Echo | News from Bethany Children's Home
Fall 2026

Foundations For Healing



Since 1863, Bethany Children's Home has provided a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care for children and youth who have experienced trauma. For more than 160 years, Bethany has remained committed to helping young people better understand themselves, grow through their experiences, and begin the journey toward healing and a brighter, healthier future.

At Bethany, we understand that healing requires more than access to services, it requires a sense of safety, stability, and belonging. That is why we provide our youth with a variety of resources, including on-site clinicians, therapeutic recreational groups, educational support, and other individualized services designed to meet each young person where they are.

Just as important as these resources are the spaces in which our youth live. Many of the children who come to Bethany have experienced significant trauma, instability, or disruption in their lives. For some, Bethany may be the first place where they experience something that feels like a traditional home. Creating an environment where youth feel comfortable, secure, and cared for is an essential part of their healing.

The cottages at Bethany are much more than buildings. They are homes where children experience stability, build relationships, discover a sense of belonging, and begin to imagine a hopeful future. Within these spaces, youth have the opportunity to simply be children while receiving the support and care they need to move forward.

For many former residents, those connections to Bethany last a lifetime. Even years after leaving, alumni return to campus to share stories, reconnect with staff and friends, and reminisce about the time they spent in the cottages. These memories are a testament to the meaningful role Bethany has played in generations of young people's lives.

Many of Bethany's cottages and campus buildings have served generations of children and are between 50 and more than 100 years old. These buildings are an important part of Bethany's history and have provided countless children with a welcoming place to call home.

However, their age also means they require ongoing renovations, maintenance, and updates to remain supportive of the children and youth we serve today.

To help meet these needs, Bethany Children's Home launched the $200,000 Foundations for Healing campaign. This campaign will focus on enhancing our cottages and common spaces so they continue to provide the warm, welcoming environments our youth deserve.

Planned improvements include interior renovations, refreshed living areas, updated finishes, and essential maintenance. These enhancements will help create spaces that are not only safe and functional, but also inviting, comfortable, and conducive to healing. By investing in these spaces, we are investing in the children who call them home.

Your support can help Bethany ensure that every young person who walks through our doors has a place where they feel safe, valued, and supported. Together, we can preserve the history of our campus while creating spaces that meet the needs of today's youth and generations to come.

You can support the Foundations for Healing campaign today by scanning the QR code below or by mailing a donation to:

Bethany Children's Home
Attn: Development Department
1863 Bethany Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

If mailing a donation, please specify that your gift is designated for the Foundations for Healing campaign.

Thank you for your continued support of Bethany!





Then vs. Now: The Evolving Story of Dubbs Cottage

For generations, the buildings across Bethany Children's Home's historic campus have evolved alongside the needs of the youth we serve. Few buildings demonstrate that evolution quite like Dubbs Cottage. Since opening nearly 60 years ago, Dubbs has served different populations, supported new programs, weathered challenges, and remained part of Bethany's ever-changing story.

Then...

Dubbs Cottage was completed in 1967 under Reverend Garnet O. Adams, Bethany's tenth superintendent. Built at a cost of $140,000, the cottage was originally designed as a residential home for boys.

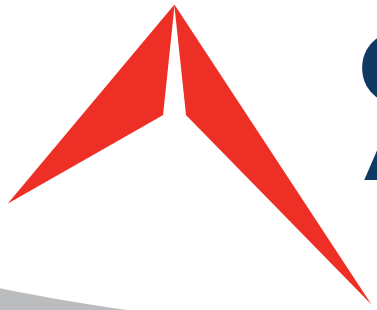
Like many of Bethany's historic buildings, Dubbs would experience its share of changes. A fire damaged the cottage, leading to renovations in 1977. It was renovated again in 1988 as Bethany celebrated its 125th anniversary, and another renovation followed in 2006. Over the years, the youth calling Dubbs home changed as well. Although originally built for boys, the cottage later housed the girl's intensive residential care. Dubbs closed in 2013 before reopening in 2015, when it once again transitioned to serving boys.

Now...

Another chapter began in 2019 when Dubbs became home to Bethany's federally funded Helping Hands program. Through 2025, the program served migrant children while staff worked toward reunifying them with their families. During their time at Bethany, youth received on-site education, healthcare, recreation, mental health support, case management and opportunities for socialization.

Today, Dubbs Cottage continues to serve an important purpose on Bethany's campus, even though it does not currently house youth. The cottage is now used as a hands-on training space during Bethany's three-week new hire orientation. There, new team members can practice essential skills and prepare for the real-life situations they may encounter while working with the youth in our care. The changes Dubbs faced over nearly six decades show Bethany's willingness to adapt to meet the needs of children, families and team members.

From a boys' cottage in 1967 to the many young people and programs it has supported since, Dubbs reminds us that the purpose of a building is not simply found within its walls, but in the lives impacted inside them.



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Meet Our Nursing Team



At Bethany Children's Home, our Nursing Team plays an essential role in supporting the health and well-being of every youth in our care. Led by Director of Nursing Kelly Hauck, BSN, RN, the team provides medication management, health assessments, psychiatric care, preventative education and advocacy.

For Cottage Life Nursing, there is no typical day. Amanda Hassler, LPN, Brandi Keller, LPN, and Madeline Burgos, LPN, care for youth who stop by with illnesses, minor injuries or other health concerns. They assess youth, develop treatment plans, communicate recommendations to cottage staff and determine when outside care is needed.

Much of Nursing's work happens behind the scenes. Haley Soltis, CNA/MA, coordinates medical, dental and specialty appointments, including scheduling, calendars and transportation. Medication management is another major responsibility. Every medication packet must be checked by two nurses before being distributed to cottages to ensure accuracy and compliance.

