic design, acrylics, and pottery.

(2) DT, 15, Brobst – “I love acrylic painting, and am new to art; most recently I created a colorful eye, this is by far my favorite piece to date, it brings out the colors I have inside of me.” DT expressed that having a space where she can be alone and create items that allow her to express while having a calm and peaceful space to be who she is, just helps everything go away in her mind. “Singing...I love to sing and that is the main way I decompress! I don’t make my music, but I love to emulate others because it takes away my anxiety.”

She also told us that “when you come to the studio you don’t have to worry about having great talent, Ms. Linda will make you comfortable and help you explore your own individual talent, I feel like anyone is welcome here.”

(3) MS, 18, Eck – I am an acrylic artist, painting... I like to draw and work with pastels, but I always come back to the acrylics. Most recently I did a painting for a friend with his girlfriend’s name in it.” He told us that the art program gives him time to practice his craft.

“I label myself as an artist and I want that to be my chosen profession.” He likes to paint to decompress, no matter where he is on the campus. As one of our volunteers at Alumni Day he was approached by an alumnus who asked if his art was representative of what he felt inside, and he explained “it is...but I gave a better verbal description of what I really created and ended up selling a few of my pieces, as my description was better than the name we chose for the piece.” He told us that “There isn’t anywhere better than at the art studio with Ms. Linda.”

(4) RRW, 15, Leinbach – This young lady participates in art and music on our campus.

“I was never into art, but then I saw others creating things and I became interested in learning, and Ms. Linda assisted in drawing out my talent. I wanted to create a picture of my mom, using a photograph. I created a likeness using acrylic paint of my mother holding me; my mom passed away when I was 9 and I do not have a lot of memories except that one picture, and it was my favorite memory. I did this for my grandmother.”

RRW expressed that coming to the campus was a culture shock for her, she just wasn’t prepared for the smell from the farms! She wanted us to know that she puts a lot of focus on her education and working to create new pieces. “I am going to create a picture of me, my sister and my mother; my sister often

feels left out and I think this would be a nice gift for her.” At present she is working on a few different projects in different media at the studio. “I like being able to try and succeed in doing something I never thought I could.”

We hope you enjoyed a glimpse into our youth and their experiences in Art Therapy and Music Therapy here on the Bethany campus.

**BETHANY ALUMNI CONNECTION** – Let us help you reconnect with your Bethany Brothers & Sisters (“Class of...” we use the year you arrived at Bethany.)

**Sandra Lee (Long) Matthews** – 1967, last reported living in Ohio, the phone number we have is not valid. We have someone looking to make contact.

**Bethany Alumni** who lived with **The Guillory family** 1987-2006. Mrs. Linda Guillory Walthour would love to reconnect and provide you with pictures from your time with her and her husband. The Alumni Coordinator is looking for **CLASS OF 1975-2005**, Bethany Alumni from those years to reach out; we would like to plan an event, and would love your input.

### **ALUMNI Deaths:**

**Linda L. (Baum) Heilman**, Bethany Class of 1961, passed away at WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon, on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**ALUMNI GROUPS AT BETHANY**- Get involved with your peers today. Reach out to our Development Alumni Relations Coordinator for more information. [jkoch@bethanyhome.org](mailto:jkoch@bethanyhome.org)

**NEXT- The Homers** – the next Homers Breakfast – December 9 @ 9 AM at the Heidelberg Restaurant. Theme – Christmas - Activity – Ugly Sweater Contest & Small gift exchange.

### **LOOKING FOR THESE ITEMS TO ADD TO THE BETHANY ARCHIVES:**

**Anniversary Day Programs:** We are missing the following years:  
1891, 1893, 1897, 1913, 1954, and 1957

**Bethany Cookbooks:** We are missing the following editions/years:  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> editions between the years of 1916-1926  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> editions between the years of 1936-1946 (**Thank you to whomever sent 1939!**)

**Bethany Anniversary Day Pins:** We are missing the following years: 1901 & 1931-1942

**Do you have any Bethany memorabilia? Reach out to the archivist to see what we might be missing from our collection.**



## Bethany Children's Home 2021 Christmas Gift Drop-Off Times

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.

**Christmas Land** is at a NEW LOCATION this year! The **Henning Center** will be accepting gifts **BY SCHEDULED DROP-OFF TIMES ONLY**. We have security at all entrances of campus, so we will add your name to the list of visitors for our security team. Please be sure to bring a photo ID.

Please call Craig in the Development Office to schedule your drop-offs: 610-589-6874

### Hours for Scheduled Deliveries:

Monday, Dec. 6 - Friday, Dec. 10	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12	Noon – 3 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 13 - Friday, Dec. 17	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 19	Noon – 3 p.m.

PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR CHRISTMAS DROPS. Additional evening and weekend hours available upon request. Please call the number above.

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

**Monday, Dec. 20, 2021.**

Christmas gifts will **ONLY** be received at the Henning Center located on Ryeland road at our main entrance. Look for the signs!

