

# The Buzz @ Bethany

for Children & Families

Keeping children safe, strengthening families,  
and building healthy communities since 1899

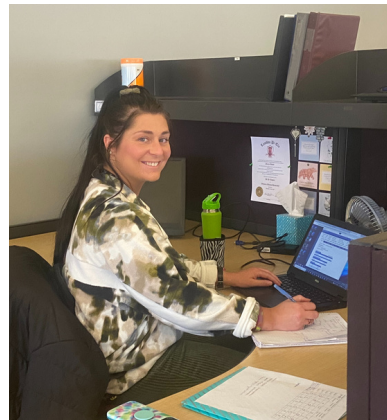
## We've Moved!



Bethany for Children & Families has a new home in the Caxton Block building, 1701 River Drive, Moline!

The Caxton Block building has ample space for the agency's current staff, more foster care visit rooms, room for expansion, and available suites for other mission-driven organizations.

Staff are still settling in the new building, and for now, client visits and therapeutic recreation programming remain at the 1830 6th Avenue facility while the Caxton space is being renovated.



Stacey Behal, Wraparound Program Quality Assurance Coordinator, works at her new desk on the second floor.

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## Why Did We Move?

Bethany hired **23 more staff members** in the past year! As more children and families suffer from pervasive issues such as poverty, homelessness, and mental illness, the need to unify caseworkers, educators, and financial staff is paramount for effective collaboration.

Tiffany Miclot, left, and Melissa McKenna, right, unload hygiene kits and baby products in the new building.



The agency's new River Drive location combines two Illinois locations to provide clients with a more cohesive experience. "For example, a caseworker who may have a new child in foster care, can walk down the hall and enroll the child in the after-school program, request parenting programming for the biological parent, and sign the child up for therapy services quickly in the new facility," said Dr. Bill Steinhauser, President and CEO.



A sitting area for staff to work together or relax while on break.



Robert Muskevalley, supervisor of Bethany's Homeless Programs, in his new workspace on the second floor.

## Social Service Corridor

Bethany envisions creating a social service corridor in downtown Moline by utilizing unoccupied suites in the Caxton Block building and the 1830 6th Avenue facility. This will make it easier for generations of families to get basic needs met without having to travel the Quad Cities using multiple bus routes. Interested non-profits can call Christina McNamara-Schmidt at 309-779-7700 or email [cmcnamara-schmidt@bethany-qc.org](mailto:cmcnamara-schmidt@bethany-qc.org).



## Birdies for Charity

Bethany is fortunate to participate in Birdies for Charity, an easy and fun way to donate to the programs and services offered by the agency. Donations to Bethany through Birdies for Charity are guaranteed a bonus of five to 10%!



Participation is easy! There are two ways to donate:

- Online at <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate?charity=178>
- Or email [cmcnamara-schmidt@bethany-qc.org](mailto:cmcnamara-schmidt@bethany-qc.org) for a pledge form.

Don't forget to add Bethany's Birdies number: #178.

Contest entries are due June 16th. Final pledges are due July 7.

## Cones for Kids

There's nothing sweeter than ice cream and helping children thrive! Enjoy a cone of your favorite Whitey's flavor during Cones for Kids on **Monday, June 12th**. Whitey's will donate half of the proceeds for each cone sold during the event to Bethany.



All Whitey's Quad Cities locations will participate in Cones for Kids. Shakes and malts are not included in this event.



# Program Spotlight:

## Intact Family Services

A single, unemployed mother with two young children was referred by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (IDCFS) to Bethany's Intact Family Services due to allegations of abuse or neglect. Bethany's Intact caseworker visited her home and ensured that the young mother was connected to local mental health services. She was provided assistance in arranging and paying for daycare services, which enabled her to secure a full time job and move into her own apartment. The Intact worker accessed IDCFS funds to assist with rent and purchase a bed. This mother successfully completed the Intact Family Services Program and her children remain in her care.



This person's story is not unusual. Many parents become involved with IDCFS following allegations of child abuse and neglect related to mental illness, poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, or homelessness.

Intact Family Services caseworkers aim to stabilize, strengthen, enhance, and preserve family life by providing services and interventions to ensure children remain safely at home.

Intact Family Services works with parents, children, and the court system to set and meet goals. Families are connected with essential community resources to address underlying issues and ensure child safety. Services are provided in the home with the ultimate goal of safely keeping children in their home environment.



*"I love seeing families smile and feel joy when they thought they would fail. I love that feeling when I see the change in the children's faces when their family succeeds in overcoming significant hurdles. This program can change their lives for good,"* said one of Bethany's Child Welfare Specialists.

Bethany's Intact Family Services provides in-home case management and supportive services to families in Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer counties. The program covers a large geographic region including many rural towns and cities. Requirements of the program include weekly contact in the home for a period of 45 to 90 days and then twice monthly following that initial period.

# MERIT Award Winner:

## Cyndee Felske

Bethany's MERIT Award Winner for the first quarter of 2023 is Cyndee Felske. Cyndee is a Child Welfare Specialist III in the Foster Care Program. Cyndee has been at Bethany for 23 years.

The nomination stated, "Cyndee has been a great team member. She goes above and beyond her specific job duties on a regular basis. She has actively been working on getting foster care children permanency through adoption and guardianships."

The nomination also stated, "She consistently provides additional training and help for the new case managers. She is willing to help other case workers who are in a pinch, whether it is faxing/emailing something to a worker or foster parent, looking up information needed by a worker, sitting at a hospital for hours with a youth, or providing a worker with the correct CFS form number."

Congratulations, Cyndee!

The MERIT Employee of Distinction Award recognizes an employee for his/her distinguished service to the agency on a quarterly basis. This individual has displayed **M**otivation, **E**xcellence, **R**esponsibility, **I**ntegrity, and **T**eamwork in the execution of going beyond his/her job duty and responsibilities.



### How Can You Help?

#### Legacy Giving

You can help us serve future generations by naming Bethany as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, and/or retirement plan.

#### Recurring Donations

Your monthly donations help Bethany plan for the future and provide a dependable foundation with which the agency can assist families, adults, and children in our community who need assistance. Set up a recurring donation at [www.bethany-qc.org](http://www.bethany-qc.org).

#### In-Kind Contributions

Your donations of hygiene products, cleaning supplies, school supplies, furniture, diapers, and new baby items directly benefit the children and families we serve.

### How To Make A Donation

#### Want to donate online?

Visit [www.bethany-qc.org](http://www.bethany-qc.org).

#### Prefer to mail your donation?

You can mail donations to:

**Bethany for Children & Families**

**P.O. Box 697**

**Moline, IL 61266**



**Call (309) 797-7700 today  
to support a safer,  
stronger, and healthier  
Quad Cities.**

Bethany for Children & Families is a non-profit child welfare, mental health, community education, and social services provider which has offered aid and support to children and families in western Illinois and eastern Iowa since 1899. The agency employs a professional team of 90 social workers, licensed therapists, case managers, and educators. With 25 programs and services, Bethany helps 11,500 children and families annually in the 14 counties comprising and surrounding the Quad Cities area.