

The **BUZZ** @ **Bethany** for Children & Families

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



2015 Volume 1

Thank you!

Each year, Bethany for Children & Families asks the community to help make the holidays bright for the agency's families in need. Thank you to everyone in the community who donated clothing, toys, household items, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, gift cards, and funds for Bethany's Christmas Giving Program! Your generosity made it possible for the agency to provide holiday meals and gifts to 53 adults and 479 children!



The *Generosity* of the Quad Cities



The **Quad City Times** donated a Mickey Mouse-themed Christmas tree! The tree was featured in the Quad City Arts Festival of Trees.

The tree was placed in the agency's Therapeutic Recreation Program room, where it inspired a decorating frenzy and lots of holiday cheer!

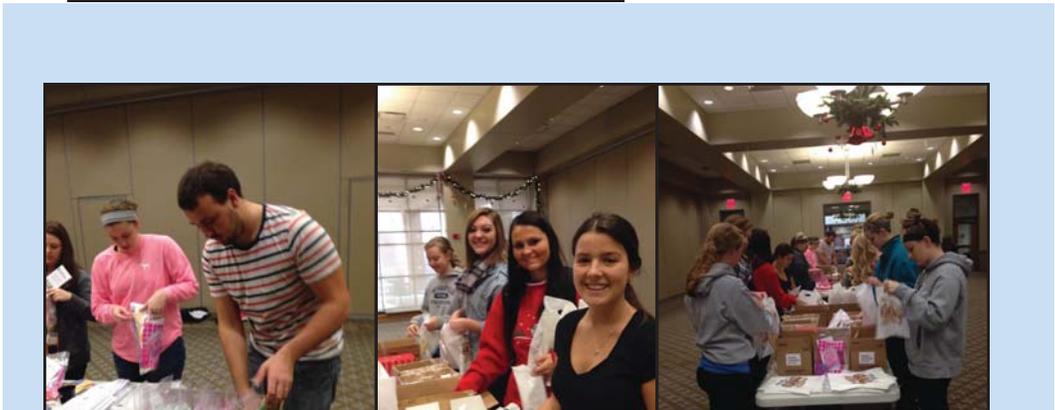


The **Scott County Treasurer's Office** and the **Scott County General Store** held a drive in support of Bethany's Foster Care and Adoption programs. Special thanks to the gift committee—**Sue Lacke-Smith, Wendy Costello, and Lori Weaver!**





Van Meter, Inc. of Davenport donated \$1,000 for holiday food baskets and gifts for Bethany's Christmas Giving Program!



Volunteers from **St. Ambrose University's New Student Seminar** class filled one thousand goodie bags for Bethany's Give Kids a Smile mobile dental program!



Underwear Because We Care donated new undergarments for families in need!



Girl Scout Troop 5130 from East Moline donated needed items in support of Bethany's Foster Care program!



Students at **Jane Addams Elementary School** in **Moline** donated food, cleaning supplies, and baby items for families in Bethany's Intact Family Services program!



Rockridge High School Spirit Squad donated toys and gifts for families in need!



Addison Awbrey of Moline held a winter outerwear drive and collected coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and more for children in need!



The Quad City Mallards donated toys and gifts for children in need!



Slumberland Furniture of Davenport and Moline donated 36 brand-new beds for families in the community!

Community *Partners*

As part of a new partnership between Bethany and Black Hawk Area Special Education Center, students in the BHASEC vocational education class prepared mail on behalf of Bethany for Children & Families. The students learned new skills and helped Bethany accomplish a big project. Thank you, BHASEC students! We're excited to work with you!





Awards and *Excellence*

MOTIVATION
EXCELLENCE
RESPONSIBILITY
INTEGRITY
TEAMWORK



The monthly MERIT award recognizes an employee for distinguished service to the agency. MERIT awardees are nominated by their peers or members of the community and are recognized for their outstanding commitment to children and families served by Bethany.



Shelby Showalter
October 2014
MERIT Award Winner

Shelby Showalter is the Receptionist/Secretary. The nomination stated, "Shelby is the first person people see when they enter the agency's Moline office. She has a great deal of responsibility and is vital to ensuring the agency runs smoothly. She assists every worker in the Moline office on a daily basis. From reading and editing reports, to managing vehicle reservations, to answering phones and directing people to the appropriate programs, Shelby does it all!"



Chris Allers
November 2014
MERIT Award Winner

Chris Allers is a Program Coordinator for the Give Kids a Smile mobile dental program. The nomination stated, "Chris has shown exceptional motivation, excellence, and responsibility in adapting the Give Kids a Smile program to new processes through the Affordable Care Act. Updates to the Medicaid system are very difficult to implement and Chris has done an exceptional job navigating the new system, collecting information from doctors, and sharing relevant details with the Give Kids a Smile team."



Mary Ann McLeod
December 2014
MERIT Award Winner

Mary Ann McLeod is the Community Services Division Director. The nomination stated, "Mary Ann, AKA Mrs. Claus, pulled through for the entire agency and made sure that each and every family and child received something special for Christmas. She has a wonderful ability to create structure out of chaos. She brought order to a room that was brimming over with donated toys, clothes, cleaning supplies, books, and other sundry items, and made sure that each item went to the correct recipient. And she did it with a smile!"

Downtown *Moline* Blood Drive

Will you give?

