

BETHANY HOUSE NEWSLETTER

November 2020



STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are proud to announce our new director, E'Tiana Larkin, who started with us September 21, 2020. Prior to working in this position, she worked as an Outreach Specialist at RIT in the office of K-12, helping at risk youth navigate their high school experience and form a post-secondary plan. E'Tiana continues to work at The Center for Youth as Relief Staff in the organization's Emergency Shelter for Runaway and Homeless youth, which she has done for five years. She is a mother of two children - E'Lasia, a freshman at Howard University, and Na'Sean, a 9th grader at Destiny Christian School. E'Tiana is passionate about helping women in crisis because there were so many organizations that helped her when she was a young adult trying to find her way.

In May of this year, Meg Burkhard resigned as Director of Bethany House due to personal reasons. We are most grateful for her good work for the past two years. Thank you, Meg! Sr. Karen, who so wonderfully held the position of interim director, has transitioned into the role of chaplain. In this role she supports the staff, volunteers, and guests and coordinates the Wednesday afternoon prayer services. Additionally, we have welcomed two new live-ins, Shynta and SanSann, and Lisa is continuing as live-in staff too.

REOPENING

Our food pantry reopened June 16th. We are operating Tuesday-Thursday 10am-1pm with the help of our wonderful volunteers. This was so necessary because of the volume of calls from people who are food insecure and even more so in this time of COVID-19. The families who are now being served are beyond grateful and we can be very generous thanks to our donors. As of September 14th, we began providing shelter to families in need. Bethany House has taken precautions to keep everyone safe and healthy during this pandemic which includes only housing three families at a time, utilizing Ari Cleaning Services for deep cleaning, purchasing a dishwasher to sanitize dishes, and a handheld mister sprayer that sanitizes in under 30 seconds. Additionally, there has been an outpouring of donations of cleaning products and PPE for our guests and volunteers. We are so grateful and recognize that we could not have reopened without the generosity of our volunteers and supporters! Thank you for helping us to continue to directly serve the most vulnerable women of our community.

PARTNERSHIPS

During the pandemic, Our Lady of Mercy is one of the many partnerships that has been amazing. We could not have reopened the food pantry without the help of our Mercy partners.

In early June they came and inventoried the pantry and filled in the gaps. They continued to



do this without fail throughout the summer. This fall they had a can food drive where they filled a truck with canned goods, delivered it to Bethany House and filled our food pantry again. Also, Our Lady of Mercy prepares Wednesday night dinner weekly, even making a vegan option for individuals in the home that do not consume meat or dairy. Additionally, they are here one Saturday a month cooking dinner and helping to organize our food pantry and baby room.

This summer the musical club, Keystone Pipes and Drums, filled a school bus with food, diapers, wipes, and all sorts of supplies. They continue to support us through donations and connections on social media. Other partnerships are the awesome volunteers from St. Joseph's in Penfield who deliver food from Wegmans, Target, and other vendors to supplement our Foodlink supplies. Also, the Gleaners from Fairport United Methodist Church and the Flower City Pickers who have kept us supplied with fresh fruit and vegetables. Clients from Heritage Christian Homes took on the task of mowing and weed whacking.

We are blessed to have so many diverse community partners. It is partnerships such as these that makes this work easier. Thank you!

INTERNS



Bethany House is fortunate enough to get interns from local colleges who become very instrumental in helping the house to run smoothly. Pictured are Chloe from the University of Rochester and Allison from Nazareth College. We also have LaShea from Monroe Community College, Caysey from Nazareth, and

Rebecca from the U of R. We are fortunate they have chosen to learn more about Bethany's mission and spread the good news of what the house offers to others. Thank you for all that you do.



OUR SERVICES

Did you know that in addition to being a homeless shelter for women and children, we are also a food pantry, diaper and formula bank, and personal and feminine hygiene bank? All of our services are free of charge, and we don't restrict based on income or zip code. We are a totally independent organization and receive no government or Rochester Diocese funding. We are so fortunate to help the community in so many ways, thanks to all the donations of time, talents, and resources.

We rely on your help to spread the word about Bethany House. When you have finished this newsletter, please pass it on. Also, if you would prefer to receive this electronically, please email us at info@bethanyhouserocny.org.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

A month later, I continue to be in awe by the outpouring of support for Bethany House. The emails, the messages on social media, the envelopes and packages in the mail, the visits to the house, the hardworking staff and volunteers, I take nothing for granted. – E'Tiana Larkin

"Love casts out fear, but we have to get over the fear in order to get close enough to love them." - Dorothy Day

Bethany House Needs:

Diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, personal care items, cleaning supplies, paper products and items for our holiday baskets and dinner (green beans, cranberry sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, cake mix).

Like us on Facebook <https://www.bethanyhouserocny.org/> and Instagram @bethanyhouseroc

PayPal link as an option to donate: <https://www.bethanyhouserocny.org/donate.html>