



Bethany

Children's Home



Annual Report

2022-2023

A Message from President & CEO Dr. Joseph Birli



Strategy = Sustainability

When I review my tenure with Bethany Children's Home, I am reminded that the Board of Directors had expressed a strong desire for building a sustainable Bethany for decades to come. It is not by chance that the forefathers who had the vision for Bethany Children's Home would design a program of services that would endure over time, and that leaders who would come after would develop sustainable plans to continue the healing journey of the thousands of children to grace our grounds. Furthermore, we have found that in the current climate, it is essential to consider emergency disaster plans and sustainable, cross-trained leaders to ensure the future of those needing the healing services of a place like Bethany Children's Home.

Back when I began, it was shared by the Board of Directors that the then-organizational structure did not accommodate the potential for specific position losses if they were suddenly vacated. Therefore, from my beginning in 2019, I found each year to be developing the preparation for the strategic implementation of the Bethany Children's Home sustainability organizational restructure. 2020 was the year of DISCOVERY and 2021 became the year of SURVIVAL, particularly when dealing with the pandemic.

2022 was the year of RESILIENCE, still managing with the pandemic and its year after impact on the youth we serve and the challenges of the workforce.

I found 2023 to be a rebound year full of GRACE, for all that seemed to have been missed and the many changes resulting from uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, as well as a year for celebrating Bethany's 160th anniversary. As we are now in 2024, we have implemented the strategy of the sustainability plan and reconstructed the organizational structure with the sustainability of the future in mind.

Hence, 2024 is the year of GRIT! (Get Right In There!) Regardless of the position, title, or income that represents an employee of Bethany, we are all designed to quickly assist where there is a need and know how to care for the traumatized population that is served at Bethany. The new organizational structure has been designed to cross-train various positions from the leadership to specific positions within the departments to maintain functions, tasks and responsibilities so that in the event of an unexpected absence, programming and services can be maintained to operate without disruption. The future of those youth we have been trusted to assist in their healing journey depends on it. Many feel change is difficult and unwanted unless it is the change they desire and want; however, it is inevitable and necessary for growth and healing, and ultimately needed for sustainability! That's my strategy and I am sticking to it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Birli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph T. Birli, Ed.D., LPC, NCC
President & CEO of Bethany Children's Home

Bethany Children's Home



Our Mission

Bethany Children's Home provides a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid our residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter future.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a community where all youth and team members are safe in their environment and feel safe within themselves. To bring this vision into reality, we provide the resources needed to children and families to work through their losses, enabling them to have a brighter future.

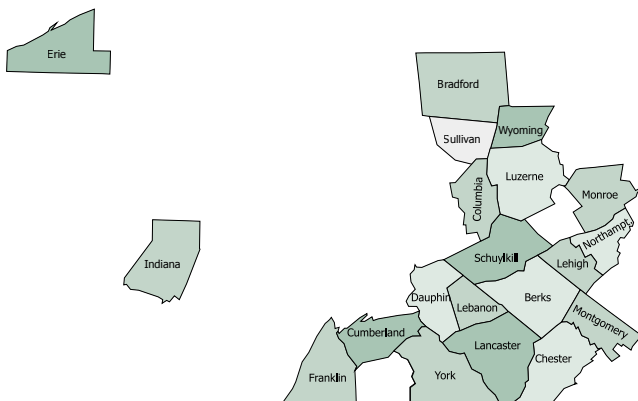
Affiliations

Bethany Children's Home is affiliated with many industry and community organizations including: Greater Reading Chamber Alliance; Lebanon County Chamber of Commerce; Hugh Smith & Associates; Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services; Lone Oak Animal-Assisted Therapeutic & Educational Services; Society for Human Resource Management; and others.

125 Youth Served

Bethany served 125 youth throughout the 2022-23 fiscal year.

More than 13,200 children have been cared for since Bethany was founded in 1863. Throughout those more than 160 years, Bethany has continued to help youth reclaim their lives from trauma, abuse and neglect.



Counties Served

Berks, Bradford, Chester, Cumberland, Columbia, Dauphin, Erie, Franklin, Indiana, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Wyoming, York. With more being added!

BCH Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers from both clergy and business backgrounds. The Board was established in 1863. Since inception, our Board has been charged with the faithful vision and protection of our youth.

