

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

Community Celebration



Save the date!

Ordinary people doing extraordinary things is the cause for **Bethany's annual Community Celebration**.

At the event, Bethany will honor an adoptive and foster family of the year, as well as a community champion. Expanded awards this year highlight more agency services. Awards will be given to those representing success through housing, strengthening families, and improving mental health.

You're invited to enjoy food, drink, a raffle, and live music!

The Community Celebration will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, **November 1st, 2024** at The Stern Center in Rock Island.

Watch for further information and an invitation in the mail soon!

Back to School

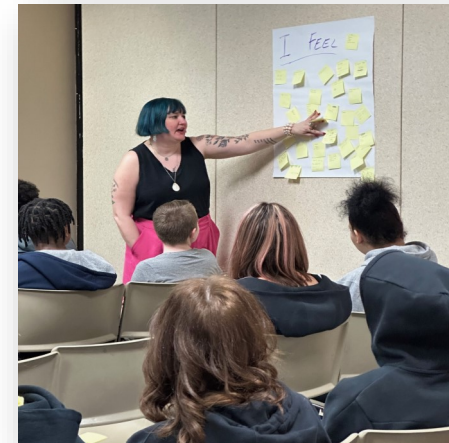
The school year is a busy time for Bethany! A large part of the agency's work supports school-aged children.

Bethany provides mental and behavioral therapy to more than 1,000 students each school year. These students have a myriad of therapeutic needs, including attention disorders, trauma histories, or even suicidal ideations.

In addition, educators teach courses at area high schools to help students respond to peer pressure, navigate healthy relationships, avoid dating violence, prevent teen pregnancy, and deal with other stressors.

After school, dozens of students attend the agency's Therapeutic Recreation Program where they learn social skills and aggression management skills.

Emotionally disturbed and behaviorally disordered youth from the area's 14 Illinois school districts attend the Phoenix Day Treatment Program. Bethany caseworkers/counselors work alongside educators from the Black Hawk Area Special Education District to improve a students' ability to self-regulate and successfully complete academic courses, leading to obtainment of a high school diploma.



Bethany Creates Permanent Homes

The fundamental goal of foster care is to return a child home.

Bethany for Children & Families helped obtain a **permanent home for 44.95% of children** ages 0 to 21 who were served in FY 2024. This exceeds the 40% permanency rate assigned by the contract with the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (IDCFS).

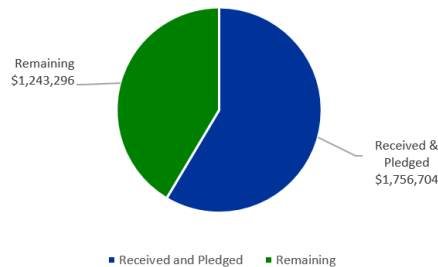
These children were either returned to their parents, adopted, or established guardianship, which is a legal relationship with their foster parent. Congratulations to Bethany's Foster Care and Specialized Foster Care Programs on this accomplishment!



Capital Campaign Update

Bethany is 60% of the way to its \$3 million Capital Campaign goal for its new headquarters! You have an opportunity to support the agency with a donation to the Capital Campaign. While all donors are acknowledged, gifts of \$1,000 or more will be noted on the recognition wall located on the main floor of the Caxton Block building. Please indicate on the enclosed remittance envelope that your donation is for the Capital Campaign.

Interested in naming a room with your donation to memorialize a loved one, to honor a parent or grandparent or your grandchildren, or to showcase your business? Naming opportunities are available! Please contact Christina McNamara-Schmidt, Director of Development and Communication at (309) 736-6642 or email her at cmcnamara-schmidt@bethany-qc.org for more information.

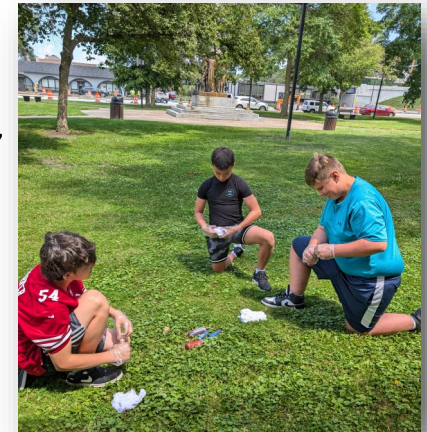


Camp Confidence

A dozen youth attended Camp Confidence at Bethany this summer to explore questions relating to dating, healthy relationships, mental health, peer pressure, and puberty.