Make Bethany your home for regular blood donations! Bethany partners with the **Mississippi Valley Blood Center, Moline Community Development Corporation, the *Dispatch/Argus*, Moline Centre,** and the **City of Moline** to host blood drives at the agency's downtown Moline location.

A few blood facts:

- An adult has approximately 10-12 pints of blood.
- About 1 in 7 hospital patients require a blood transfusion.
- More than 4.5 million people need blood transfusions each year.
- 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but less than 10% donate.

Each donation provides up to three patients with life-saving blood products. Be a hero to someone in our community! Give blood!

Blood Drive

Bethany for Children & Families
1830 6th Avenue
Moline, Illinois 61265



Appointments are appreciated, but not required. For further information, contact Joscelyn Stone at jstone@bethany-qc.org or visit www.bloodcenterimpact.org.

Save the date!

**2015 Downtown Moline Blood Drive Dates:
February 25, April 23, June 18, August 18,
October 20, December 16**



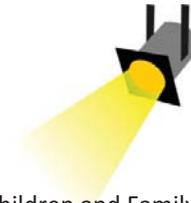
Dispatch • Argus





Program Spotlight

Foster Care



Bethany is assigned foster care cases by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. There are three types of foster care: Home of Relative (Unlicensed and Licensed), Traditional, and Specialized. Children may enter at any age and remain in foster care until reaching 21. Permanency is achieved through *Return Home*, *Adoption*, *Guardianship*, or *Independence*. The length of time a child will be placed in a foster home will differ for each situation, but the goal is for a child to be in foster care as short a time as possible.

Foster care is temporary care. The goal is to reunite the child with his/her birth parents or relatives whenever possible. Matching the needs of each child to the special strengths of each foster family is another major consideration. When locating a foster care placement, the child's home community is first considered so that the child can continue to attend the same school. The amount of time before a family receives a child depends on how flexible they are about the type of child they wish to parent.

There is a continual need for foster parents. Being a foster parent requires a lot of patience and understanding. All children need the love and support of a family so they can grow into healthy productive members of the community! Each person has many strengths and skills and can make a unique contribution to a child's life. If you are interested in being a foster parent, please contact Lynn Lohman at (309) 736-6628. A licensing representative will be assigned to work with you to obtain a foster care license for your home and schedule you for the required free training.

After licensing and training are completed, children may be placed in your home. Foster parents receive a monthly reimbursement to cover the child's food; shelter; ongoing clothing and personal allowances; personal items; and normal transportation costs. The reimbursement amount is based upon the type of foster care program the child is in, the age of the child, and any special needs the child may have. Each foster child receives a medical card that pays for medical care and prescriptions. There may also be additional funds provided for daycare services. Even families who are uncomfortable providing full-time foster care can obtain a foster care license and provide respite care. Respite care providers provide full time foster parents a break by taking a child for a few hours to a few days, sometimes longer.

Bethany's Foster Care program serves Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer County. Foster care services are available 24 hours a day, so Bethany has an on-call system to take cases, make placements, and respond to emergencies.

The Foster Care program also relies upon community support. Please consider donating needed items, such as diapers and baby wipes, sippy cups, shoes, new toys for foster children and the agency's visiting rooms, new clothing of all sizes, and new car seats and booster seats. Seasonal items such as school supplies, winter coats, boots, and holiday gifts are also needed.

Bethany Welcomes a New *Director*



Gma Howze

Bethany for Children & Families is pleased to welcome **Gma Howze** to the agency's Board of Directors.

Gma is an educator by training and has a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.

During her early years as an educator, her career took her from Michigan, to Washington, and to Davenport, Iowa, as a teacher of high school math. She worked as an education consultant with the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency in Bettendorf, then later as the director of the SECME Stem program designed to encourage student interest in math, science, engineering, and technology. She served as Executive Director of the SBC Outreach Music and Arts Academy located at the Second Baptist Church in Rock Island, Illinois, and she worked as Camp Director at the Baptist Grove Church Summer Camp in Raleigh, North Carolina. Gma is a member of the Women's Leadership Council of the United Way of the Quad Cities where she serves on the Child Advocacy Committee. She also serves on the Pleasant Valley High School Parent Association as the Chairperson of the Reflections Committee and as a member of the Safe Schools Certification Committee. She works part-time as an advisor for Scott Community College and as a substitute teacher for Pleasant Valley Schools and other Iowa schools. Gma has been happily married for 30 years to Marc Howze and together they have four wonderful children.



Recent *Grants*

American Honda Motor Company awarded \$500 for Counseling and Therapy programs.

Potter Family Foundation awarded \$3,000 for education services in the agency's Prevention Education program.

Variety Club awarded \$6,800 for the Transitional Housing for Homeless Youth program.



COLOR THE QUADS 5K RUN

Bethany for Children & Families is a Charity Partner for the 2015 Mel Foster Co. Color the Quads 5K Run! Bethany is delighted to be chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the race event.

The 2015 Color the Quads 5K will take place on Saturday, May 30, near Cumberland Square at 2300 Spruce Hills Drive, Bettendorf, IA. **Registration is now open!** Be sure to register early, since this event fills quickly!

For more information about Color the Quads or to volunteer to help on race day, please visit www.colorthequads.com.



GET COLOR MAY 30, 2015

ADULTS. KIDS. FAMILIES.



1830 6th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

(309) 797-7700 or (563) 324-9169
www.bethany-qc.org