Dr. Betsy Adams, Chairperson

Steve Bobick, Vice Chairperson

Kedri Metzger, Secretary

Douglas Yeakle, Treasurer

Rev. Kim Berenotto, At-Large Member

Rev. John Folk, At-Large Member

John Karahuta, At-Large Member

Hector Feliciano

Clay Gray

Lori Harvey

Sandra Kolson

Colleen Murphy

Rev. Drew Neidig

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Susanne Parks, Vice President

Mary Ann Bossard, Treasurer

Sue Snyder, Secretary

Judy Haluska

Regina Lebo

Linda Enders Roxberry

Judy Wahl

Sue Witham

Bethany Springs, LLC

In 2012, Bethany Home formed Bethany Springs LLC. Bethany Springs is a for-profit entity of Bethany Home. Bethany Springs sells fresh spring water from Bethany's mountain property to Crystal Springs and Blue Triton. Up to 200,000 gallons of water is pumped per day. The revenue generated from sales helps to support Bethany's therapeutic services.



Youth Services at Bethany



Bethany Children's Home supports the needs and goals of our youth by providing trauma-informed care through our specialized programs.

Through our **Shelter Program**, youth are placed due to needing emergency placement and may remain in the program for up to 30 days while their placing agency works to solidify their next steps. Some have the option to transition to one of our longer-term programs.

Youth can be placed in our **Short-Term Program**, which is designed to support youth for a maximum of 90 days. For their duration, a focus is placed on engaging their individual goals needed to maintain success in reunification within the community.

The **Intensive and Residential Programs** work diligently to support youth to learn how to regulate their emotions while teaching social and basic life

skills. Youth in these programs who show progression in developing these skills can be considered for a less structured program, such as **Bethany's Independent Living Program**.

Youth being considered for our **Independent Living Program** have demonstrated the skills necessary for them to be successful in an environment with minimal prompting. Team members work to teach more advanced life skills and job readiness skills that are needed for living independently.

Our **Transitional Living Program** and **Supervised Living Program** are located on our campus. While youth in the Transitional Living Program still have team members working with them in the cottage developing the skills needed for them to successfully live independently, our Supervised Independent Living Program is an apartment-style living environment.

Bethany's Unique Programs

Bethany Children's Home offers several programs to fit the needs of our youth in care.

While healing from trauma can be very complex, Bethany Children's Home provides a variety of services to help support that process. We offer a safe environment that allows healing and growth to be the focus of a youth's time in our care. Youth are offered the opportunity to address physical, social, and psychological health and safety.

Bethany offers the following services:

- Case Management Services
- Spiritual Services
- Counseling Services (Individual, Group, and Family)
- Psychiatry
- Equine Therapy and Dog Therapy
- Education Supports
- Art, recreation, and music programming

To learn more about our services, please visit our website at bethanyhome.org/services

Helping Hands

Opening its doors in 2019, Helping Hands arrived at its four years of operation, serving migrant children and their families in their reunification



From left: Noralva Zavala-Education Coordinator; Maria Rivera-Keck Team Lead; Javier Vargas- Dubbs Team Lead; Joaquin Calles Guzman- Program Director; Crystal Rivera- Assistant Program Director; Jose Pantoja- Lead Case Manager; Rebecca Baker- Lead Clinician; Jessica Garcia- PSA Compliance Manager.

journey. Helping Hands provides case management, therapeutic support, education, recreation, medical care, legal assistance, and other services to the youth in our care. This year, we are proud to celebrate another milestone—helping reunify over 300 children and teens with their families in the United States.

During last year’s anniversary celebration, Joaquin Calles Guzman, the director of the program, recognized the dedication and sacrifices of the Helping Hands team:

“I thank you and I take no protagonism in this feat. This all belongs to you, who make a choice to be here and stay here every single day, over long rotations, complex and difficult challenges, through your personal struggles, and through life, throwing at you every possible challenge. I thank you, every day, as I have these past three years of my life, for allowing me to work with such a fantastic group of people, changing the lives of hundreds of youths and families as they hope for a brighter future.”