The five-day camp also discussed values, boundary-setting, friendship, feelings and the brain, and body image.

Camp Confidence is led by Bethany's Community Services Division. Positive feedback was received by both students and parents.



"I learned that boundaries are important because they make you feel safe and protected." -Camp Confidence participant

"I learned to use breathing to cope with difficult emotions" -student who participated in week-long program

"Assertive communication is not being mean, but stern, to someone if you don't want to do something." -student



"I have not encountered another camp like yours and am grateful it exists! It was a perfect fit for my child. I hope you continue the camp next year because I would send my daughter back and send her younger brother too!" -parent who sent child to Camp Confidence

Program Spotlight: Parenting Program

More parents will have access to Bethany's parenting program which teaches healthy parenting skills as an alternative to poor or ineffective child-rearing practices. As part of the federal Family First legislation, Bethany has provided the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) to parents who have an allegation or charge of abuse or neglect but still have custody of their children. A new contract with the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (IDCFS) will now allow parents who have had their children removed from the home and placed in foster care to participate in NPP sessions.

"For us to return kids to parents who haven't been given an opportunity to learn new ways to parent didn't make sense. We worked with IDCFS and explained this is a very valuable tool to develop in western Illinois. IDCFS went further and has expanded this idea from Bethany into a statewide program service," said Bill Steinhauer, President and CEO of Bethany for Children & Families.

The curriculum, which is a family-centered, evidence-based, and trauma-informed intervention, is the same for both intact families and those whose children are in foster care. Currently, 30 intact families are served at any one time, and this contract will allow 30 additional families to be served whose children are in foster care.

"The curriculum covers such topics as emotional regulation, self-care, personal and family values, developing empathy, child development, and keeping kids free from drugs and alcohol," said Wendy Walljasper, Director of Bethany's Community Services Division.

The long-term goals of NPP are to prevent recidivism in families receiving social services, lower the rate of teenage pregnancies, reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency and alcohol abuse, and stop the intergenerational cycle of child abuse by teaching positive parenting behaviors.



MERIT Award Winner

Our MERIT Award winner for April - June 2024 is **Robert Muskeyvalley**. Robert was the Homeless Supervisor for all three housing programs at Bethany. *Sadly, Robert passed away on June 13, 2024. This award is being presented posthumously.*

The nomination stated, "Robert was diligent in his work and eager to help the clients, along with his coworkers. He always had a kind word to give you praise for how you were doing and really showed positive reinforcement to all. Robert took pride in his work and was always positive. He was



reliable and was always willing to go above and beyond in his work. He always honored his commitments to others and treated everyone fairly. He truly took joy in helping others. Robert was never one to hide his feelings. He was always honest about his abilities and the abilities of others. If anyone was having issues, he would counsel them, whether it was a client or a co-worker. He tended to look on the bright side. Robert was a great listener, and great at giving advice. He was the first to give others a pat on the back. He genuinely believed in the mission, here at Bethany, and before that, at Arrowhead. He wanted to see young people succeed and worked well with his co-workers, in order to help that to happen."

Robert was a model employee at Bethany and more than anyone deserved this award.

*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 **Motivation, Excellence, Responsibility, Integrity, and Teamwork** in the execution of going beyond his/her job duty and responsibilities.*



How Can You Help?



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



Name Bethany as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, or in your annual required minimum Distribution (RMD).



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



Donate hygiene products, cleaning supplies, school supplies, furniture, diapers, and new baby items that directly benefit the children and families we serve. Please call Christina McNamara-Schmidt at (309) 797-6642 to inquire about in-kind donations.



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

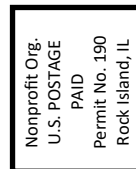
How to Make a Donation

Want to donate online?

Visit www.bethany-qc.org

Prefer to mail your donation?

Mail donations to:
P.O. Box 697
Moline, IL 61266



Return Service Requested



1701 River Dr., Suite 200
Moline, IL 61265



Bethany4CF

www.bethany-qc.org