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

Donations can be mailed to:

Bethany Children's Home, Brighter Futures Fund, 1863 Bethany Road  
Womelsdorf, PA 19567





# Bethany Children's Home

## Christmas Wish List

Thank you for helping create new, positive memories in our youth's lives!

Bethany youth are 10-21 years of age.

We kindly ask that all items are new and unwrapped.

We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty and safety.

**Cottage Needs:** bed pillows • twin sheets • twin zippered waterproof mattress pads • bath towels • shower curtain liners and rings • kitchen dish cloths/towels • twin comforters • 4-slice toasters • flashlights & nightlights • sketch-books • MP3 players • hangers • large duffel bags • hairbrushes • loofahs • shower caddies • conditioner • body wash  
**Accessories:** umbrellas • digital alarm clock with no radio • washbaskets • rain ponchos & boots • wrapping paper • tissue paper • large storage containers

**Activity Items:** art & craft kits • adult coloring books • paint-by-number • tie-dye kits (with white shirts and pillowcases) • card stock • paint brushes • hand-held games • board games • scrapbook paper • canvas boards • yarn • crochet & knitting needles • colored pencils • hardbound journals

**Teen Girls Clothing:** (juniors and misses sizes please): sweatpants- small-2X • panties - size 5,6,7 & 8 • sports bras/bralettes- Small-2XL • socks-all types • pajamas - all sizes • bath robes • tank tops • slippers • gym shorts • snow boots

**Teen Boys Clothing:** (men's sizes please): sweatpants for men-sizes small-2XL • underwear-boxer briefs • socks-all types • pajama pants-Sizes Small-2XL • white t-shirts - all sizes • gym shorts • rubber-soled slippers or slides • robes • snow boots

**Education and Recreation:** Indoor Basketballs 29.5 inch • Meditation Pillows • Black 3/4inch buckles for paracord • Colored 3/4-inch buckles for paracord • Lego Sets: Classic Cars, Sports Card, Superheroes, Star Wars • Sculpey Clay and Tools • Mechanic Tool Set • Wood Burning Tool • 2 stage or 3 stage locking carabineers • Team Building "Spots" • Nerf Guns and Nerf Ammo • Rollor Blades or Roller Skates sizes 4 to 13 • Bandanas • Multi-tools for fishing • 5 gallon water cooler • Mylec Floor Hockey Balls- Orange • Knee Hockey Sets • 2 part Resin for casting and pouring • Ryobi 18volt One+ power tools • Ryobi 18volt One+ batteries • Bicycle Lubricant-Wet or Dry • Pot and Pan Set for cooking group • Knife set for cooking group • Cutting Board Set for cooking group • 9x13 baking pans • Muffin Pans • Measuring Spoons • Measuring Cups • Whisks • Rubber Spatulas • Metal Spatulas • Mixing Bowls • Mixing Spoons • Oven Mitts • Drying • Towels • Cookie cutters

**Music Education:** ukuleles • drum sticks • clarinet reeds (strength 2.5 and 3) • acoustic guitar strings • ukulele strings • guitar picks • hand percussion instruments • area rug • bean bag chairs • earbud headphones • Menchey Music gift cards • Woodwind & Brasswind gift cards (online) • boomwhackers • hand drums • books: music, song-writing, music technology, music textbooks, drum set books/music

**Book wish list:** Visit [www.bethanyhome.org/christmas-at-bethany](http://www.bethanyhome.org/christmas-at-bethany)

**Art Studio:** Michael's or Hobby Lobby gift cards • large & small canvases • acrylic paint • premixed acrylic pouring paint • heavy duty paint brushes • Sharpie markers • stencils • fuse beads & fuse bead bases • wooden boxes for art projects • artist paintbrush set • calligraphy ink all colors • small wooden projects • Gesso paint primer • oven-bake modelling clay

**Gift Cards:** Walmart, Target, Lowe's, Home Depot, TJ Maxx/Marshall's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Boyer's, Redner's, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Ross, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Ulta, local greenhouses

# Bethany's Book Wish List

Janie Johnson Series (6 books) by Caroline B. Cooney

Descendants Novel Series Books

Skin Hunger Series

Children Of Jubilee series by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Son of Angels Box Set by Jonah Stone

Magic Thief Box Set By Sarah Prineas

The Inheritance Games books By Jennifer Lynn Barnes

The Witch Haven By Sasha Peyton Smith

White Smoke By Tiffany Jackson

A Twisted Tale Series

Tristis Manor by J.R. Wagner

Sisters of Sword and Song by Rebecca Ross

The Lost Girls By Sonia Hartl

Partials Sequence (3 book series)

The Silent Patient By Alex Michaelides

Milk and Honey By Rupi Kaur

## Graphic Novels:

Batman/Fortnite: Zero Point

The Umbrella Academy Series

Marvel or DC superhero Series

Dogman Series

**\*\*\*Please note that all items must be new. We cannot accept used items. Thank you!\*\*\***

**Questions regarding gifts? Please call 610-589-6874.**

Financial Gifts may also be made to support youth needs and activities throughout the year. [www.bethanyhome.org](http://www.bethanyhome.org)

*The official registration and financial information of Bethany Home Inc. and Bethany Children's Home, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*