In an effort to further establish the sustainability plan for the future of Bethany Children’s Home, a journey that began more than four and a half years ago, we are finally seeing the fruits of the organizational transition find its way to the dynamic and strong foundation with this Leadership Team. Bethany presents a well-educated and fully knowledgeable executive

Executive Leadership Team

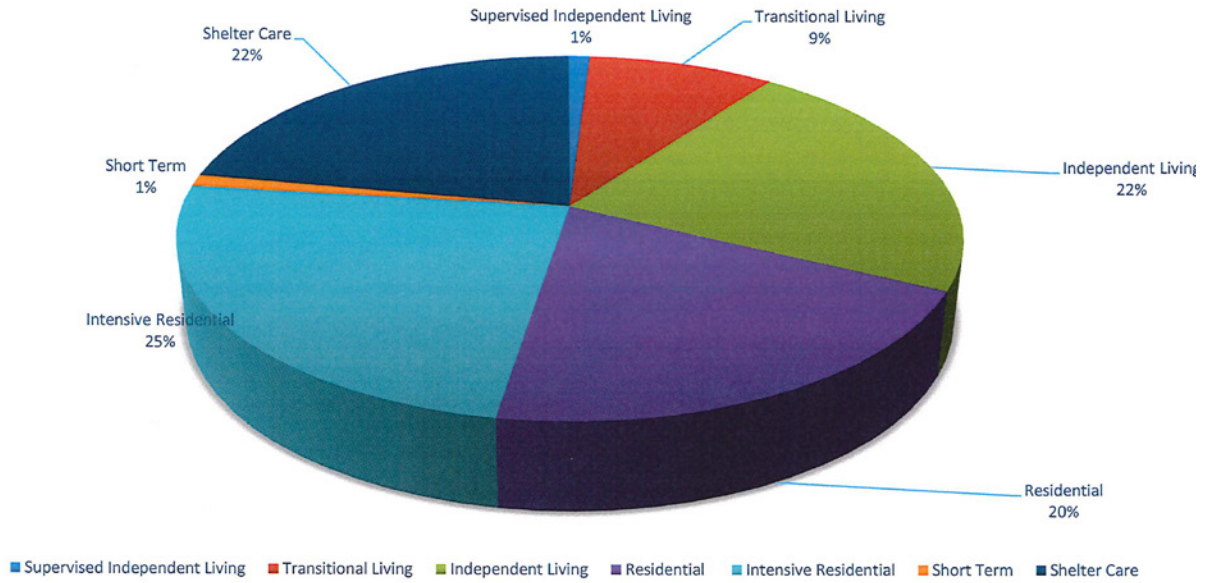
leadership team with years of history contributing and working in the child welfare system. The Bethany Executive Leadership Team firmly believes in the Bethany mission and the healing journey of youth. They construct their leadership based on the following values- compassion and empathy, integrity & transparency, excellence and innovation, advocacy & inclusion.

Sitting from left: Amy Sterner, VP of Impact & Compliance; Dr. Joe Charette, VP of Programs & Operations. Standing from left: Dr. Joseph Birli, President & CEO; Nick Hill, Deputy CEO.

