How Can You Help?

**Legacy Giving**
You can help us serve future generations by naming Bethany as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy, 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 the children in our community who need it the most. Set up a recurring donation at www.bethany-qc.org.

**In-Kind Contributions**
Your donations of hygiene products, cleaning supplies, school supplies, furniture, and new baby items directly benefit those whom we serve.

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

www.bethany-qc.org

Bethany for Children & Families is a private child welfare, mental health, community education, and social services provider that has offered aid and support to children and families in western Illinois and eastern Iowa since 1899. The agency employs a professional team of 76 social workers, licensed counselors, case managers, and educators. With 24 programs and services, Bethany helps 11,500 children and families annually in 12 counties surrounding the Quad Cities.

Community Celebration & Family Awards

Since 1899, Bethany has cared for children who have nowhere else to turn. What started as an orphanage now serves thousands of children and families each year through foster care, adoption, mental and behavioral health services, homeless services, prevention education, and more.

This edition of the *Buzz* celebrate a special group of people who make extraordinary contributions to others in the Quad Cities community.

Ordinarily, Bethany has a **Community Celebration**. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we are foregoing that event. Instead, we encourage you to watch a brief video that celebrates these special people. You can find the video, hosted by WQAD’s Jonathan Ketz and sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America, on Bethany’s YouTube channel, Bethany4CF, which has over 21,000 views!

It is the people of the Quad Cities who have kept this agency going for 121 years. People like you. People who have continued to support the agency throughout the years, whether through monetary contributions, volunteering, or donating diapers, school supplies, and other items that our clients can use. Bethany’s successes are your successes and in the end, our entire community benefits.

Find this video by searching Bethany4CF on Youtube.
Family Awards

Bethany for Children & Families gives three awards at its annual **Community Celebration and Family Awards**. Each award represents, extraordinary people’s commitment to children in our community.

**Ruth Evelyn Katz Adoptive Family of the Year**

Since becoming foster parents many years ago, Wade and Andrea Anderson adopted one child, Gauge. Recently, Wade and Andrea took a newborn into their care, a biological brother of one of the foster children already in their home. Their hearts told them keeping the siblings together was the right thing to do, and they did not hesitate to welcome the precious baby boy into their arms. They are currently in the process of adopting both siblings.

The Andersons have demonstrated an enormous amount of commitment and dedication to the children they have in their care. They have embraced all three of the children and have fully integrated them into their family. Wade and Andrea show great love for all the children in their care and make a positive difference in their lives. Making a lifetime commitment to them shows their devotion. They are the epitome of the type of adoptive family we need more of in our world. We are confident they would make Ruth Evelyn Katz very proud.

Program Spotlight—Phoenix

The Bethany Black Hawk Phoenix Day Treatment Program offers special education services, case management services, and interventions to area youth who are at risk of disrupting from their homes of origin and being placed in a residential setting. Treatment is based on each student’s individualized educational plan (IEP). The Phoenix Day Program assists students who have demonstrated severe behavioral and emotional problems and who have been unsuccessful in their home school districts. The program is run by Bethany for Children & Families and the Black Hawk Area Special Education District (BHASED).

The Phoenix Program has completed the first semester of the 2020/21 School Year. They have been on the hybrid model due to Covid-19. During this, Phoenix served 22 students remotely and 22 students attending school on a four day schedule. The numbers second quarter were 15 remote and 28 in the attending school option. The Phoenix staff provided services for all students, families, and even staff to deal with fear, stress, frustration, economic issues, loss, and other issues that occurred during the Covid-19 outbreak. The Phoenix Program provided counseling, and case management services on a daily or as needed basis. We also delivered 17 food baskets and school work to remote students weekly. All services including the educational services were offered in different ways to promote safety for all.
During the holiday season, in addition to our 24 programs and services, Bethany helps local children and families by arranging meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. And provides donations of clothing, toys, and household and childcare items to the community. Your support makes a huge difference in their lives and makes the holidays brighter for families in need.

This year’s Angel Tree, headed by Mary Ann McLeod, served almost 500 children and adults. This included Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and additional gifts of toys and clothing. Thank you for helping Bethany achieve its mission of keeping children safe, strengthening families, and building healthy communities.

Heather Warren became a foster parent in 2011 because she saw the need for children to have a safe, stable home. Within months of becoming licensed, Heather received her first placement, a three year old boy who had experienced a lot of trauma in his short life. Heather has weathered the foster care system and court process with grace and determination and has patiently dealt with the unusual challenges with being a foster parent to a special needs child.

Heather provides steadfast love and affection to her foster son, navigating the barriers and challenges in getting him the services he needs. Even in the most trying times, Heather remains calm and positive. She was caring and compassionate with Bethany staff and any professional involved with her foster son. She never hesitates to put others needs above her own. Bethany is honored to have Heather as a foster parent and we appreciate everything that she does.

For more information regarding Foster Care, visit our website at: https://www.bethany-qc.org/foster-care-licensing
Lonnie and Constance Westerfield run Lonnie Ray’s Elite Academy, a community center in Rock Island. Through the Academy, the Westerfields give youth in Rock Island another option for assistance in their youth development. Their commitment to youth started over seven years ago when Lonnie formed his own basketball organization as an effort to get boys and young men off of the streets. This organization has become one of the largest basketball organizations in Iowa and Illinois. Along with basketball, the academy offers sports training and conditioning, leadership development, after school programs, community service programs, financial literacy programs, dance, yoga, gardening, and healthy eating/cooking lessons.

The Westerfields have developed a strong partnership with many other community organizations and agencies in the area, increasing not only the Academy’s success, but also the community as a whole.

Although COVID-19 has created some minor setbacks, the center continues to serve the community by instilling leadership, self-esteem, and discipline into the youth that take part in its services. The best days are ahead!

**Community Champions of the Year**

**The Generosity of the Quad Cities**

Clay, Lindsay, kids in our Therapeutic Recreation Program (TRP), and various staff have kept busy on Thursdays unloading and distributing food boxes from River Bend Food Bank for families served by the agency.

RSM staff raised this contribution through their Birdies for Love Program, and the RSM US Foundation matched the contribution. Thank you! Pictured are Jim Sanderlin (R) of Bethany and staff from RSM.

Thank you to the many groups and businesses who have donated school supplies for the 2020-21 school year!