

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

Bethany's Mission Continues During COVID-19

As reported on WHBF-TV4 on April 22, Bethany for Children & Families is continuing its work during COVID-19. The agency's mission of *keeping children safe, strengthening families, and building healthy communities* goes on despite this global and national crisis.

With rising health issues, unemployment, anxiety, and social concerns that have exploded during this pandemic, the need for the agency's services is great. Bethany's staff of 76 case workers, therapists, and educators continues to provide care and services to children and families throughout the Quad Cities region.

While the agency continues to operate on nearly all cylinders, the delivery of services saw a sudden shift in the months of March and April. Management moved quickly to adjust and adopt new delivery methods.

This edition of the *Buzz* has been designed to inform you of those shifts in services. Bethany's staff remains dedicated to serving the children and families of eastern Iowa and western Illinois.



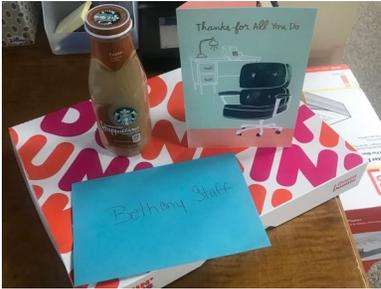
Bethany's Mental and Behavioral Health therapists on Zoom

2020 Volume 2

The Generosity of the Quad Cities



In early March, **Riverdale National Honor Society and High School** raised \$300 and collected almost 800 items for children and families in need!



Thank you to the **thoughtful community member** who dropped off treats and a thank you card for Bethany's foster care staff.



Thank you to the many generous people in the QC who donated **hygiene products**.



Our friends at **Assumption High School** donated a large amount of diapers in February. Thank you very much!



JOHN DEERE CLASSIC



The John Deere Classic is
July 6-12, 2020!

Bethany is grateful to participate in Birdies for Charity, an easy and fun way to donate to the programs and services offered by the agency. Donations to Bethany through Birdies for Charity are guaranteed a bonus of five percent. For the past few years, the bonus has been **10 percent!**

This is a great way to support the 22 child welfare, mental health, and community education programs offered by Bethany.

One lucky supporter of Birdies for Charity program will win a two-year lease on a **2019 Lexus NX**, courtesy of Lexus of the Quad Cities. Additional prizes are awarded by random drawings.

You are encouraged to donate online this year at www.birdiesforcharity.com/donate. Bethany's charity number is #178!

If you choose not to donate online, please download the pledge form at birdiesforcharity.com and mail your completed pledge by July 6th to
Birdies for Charity
15623 Coaltown Rd.
East Moline, IL 61244

For additional information, contact Jim Sanderlin at (309) 736-6642 or jsanderlin@bethany-qc.org.

Bethany: Service During COVID-19

Homeless service staff members are:

- Housing individuals/families affected by COVID-19 with a \$25,500 grant from HUD; they are being housed in hotels (as long as they accept the state rate);
- Assisting individuals who need to quarantine apart from family;
- Contacting clients via phone twice weekly;
- Delivering food and cleaning products as requested; dropping packages at the client's doors;
- Having ongoing community meetings with QC Shelter, Transitional Housing Council, Housing Cluster, and Coordinated Entry via Zoom.

Wraparound staff members are:

- Meeting with families on a weekly basis via phone and a few in-person meetings during emergencies (i.e., homelessness);
- Meeting with child and family teams via conference calls;
- Taking referrals – twelve in the past three weeks;
- Participating in Wraparound Orientation Training if staff has not done this already.

Intact Family Services case managers are:

- Working from home as much as feasible, but are still ensuring children's safety and well-being;
- Prescreening families to assess possible exposure prior to mandatory in-person visits;
- Requesting police, calling the abuse hotline, contacting other family members, or in-person visiting if unable to reach a family via phone/video for an extended period;
- Wearing homemade masks and maintaining social distancing, until DCFS provided private agencies professional equipment.

The Bethany-BHASED Phoenix program staff are:

- Providing individual/family and crisis counseling via phone, social-distance visits, tele-visits, and texting;
- Delivering educational/social and emotional packets to student's homes along with food from their school, cleaning supplies, and food from the food pantry;
- Working from the home making sure that educational, emotional, and case-management services are happening to ensure the family stays intact and safe;
- Maintaining a 24/7 emergency phone line for any eventuality that the students or families may encounter.

Bethany: Service During COVID-19

Foster Care staff members are:

- Participating in FaceTime or other virtual meeting platforms for parent-child visitation to maintain parent-child connections;
- Ensuring reimbursements for foster parent expenditures are submitted without delay;
- Using phone and video conferencing to speak weekly with foster families, and checking on the status of the youth in placement;
- Taking needed supplies (food, diapers, toilet paper, paper towels, toiletries, homemade face masks, etc.) to families and foster families, while maintaining social distancing.

Mental and Behavioral Health workers and therapists are:

- Reaching out to families weekly, offering continued sessions;
- Spending time researching telehealth interventions;
- Keeping clients engaged;
- Emailing school administrators, counselors, and teachers, keeping them updated on clients' participation.

Prevention and Education Services' Staff are:

- Resourcing for online learning and/or blogging;
- Sending weekly information packets to students;
- Initiating online programming for existing programs.

The Therapeutic Recreation Program is:

- Providing essential services for clients daily for normality;
- Providing clients supervised recreation and lunch daily;
- Conducting life-skill group discussions and educational activities to ensure school obligations are met;
- Observing DCFS/CDC protocols by cleaning vans to ensure they are sanitized after each use.

The Business Office staff members have:

- Ensured that invoices are paid, contracts are billed, payrolls occur, inquiries are responded to, and FY2021 grant applications are submitted.
- Completed the Payroll Protection Program's application process, which has been approved and accepted. This will ensure that no employee of Bethany is laid off or unemployed during the COVID-19 event. The agency's workforce will remain intact, thereby ensuring that the mission of Bethany will continue throughout this second pandemic in the agency's history.

Awards & Excellence

MOTIVATION

EXCELLENCE

RESPONSIBILITY

INTEGRITY

TEAMWORK



February's **MERIT award** goes to Deb Owens, our part-time receptionist. This award recognizes an employee for distinguished service to the agency. MERIT awardees are nominated by their peers and are recognized for their outstanding commitment to the children and families served by Bethany for Children & Families.

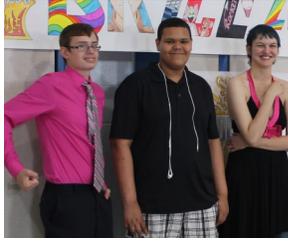


Deb has long-demonstrated her dedication to Bethany. She has filled the role of full-time receptionist/secretary twice in the last several months, willingly taking on more responsibilities while the search for a new receptionist was in progress.

Deb willingly took on more responsibilities while the search was in progress and accepted new projects without questioning the necessity. She continually offers her support to the agency staff and is a tremendous asset to Bethany. She always goes above and beyond what is expected of her and we couldn't appreciate her dedication and hard work more!

Deb's dedication and supportive mentality are examples of what we see in Bethany's employees!

Congratulations, Deb, on receiving this award! Keep up the good work!



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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, appliances, and diapers directly benefit those whom we serve.

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 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 22 programs and services, Bethany helps 11,500 children and families annually in 12 counties surrounding the Quad Cities.

www.bethany-qc.org



presents...

Cones for *Kids!*

Monday, June 22, 2020

All Quad City area Whitey's locations!

*Half of all cone sales will
benefit the programs and
services of*