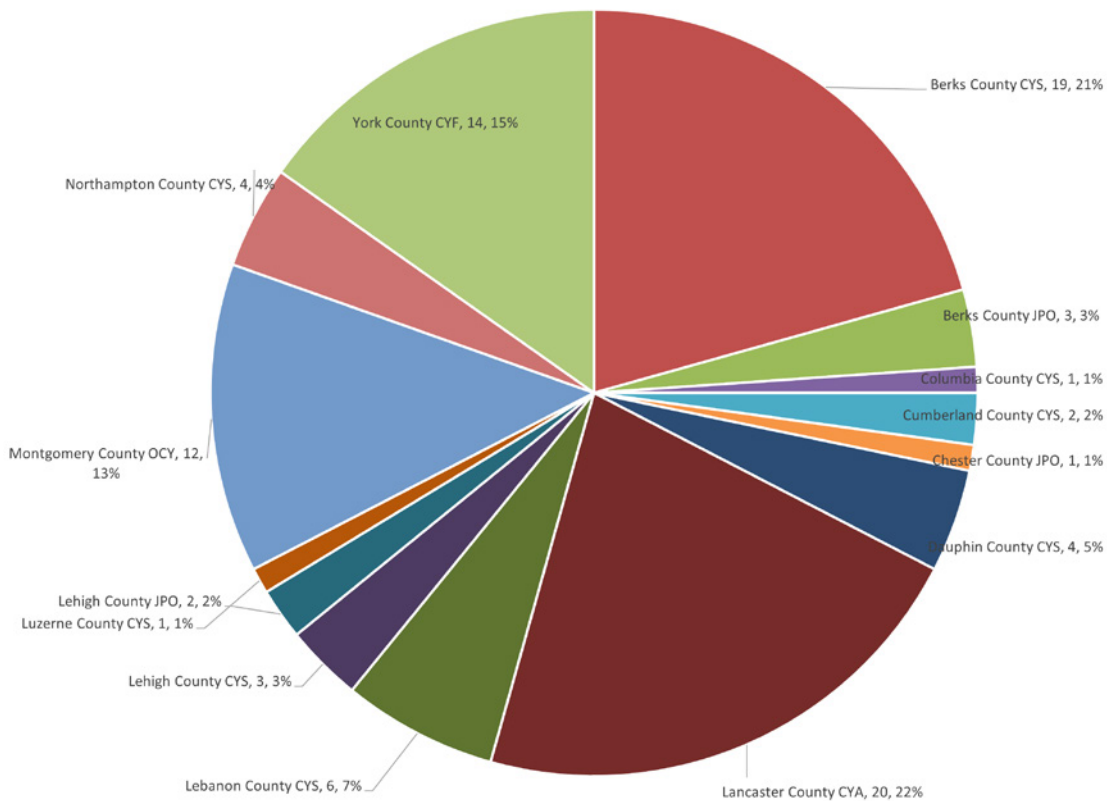
Bethany Youth Served

2022-2023 Fiscal Year

Admissions by Program July 2022-June 2023



Admissions By Placing Agency July 2022-June 2023



Bethany Children's Home

July 2022 - June 2023 Financial Statement

Thank you to our generous donors!

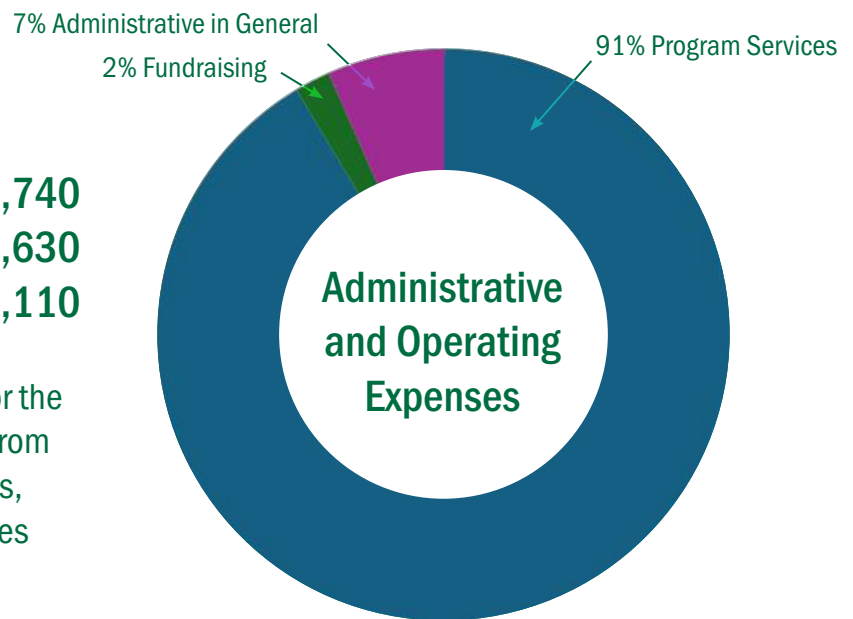
Disclaimer: Gifts listed in this report were given between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. The official registration and financial information for Bethany Children's Home Inc. and Bethany Home Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Combined Unrestricted Fund & General Operating Budget (Audited)

Operating Revenue & Support	\$17,517,740
Operating Expenses	\$16,807,630
Operating Gain	\$710,110

The revenue and support generated for the general operating fund are received from government agencies, contributions, and our non-business related entities of the Farm and Bethany Springs.



This statement represents all assets and liabilities of Bethany Children's Home Inc. and its related entities. Bethany's endowment fund is recognized as an asset in this report. Unaudited figures are represented in this document so that this report could be printed for our Annual Board of Directors meeting. Your contributions and Bethany's investment income enable us to provide our youth with essential programs and services.

