

The Buzz @ Bethany

for Children & Families

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



Quad City Bank & Trust employees
present a generous donation of gifts to
Bethany's Angel Tree Program.



Employees from Craftsmen Utility Trailer
present an Angel Tree donation to
Bethany's Development and Marketing
Coordinator, Camryn Arps, far right.



Bethany Prevention Specialist
Jessica Byczynski helps distribute
Angel Tree gifts to clients.

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Maggie's Fund

Help for the month's rent for a single, working mother. An unbudgeted car repair. Too many bills and not enough paycheck at the end of the month. These few examples of unanticipated expenses can be the difference between stability and catastrophe for some of the families served by Bethany.

While the agency's caseworkers endeavor diligently to connect clients to resources available in the community in order to address relentless needs, sometimes that aid is not enough or not there at all. This is why Bethany has a special fund called "Maggie's Fund". It is a resource for caseworkers to utilize when all other community resources have been exhausted.

Maggie's Fund was established in 2005 by the agency's Board of Directors following the unexpected death of the six-year-old daughter of Bill Steinhauser and Laurie Boyce-Steinhauser.

Over the past 18 years, the fund has raised more than \$324,000 to meet basic needs like clothing, gas, medical co-pays, and utility and rental assistance. It also funds the Family Furniture Assistance Program, The Compassionate Friends support group, and a monthly newsletter for parents who have suffered the death of a child or children.

Maggie's Fund is a "hand up." Recipients are not required to reimburse the agency, but many "pay it forward" by repaying the fund when they get back on their feet. Donations to Maggie's Fund can be made through the Bethany website at www.bethany-qc.org/maggies-fund or mailed to 1830 6th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265.



A self-portrait drawn by
Maggie Steinhauser

Bethany for Children & Families is MOVING!

Bethany has outgrown its current building at 1830 6th Avenue in Moline. This building has served as Bethany's headquarters since 2003. It suited the agency's needs when there were 45 employees, but over the last 20 years, Bethany has increased its services which required hiring more staff. With the additional personnel and services, some departments had to be moved to other buildings.

After a three-year search for a larger building, one was found just two blocks north of the current headquarters. This spring, the agency's offices will relocate to the Caxton Block building at 1701 River Drive in Moline. The second and third floors will provide ample room to bring together Bethany's current staff, allow for growth, and provide more meeting and visitation rooms for personnel and clients.

With the expansion, Bethany can hire more staff and provide additional support services to families and children in the community.

More good news: the agency phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. Connecting with the agency will be as easy as it is today!



Program Spotlight: Iowa Direct Family Intervention

Iowa Direct Family Intervention (DFI) is a comprehensive service designed to provide needed intervention(s) to improve the overall function and well-being of a family. The program offers various types of resources and support to address a range of challenging life circumstances and family situations.

Iowa DFI provides a variety of support services to at-risk families. Some of the therapeutic services provided by case managers address:

- Parenting skills;
- Social skills;
- Problem-solving skills;
- Behavior management;
- Communication skills;
- Life skills (budgeting, cleaning, and cooking);
- Anger management; and
- Relationship problems.

Families are generally involved with the Iowa DFI program for a duration of approximately six to 12 weeks. The assistance offered is based upon the individualized needs and the unique circumstances of each family.

For more information or to make a referral, please contact
Keyandra Harrington
Program Supervisor
Call (563) 324-9169
or email DFI.Referrals@bethany-qc.org



Program Spotlight:

Foster Care

Bethany's Intact Family Services Program, Wraparound Services, and other programs strive to keep families together. When efforts are exhausted and it is no longer safe for a child to stay in his/her home, the Illinois Department of Child & Family Services (IDCFS) may find cause to remove that child and place him/her into foster care. Foster care is temporary care, intended to provide a safe, nurturing home while a child's family of origin is stabilized. There's a growing need for foster parents and families to open their homes to children.

Being a foster parent can be very difficult work, but it also can be the most rewarding experience of your life. Families and individuals can make a significant difference in the life of a child in our community.

Basic requirements to become a foster parent:

- Be a resident of Illinois;
- Be 21 years of age or older;
- Undergo a background check;
- Complete a physical/TB test;
- Be Financially stable;
- Undergo a home study assessment; and
- Complete the required training.



This licensing process can take three to six months or longer depending on a variety of factors. Foster parents receive monthly reimbursement to cover the costs of the child's food, shelter, clothing, and transportation.

In 2022, Bethany had a caseload of more than 140 foster children. During this same year, 47% of these children were either returned to their home-of-origin, adopted, or placed in a guardianship arrangement (usually with a relative).

Is fostering a child in your future?

Contact the foster care team at (309) 736-6630

Angel Tree

You helped create a happy Christmas for hundreds of Quad Cities Kids! The agency's annual Angel Tree program was a tremendous success, and provided a happier holiday for some of the area's neediest families.

Bethany is grateful to more than 25 individuals, 30 businesses and churches, and many volunteers who partnered to spread joy and kindness this holiday season through Angel Tree!

Thanks to **your** generosity, nearly 650 children woke up on Christmas morning with presents under the tree. Additionally, 75 families received holiday food baskets to prepare a memorable and delicious Thanksgiving or Christmas meal.



Holiday food baskets were prepared and distributed by agency caseworkers.



Bethany's Operations Supervisor John Huber accepts gift donations from employees at Van Meter Industrial in Davenport.



Bethany's gym was transformed into Santa's workshop during December.



MERIT Award Winner:

John Huber

This quarter's MERIT award goes to John Huber, the agency's Operations Supervisor. John is based out of the 1830 6th Avenue, Moline, Illinois, location.

His nomination stated: "John is intrinsically motivated to advance the mission of Bethany for Children & Families. He takes joy in helping his fellow employees and in turn, the children and families they serve. He is an excellent communicator with attention to detail. He is careful and diligent with his work. John competently and patiently responds to requests for assistance with computer and printer issues and all matters relating to the facility. He is very dedicated to Bethany, working sometimes in the evening to make sure tasks are done well. He spearheads the agency's Angel Tree program, volunteered to dance at Dancing with the Quad Cities Stars, and is instrumental in the planning of the agency's Community Celebration. John brings a smile and a good sense of humor to the job along with an outstanding work ethic and commitment to Bethany's mission. Angel Tree is so much work and he pulled off an incredible year. Everything was well organized and smooth. He is great with project delegation and knows when he needs to step up."

Congratulations, John! Keep up the good work!

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.



Legacy Giving

You can help us serve future generations by naming Bethany as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance, and/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 families and children in our community who need assistance. Set up a recurring donation at www.bethany-qc.org

In-Kind Contributions

Your donations of hygiene products, cleaning supplies, school supplies, furniture, diapers, and new baby items directly benefit the children and families we serve.

How To Make A Donation

Want to donate online?

Visit www.bethany-qc.org.

Prefer to mail your donation?

You can mail donations to P.O. Box 697 Moline, IL 61266

If you'd like your donation to support Maggie's Fund, please indicate that on the envelope or go to the Maggie's Fund page on our website.



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

Bethany for Children & Families is a private child welfare, mental health, community education, and social services provider which has offered aid and support to children and families in western Illinois and eastern Iowa since 1899. The agency employs a professional team of 90 social workers, licensed therapists, case managers, and educators. With 25 programs and services, Bethany helps 11,500 children and families annually in the 14 counties comprising and surrounding the Quad Cities area.