At Bethany's 24/7 Emergency Shelter, where youth may stay for up to 30 days, Nursing looks different. Nurses Lori Wade and Burgos often must quickly piece together a youth's healthcare history.

"It's like detective work to track down all the information," Wade said.

Youth may arrive without medications, insurance information, medical records or necessities such as glasses. Wade and Burgos manage healthcare from intake through discharge and are on call for weekend admissions, as medical intake requirements must be completed within 24 hours.

Across both programs, building trust is just as important as providing medical care. At Henning, Wade may play a youth's favorite music, Yahtzee or color with them when they need space and someone to talk to.

"Meeting them where they are and learning how to communicate with them better helps me become a better nurse," Keller said. "I enjoy how culturally diverse we are in this office, so the youth can always find someone they are able to connect with."

Nursing's work also extends beyond direct care. The team works with Compliance on infection control, monitors health alerts, provides staff education and supports preventative health efforts.

Despite everything happening in front of and behind the scenes, Hauck said the team's priority is advocacy.

"Every youth in care at Bethany receives the care that they want and need. We advocate for them," Hauck said.

For Hauck, that advocacy makes the work meaningful.

"I am so proud to be a part of their growth and development and watch them heal," she said.



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Bethany Children's Home

2026 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.

Clothing - various adult sizes S-4XL

Bath robes: young women and men • slippers • white t-shirts, esp. small and medium • underwear S-4XL • men's athletic shorts • bras • sports bras • pajamas • low-cut socks

Personal Care/Cottage Needs

Unisex comforters • pillows • waterproof mattress covers Twin XL • bed in a bag • bath towels • wash clothes • battery-operated alarm clocks • bagless vacuums • pots and pans • air fryers • deodorant • conditioner • feminine hygiene products • toothbrush covers • shower caddy with 3 compartments • metal water bottles

Recreation

Medicine Balls • dumbbells • Lego sets: classic cars, super heroes, Star Wars • fishing rods/reels • press on nail kits • make-up bags • facemasks • sleds • bikes • scooters • card games • comic books • anime books • hockey balls • hockey sticks • boxing gloves • bean bags • stress toys • adult beach volleyballs • TRX workout bands • badminton racquets and birdies • Olympic weightlifting bar • weights for Olympic bar • hand wraps or MMA gloves • remote control cars • Tie dye kits

Music Education

earbud headphones • mp3 players • bean bag chair • piano books • area rug • whiteboard paddles

Art Studio

Wrapped canvases • canvas boards • Gesso (White, Black, & Clear) • washi tape • scratch art paper • Sketch books • Colored rolled paper sheets • Bulletin Paper • origami paper • Beads including numbers/letters • Stabilo pencils • Diamond Art kits • jewelry making supplies • pony beads • glass beads • Coloring books • resin tools and supplies

Gift Cards ($15-$50)

Dick's Sporting Goods, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Chic-Fil-A, Dunkin, Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, McDonald's, Boyer's and Redner's Markets, Turkey Hill, Giant, Domino's Pizza, Wawa, Netflix, Game Stop, Ulta

Questions regarding gifts? Please call Dana Hoffman at 610-589-6810.

Financial Gifts may also be made to support youth needs throughout the year at 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.

Bethany
Children's Home

Thank you for your ongoing support as we strive to provide a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season for Bethany youth. Your generosity will bring many smiles!

Christmas Land will once again be held in our Administration Building. The Development Team at the Administration building will accept gifts **by scheduled drop-off times only.** This ensures a smooth drop-off for all!

Please reach out to schedule a time so we can add you to our visitor list. Be sure to bring a photo ID, and stop at our Welcome Center upon arrival. Thank you!

To schedule, please contact Danielle Jean-Louis at 610-589-6833 or Djean-louis@bethanyhome.org

Hours for Scheduled Deliveries:

Tuesday, Dec 1- Friday, Dec 4	9a.m. - 4p.m.
Monday, Dec 7 - Friday, Dec 11	9a.m. - 4p.m.
Sunday, Dec 13	11a.m. - 2p.m.
Monday, Dec 14 - Friday, Dec 18	9a.m. - 4p.m.
Sunday, Dec 20	11a.m. - 2p.m.
Monday, Dec 21 - Tuesday, Dec 22	9a.m. - 4p.m.

So that the elves may sort and wrap, we ask that all gifts be delivered by Tuesday, December 22.

Christmas gifts will ONLY be received at the ADM building located off Bethany Road at our Upper Gate entrance. Look for the signs!

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

Donations can be mailed to:
Bethany Children's Home
c/o Development Dept.
1863 Bethany Rd

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.



Calling all BCH Alumni!

We'd love to reconnect with you! Whether you've recently left Bethany Children's Home or it's been many years since your time here, you will always be a part of the Bethany alumni family.

We're excited to build stronger connections with our alumni community and create opportunities for you to stay involved, reconnect with familiar faces, share your story, and learn more about what's happening at Bethany today.

There are many ways to get involved, and we'd love to help you find an opportunity that's meaningful to you. Interested in reconnecting or learning more about what Bethany has to offer alumni? Reach out to our Donor Engagement Coordinator, Danielle, to learn more!



Danielle Jean-Louis
Donor Engagement Coordinator
610-589-6833
Djean-louis@bethanyhome.org

We'd love to hear from you and welcome you back to the Bethany community!

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Bethany Children's Home

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bethanyhome.org
(610) 589-4501

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

SERVICES: Spiritual services, educational programming, recreation, 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 Group Home programs, Bethany supports youth while they heal and prepare for the next steps of their journey.

Thank you for your continued support in the healing of our youth.