

The BUZZ @ Bethany for Children & Families

Keeping children safe, strengthening families,

Angel Tree: Bethany's gym converted to North Pole

For Bethany, the busy holiday season started in early October this year. With the help of generous donors, food baskets provided more than 45 families with meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. And, by mid-December, Angel Tree gifts had been distributed to over 500 clients and families in the Quad Cities area!



Angel Tree has been a staple in the community for more than three decades. At Christmas, this program provides gifts for children and families who would not otherwise receive any presents. For 2021, along with 24 individuals, more than 19 businesses and churches partnered with Bethany to provide gifts.

John Huber, Bethany's Operations Supervisor, took on the enormous task of organizing this year's Angel Tree. With the agency for over 11 years, John was excited when he was asked to manage this seasonal event. "Christmas has

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always been my favorite time of year. When I was a case manager, I always looked forward to assisting my clients through the Angel Tree program. I got such joy out of secretly delivering the gifts to the parent or guardian so they would have something under the tree for their children to open... It made sense for me to take over organizing the program."

Preparations began in early October for this huge undertaking. Bethany staff submitted a list of families in need, along with three gift suggestions for each client. By early November, gift tags were provided and distributed to donors. Once donations and gifts were received, Bethany's gym served as a staging area.



Finally, John had some Bethany elves sort and prepare the gifts for distribution. Some of those helpers included staff members Jim Sanderlin, Callahan Herrig, Wendy Walljasper, Tiffany Miclot, AJ Preston, and Vickie Wickersham. They volunteered to stay late after work and came in on a Saturday to ensure the presents could be delivered to families by December 13th.

Thanks to our compassionate and caring donors, more than 500 children and families had a very special Christmas and holiday season this year.

If you would like to be part of Angel Tree 2022, please contact John Huber at jhuber@bethany-qc.org, or call 309.736.6619.



The Big Talk Virtual

*Because kids don't come
with instructions*

**30 minutes of
tips and tricks for
talking to your
kids about
growing up**

**Mondays
2:15pm**

**January 10 - Being an ask-
able parent**

January 24 - Consent

**January 31 - Online safety
& sexting**

February 7 - Sexuality

**February 14 - Healthy
Relationships**

**Door prizes and giveaways at
every session!**

Presented by Bethany for Children and Families

**For more information or the zoom link, email
wwwalljasper@bethany-qc.org**

The Big The Big Talk is a 5 session program for parents to learn tips and tricks for talking with their kids about growing up. Topics include healthy relationships, consent, puberty, and online safety. This program is appropriate for parents with children of all ages, and parents can attend one or many.

We are offering virtual and in- person sessions during the daytime in January and February. A series of evening sessions will be offered in April, and a Saturday series in May and June.

Congratulations to the Families and Business who were recognized at this year's Community Celebration Awards!

Pictured below are Annie and
Daniel Tillberg and their seven
children who received the Ruth
Evelyn Katz Adoptive Family of the





Pictured above, John Huber, Operations Supervisor for Bethany for Children & Families, presented the award for the Community Champion of the Year to the River Bend Food Bank.

Pictured below are Michael and Katy Beradi, who were recognized as the Foster Family of the Year. Board Vice Chair, Tom Kale, presented them with the award.



Beds for the Holidays



On December 6, 2021, Ashley HomeStore donated brand new twin-size mattress sets to Bethany for Children & Families. This is the fourth year that Ashley has donated beds to the agency at Christmas.

On December 17, 2021, Slumberland Furniture gave 26 mattresses, bed frames, and box springs as part of its annual, Making Homes for the Holidays program. This is the 13th year that Slumberland has donated beds to Bethany at Christmas.



Thank you!



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 the children and families we serve.

Call (309) 797-7700 today
to support a safer, stronger, and

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 9,000 children and families annually in 14 counties surrounding the Quad Cities

Bethany Night at QC Storm!

Save the date!

Join Bethany for Children & Families on Saturday, February 19, 2022, for a night out to enjoy the Quad Cities' favorite hockey team, Quad City Storm, as they take on the Evansville

Thunderbolts! There will be a pregame high five tunnel as the players take the ice for warm-ups. There will be fun activities throughout the night!

More information will be posted soon to our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Bethany4CF/>. See you there!