Combined Statement of Financial Position (Audited)

Assets	\$ 30,364,489
Liabilities	\$1,846,084
Net Assets	\$28,518,405
Unrestricted	\$13,394,009
Temporary (All categories)	\$15,124,396

Bequests and Trusts

Benjamin M Mowery Charitable Remainder Trust	Jane L. Keller Trust
Estate of Marilyn Tilson	John A. Beard Trust
George J. TUW Warmkessel	John Z. & Anna Roth Harner Trust
Gladys Sell Estate	Katie M. Ulrich Trust
Penn Northeast Conference	Lloyd Fisher/Marguerite Hassler Trust
Adam Lenhart Trust	Mary C. Laubach Perpetual Trust
Ammon & Dorothy Patrick Trust	Raymond Hoffman T/W Flower FD
Carrie Machmer Trust	Ruth D. Miller Trust
Charles H. Haag Trust	Samuel S and Missouri S Heffner
Edward O. Steely Trust	Schuylkill Area Community Foundation
Estate of Christine Kauffman	T. Clayton Kantz Trust
Gail E. Gass Miller Trust	Ulrich Trust
Harry Hettinger Trust	Warren S. Scholl Trust
Harry K. Alwine and Anna Hershey Alwine Trust	William and Alice Crouse Charitable Trust
Isabella Weidner Trust	William E. Schnader Trust Fund
Jacob Schnader Trust	

Memorials & Honorariums

Betty Silkunas	Mr. and Mrs. Jay F. Miller
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Council for Health and Human Service Ministries	Mr. and Mrs. John S ,Pajski
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DW Distribution	Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Barry
Grace UCC	Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Seeling
Jerome & Carolyn Holleran	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neitz
Jessica Merkert	Mr. and Mrs. Ronald C Lutz
Kristen Slabaugh	Mr. and Mrs. Roy T Speedling
Linda Dyott	Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gingras
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Mr. & Mrs. Craig Dodge	Mr. and Mrs. William J Latta
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Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Jarrell III	Mr. John Kerr
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene O Yenser	Mr. Jonathan L. Simon
Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Delong	Mr. Kenneth Koehnlein

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Mr. Thomas G. Frasso
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Ms. Audrey Mento
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Ms. Rose M Zerbe
Ms. Sandra Sabrio
Ms. Stacie Brennan
Ms. Stephanie D Williams
Ms. Terri Bair
Patricia B Jula
Peace UCC Womens Guild
Reeb Millwork
Rev. and Mrs. William H. Sunderland
Rev. Lee Schleicher
Solomon's UCC
Specialty Building Products
St. Peter's UCC
Thomas & Gail Genco
Westview 55



The Henning Center is home to our emergency shelter program.

Brighter Futures

A-Flame for God Ministries - VHOP
Alarm Tech Systems Inc
American Polarizers, Inc.
Anonymous
Ben Salem UCC Youth Group
Berks County Mustang Car Club Inc.
Berks County Pomona Grange
Berks Western Telecom, Inc.
Bethany Children's Home, Inc.
Bethany UCC
Boscov's Travel
Boyer's Food Markets Inc.
Brownback's UCC
Business & Professional Woman's Club
Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
Calvary Reformed Church of the UCC
Christ UCC
Collins Bros Painting
Colonial Park UCC
Connors Investor Services, Inc
Conrad Weiser Hardware, Inc.
DelGrosso's Park & Laguna Splash
Dorranceton United Methodist Church
 Missions Kitchen
Dover UCC
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Dr. Audrey D Smeltzer-Schwab
Dr. Patrick Borja
E&J Baseball Club Reading Fightin Phils
Elite Fuel Service
Epler's Church Zwingli Guild
Faith Reformed UCC
Faith UCC Mission Team
Fidelity Charitable
Fifty-Fifty Tuxedos
First UCC Church School Association
First UCC Ladies Aid Society
First UCC Women's Guild
Friedens Church of Lenhartsville
Friedens UCC
GAP Foundation
Give Lively Foundation
Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church
Goliath Games LLC
Good Shepherd Church UCC
Good Shepherd UCC (Tuckerton)

Good Shepherd UCC LayLife & Work
Grace Trinity UCC
Heidelberg Family Restaurant
Herbein + Co. Inc.
J. P. Hightower
Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church
 Sunday School
Jordan UCC
King's Daughters of the First
 Reformed Church
Klein's Bus Service Inc
Kountry Kraft, Inc.
Learning Ladder Academy, LLC
Lehigh Furnace Union Sunday School
Longswamp UCC
Lovell UCC Ladies Circle
Maidencreek Church
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC
Met-Ed, A First Energy Company
Mister Bobbin Embroidery Inc.
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Mr. & Mrs. John S. Karahuta
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Ms. Carolyn E. Bryant
Ms. Catherine M. Guenzel
Ms. Cathy A Stewart
Ms. Christine Engelhardt
Ms. Christine M. Hess
Ms. Colleen Murphy
Ms. Cora D. Barrow
Ms. Cynthia Butler

