



BULLETIN



OUR NEW PRESIDENT/CEO, LARA INGRAM

Bethany for Children & Families and Bridgeview CMHC announces Lara Ingram will serve as the agency's new President/CEO. Ingram has more than two decades of experience as a resourceful servant leader in the non-profit and social service sectors.

In this role, Ingram will lead Bethany's operations, programs, and business units, as well as those of its affiliate, Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center in Clinton, Iowa.



Ingram holds a Master of Arts in Social Work and a certificate in non-profit management. She has previously served as a non-profit CEO and executive director after beginning her career in direct clinical services. She is looking forward to leading Bethany's dynamic workforce of nearly 113 employees.

"I couldn't be more excited to join Bethany. There is unlimited potential to create a significant impact on the lives of families and children in this community. I'm eager to roll up my sleeves and get down to work with my new team and community partners. I look forward to joining hands with community leaders, volunteers, businesses, and compassionate individuals as we create a brighter future for local children."

- Lara Ingram, CEO/President

FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION PARTY

Bethany's Foster Care team hosted a Foster Parent Appreciation Party for all of the foster parents in the program! Bethany provides foster care to nearly 130 children at any given time. Foster parents open their hearts and homes to children who need it most, and we celebrated their generosity. Each family received dinner, dessert, and an opportunity to win a raffle basket. Families enjoyed live music, cotton candy, slushies, fake tattoos, and balloon animals.

If you want to be a foster parent, you can learn more at bethany-qc.org/foster-home-licensing or contact vburke@bethany-qc.org.

48% of children in the traditional foster care program and 25% of children in the specialized foster care program returned home or were adopted during FY25.

"Everything was wonderful. The photo backdrop was a great opportunity to get a picture of all my children. The kids enjoyed the food and treats and activities. The music and raffles were wonderful. I just want the staff to know how much they are appreciated as well. All the hard work that went into this event did not go unnoticed. Thank you so much! - Foster Parent"



A foster family checking in.



Bobby Ray Bunch singing.



Patti-Dee from Twisted Bo-Kay making a balloon animal for a foster child.

BRAIN HEALTH ROOM AT PHOENIX SCHOOL

The Bethany Phoenix Day Treatment Program has a new Brain Health Retreat Room this school year. The room is decorated in calming colors and features sensory items. It's designed to promote emotional well-being and provide a safe space for students and staff to step back, decompress, and get the support they need. It is a place where student's feelings, thoughts, and problems are accepted without judgment and where students are encouraged to learn new, self-regulating techniques. The room is staffed by a Master's level employee.

"The students are going to have ownership in this school; and when you can have ownership, then you can accept responsibility for yourself." - Leta Cary, Director of Phoenix Day Treatment Program



The room was developed in collaboration with Brain Health Now, a grassroots organization dedicated to ending the stigma surrounding mental illness. Brain Health Now is sponsoring for the room as well as providing healthy food for the children and staff who utilize it.



"This is more relaxed and it's more like home. Somewhere they can come and just be free of all the mental stress that may be out of that door." - Phoenix School Parent

ANGEL TREE

As the holiday season approaches, Bethany has begun to make preparations for Angel Tree (the annual Christmas giving program) and holiday food basket distribution. This program continues to address the ever-growing needs of children and families in the agency's care during the holiday season. Angel Tree ensures that every one of our clients and children will have presents under the tree. Last year, over 700 families were recipients of Angel Tree and food baskets.

If you would like to make a difference in a child's life this holiday season, contact Christina McNamara-Schmidt at cmcnamara-schmidt@bethany-qc.org.

ANGEL TREE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Various levels include:

Team volunteer opportunities

Angel Trees in company location

Branded gift tags

Logo on Angel Tree page of Bethany website

Mentioned in social media posts

Co-Branded press release

Recognition in agency newsletter



OPEN ACCESS APPOINTMENTS

Walk-in mental health appointments are available through our affiliate, Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center. More information is available at www.bvcmhc.org



Walk-in and virtual same-day appointments are available!



If you can, give us a quick call ahead of time so we're ready to welcome you at (563) 243-5633.



Don't forget your insurance information and a photo I.D.



Open Access Hours

Monday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Bridgeview's Services

Psychiatric
services

Mental health
Therapy

Crisis services

School-based
mental health
therapy

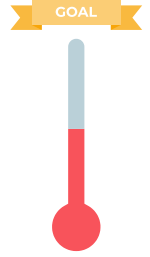
Community
support services

Intensive psychiatric
services

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Capital Campaign

Donate funds to Bethany's Capital Campaign by enclosing a donation in the remittance envelope. Please indicate that it is for the Capital Campaign.



Legacy Giving

Name Bethany as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, or in your required minimum distribution.



Recurring Donation

Set up a recurring donation at www.bethany-qc.org.



In-Kind Donations

Donate hygiene products, cleaning supplies, school supplies, furniture, diapers, and new baby items that directly benefit the children and families we serve. Please call (309) 797-7700 to inquire about in-kind donations.



How to Make a Donation

Want to donate online? Visit www.bethany-qc.org.

Prefer to mail your donation? Mail donations to:

Bethany for Children & Families
P.O. Box 697
Moline, IL 61266