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Ms. Dorothy Bechtel
Ms. Ebony Molina
Ms. Elaine L. Adams
Ms. Eleanor P. Gold
Ms. Elizabeth B. Gaul
Ms. Elizabeth B. Rothermel
Ms. Elizabeth Coogan
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Ms. Gail D. Klemka
Ms. Gail S. Austin
Ms. Gracie Snyder
Ms. Heather A. Sweinhart
Ms. Heather D. Nogami
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Ms. J. Gail Freymoyer
Ms. Jackie Trate
Ms. Janet J Peters
Ms. Jean E. Heisey
Ms. Joanne M. Pascoe
Ms. Jody Galtere
Ms. Joyce M. Weiss
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Ms. Judith B. Ohl
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Ms. Kimberly Bluder
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St. James Presbyterian Church
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St. John's Church on Morgan Hill
St. John's Gernants UCC
St. John's Hill UCC Women's Guild
St. John's UCC
St. Michael's Church
St. Michael's Womens Group
St. Paul's UCC
St. Paul's UCC (Indianland)
St. Paul's UCC Women's Fellowship
St. Peter's Church (Shumans)
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Sewing Circle
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Strawberry Ridge Trinity UCC	Trinity Great Swamp UCC	World Insurance Associates LLC
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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran & UCC
Church
The First Congregational Church of
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Harvest Home

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Shared Ministry Salem UCC & Christ EICA
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& UCC Church
St. John's Kimmel's Church
St. John's UCC
St. Mark's UCC
St. Matthew's UCC
St. Paul's UCC
St. Paul's UCC (Indianland)
St. Peter's Pikeland UCC
St. Peter's Tohickon UCC
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Wentz's UCC
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Community Partners & Affiliates

Bethany Children's Home is affiliated with many industry and community organizations, including:

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Greater Reading Chamber Alliance
Hugh Smith & Associates
Joint Commission
Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lone Oak Animal-Assisted Therapeutic & Educational Services
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC
Muhlenberg Greene Architects
Pawsitive Hearts Dog Therapy
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services
Society for Human Resource Management
Yocum Institute

We are certified as a "Specialized Setting" for victims of trafficking and youth transitioning into adulthood. The specialized setting certification is a component of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, signed into law in 2018.

We are thankful to all of the volunteers and community supporters who help to provide a brighter future to our kids. We could not continue without your generous support of time, talent and generous giving. Our Board of Directors, team and especially our youth want to say THANK YOU. Our success is because of YOU!

About the Cover

Cover photo taken by Heidi E. Reuter Photography/Berks County Living

Our Executive and Senior Director Teams:

From left, sitting: Amy Sterner, Vice President of Impact & Compliance;
Crystal Rivera, assistant program director of Helping Hands;
Rev. Dr. Rose Shepley, Senior Director of Spiritual Wellness & Inclusion; Nick Hill, Deputy CEO.
From left, standing: Calyn Brewer, Senior Director of Innovation;
William Rakow, Senior Director of Operations; Dr. Joseph Birli, President & CEO;
Matthew Guziak, Senior Director of Finance;
and Dr. Joseph Charette, Vice President of Programs & Operations

Bethany's Emergency Shelter Offers Safety, Stability and Opportunity

By Hillary Malone
Clinical Behavior Specialist



In the hustle and bustle of every daily life, it can be easy to overlook the struggles of others; particularly the challenges faced by youth who have experienced adverse childhood events. These young people, often facing homelessness, abuse, and neglect, can find themselves in crisis, which forces child-

serving agencies to step in and legally mandate stability and support. Providing emergency shelter services for at-risk youth is not just a noble and humanitarian effort; it's a crucial investment in the future of our communities. The crisis care Bethany Children's Home Shelter program provides is a labor of love and dedication. It is our goal to help our youth rebuild trust, foster self-esteem, and encourage the development of positive relationships that may not be typical experiences for them.

Immediate safety and stability are often first steps in rebuilding a state of peace and calm for our youth. However,

we provide more than just a roof over their heads. Our care also provides a gateway to obtaining vital services such as medical care, psychological support, life skills training and educational advocacy. By addressing the immediate physical and emotional needs of the youth we serve, we are also helping them regain their footing to begin their healing journey. Our shelter care program has been able to keep sibling groups together, aid in family reunification and uncover and treat underlying medical issues that were directly impacting the youth's behaviors. We've also been successful in screening, counseling, and referring youth who have been targeted for human trafficking.

Providing emergency shelter care for at-risk youth sends a powerful message about the values we hold as a society. It demonstrates a commitment to compassion, responsibility, and the belief that every young person deserves a chance to succeed. Bethany Children's Home Shelter program provides a lifeline that offers immediate safety, access to essential services, and the chance for healing to begin.

The Bethany culture of caring not only benefits the youth we serve, but also inspires others to get involved and make a difference. By supporting these efforts, we not only change the lives of vulnerable young people but also strengthen the fabric of our communities.

We make a difference and give hope to those who need it most!

The Gratification of working at Bethany Children's Home

By Deborah Schaefer
Health Care Insurance Specialist



I came to Bethany Children's Home in March 2021 knowing little to nothing about what they were about aside from being a place youth went to when they had no other option in their lives.

It became evident to me quickly that what Bethany provided was so much more than just a "place" for youth to reside

and a "job" for employees to come to every day.

I learned very early on that the people who work here have nothing but the youth's best interests at heart. Every day, these hardworking team members work tirelessly to ensure that the youth are not only staying safe but being heard.

I feel very strongly that leadership here at Bethany has the best intentions when it comes to supporting their employees.

Coming from an organization that had over 2,000 employees, leadership couldn't keep track of your name let alone what you did for the company.

Working at Bethany has changed my point of view. My fear of not being given a fair chance when addressing my concerns couldn't have been further from the truth. Not only was I heard, but changes were made to make sure that I knew I was a valued employee at Bethany.

As part of my new duties, I am now in the cottages and seeing what team members deal with daily. From the fun times to the days when nothing seems to go right, team members never give up and and not only watch out for the youth but for each other. There is a genuine level of trust between team members, no matter what department you work in.

My top 5 reasons for working at Bethany:

1. Inviting work atmosphere (and fun)
2. Feeling part of a team, not just a number in the HR system
3. Great benefits all the way around!
4. Promoting from within
5. BEING HEARD!!

I feel very appreciated and supported in my role. And for this I thank everyone who has had a part in that. Life is way too short, so being able to come to work each and every day and have a welcoming experience is a great thing!

Bethany Children’s Home celebrates 160th Anniversary with opening of Boehringer Education Center and Archives

Bethany Children’s Home kicked off its 160th anniversary celebration on Jan. 28, 2023, with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly established Boehringer Education Center and Archives (BECA). The event took place at the historic Gate House, the oldest building on the Bethany campus, a fitting location for the Education Center and Archives.

The ribbon-cutting marked the first event in a yearlong series of celebrations commemorating Bethany’s anniversary, officially observed on Sept. 21st, 2023.

The ceremony honored the organization’s rich history, dating back to 1863 when six-year-old Caroline Engel became the first orphan welcomed into the home of the Boehringer family. Bethany Children’s Home is part of the original Soldiers’ Orphans’ School program, established in Pennsylvania in 1865. As the state which supplied the greatest number of soldiers during the Civil War, the Pennsylvania government supported the program by providing shelter, education, clothing, and food to the children of fallen soldiers and their families.

The education center serves as a hub for ongoing programming for outside groups, the youth of Bethany, and historical training for new team members.

The ribbon-cutting event featured the presence of esteemed guests, including Senator Judy Schwank, Commissioner Christian Rivera, Dr. Joseph Birli, CEO/President of Bethany Children’s Home, and Dr. Betsy Adams, President of the Board of Directors.



Senator Judy Schwank talks about Bethany history.

The ceremony included archivist Jennifer M. Koch and archivist emeritus Carl Bloss as well as the great-great-granddaughter of the founder Emanuel Boehringer, Mrs. Barbara McConnell. Guests toasted the opening and got a first look at artwork created by local Muhlenberg High School senior Skyler Koch.

They enjoyed a reception in the Administration Building to celebrate the “Year of 160.”

The opening of the Boehringer Education Center and Archives serves as a testament to the organization’s commitment to preserving its rich history while continuing to provide vital services and support to the youth in need.



The Boehringer Education Center & Archives is located in the former Gatehouse on campus.



From left: Barbara McConnell, Jennifer Koch and Carl Bloss.



Berks County Commissioner Michael Rivera, Carl Bloss and Dr. Joseph Birli.

