Keeping children safe, strengthening families,

Bethany Recipient of Gift from Community Foundation Fund

Moline, Illinois – Bethany for Children & Families has received a $150,000 gift from the Morency Family Charitable Giving Fund at the Quad Cities Community Foundation.

The charitable giving fund was started by Kathi and Steve Morency, and their son and daughter-in-law Ryan and Kylie Morency, to support opportunities and needs in the Quad Cities region important to their family. Over the past few years, they have gotten to learn more about the work of Bethany.

“With the support of the Community Foundation, we’ve really been able to learn more about what Bethany needs to continue its mission of keeping children safe, strengthening families, and
“Simply put, we believe that children in our community are often put into situations by no fault of their own—those kids are important to us. Through this gift, we hope that Bethany can continue to build upon the work they know is successful and reach more youth than ever before.”

The $150,000 grant will help the organization add a much-needed vehicle to a fleet of minivans used in Illinois child welfare services; serve underinsured and uninsured children with mental and behavioral health therapy in Iowa; and provide additional support to youth who age out of the Illinois foster care system.

“This is a transformative gift for our organization, and the generosity Kathi and Steve, Kylie and Ryan have trusted us with will benefit many children and youth in the Quad Cities area,” said Jim Sanderlin, Bethany’s Director of Development and Communication. “Bethany has depended on this community for over a century, and we’re so grateful for this meaningful investment in the lives of those we serve.”

“It is always an honor to work alongside families like the Morencys to listen to their philanthropic wishes, and help match those wishes with organizations like Bethany that are meeting the needs of our region,” said Anne Calder, Vice President of Development at the Community Foundation. “Kathi, Steve, Ryan, and Kylie each care deeply about the support young people need in this region—and their gift will go a long way in doing just that.”

Bethany for Children & Families is a private child welfare, mental health, community education and social services provider for children and families in western Illinois and eastern Iowa. Offering 24 programs and services, Bethany serves more than 9,000 children and families in 14 counties annually. For more details visit bethany-qc.org.
Salute to Teens Week

Bethany for Children & Families celebrated Salute to Teens, April 25-May 1st, a week dedicated to community teens affected by the pandemic. Teens have suffered a rise in anxiety, depression, and suicide, and this special week was devoted to encouraging them and raising awareness.

This community effort was led by Mary Ann McLeod and Wendy Burrows and saw wonderful participation in the community, including mayors and cities, schools, businesses, churches, and other community organizations.

[Image of Bettendorf Mayor Bob Gallagher with Bettendorf High School Student Charly Erpelding, Mary Ann McLeod, and Wendy Burrows on April 21 at the Bettendorf city council meeting.]
Birdies for Charity

The John Deere Classic is set for July 5-11, 2021, and Bethany is grateful to participate in Birdies for Charity! This is an easy and fun way to help donate to our 24 programs and services. Contributions to Bethany through Birdies for Charity are guaranteed a bonus of five percent!

Participating is simple! You can donate online at [www.birdiesforcharity.com/donate](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com/donate) or you can mail in your completed pledge form to Birdies for Charity, 15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244. Be sure to designate Bethany!

Bethany is Birdie #178. If you would like additional information, please visit [www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com) or contact Jim Birdies for Charity.
Mary Ann McLeod to Retire

After spending 36 years at Bethany, Mary Ann McLeod is retiring on June 30. Mary Ann has been paramount in Bethany’s success in reaching youth in Quad Cities. Implementing many programs, she has been an advocate for prevention education on both sides of the river. Having secured over $10 million in grants over the years to develop and enhance programs, she is a well-recognized speaker and educator on teen sexuality and related issues, as well as an advocate for youth.

Staff Memories

“Mary Ann is one of those rare people that does more for others than herself. Her kindness, positive attitude, and her ability to talk to anyone about anything will be sorely missed. When people talk about Bethany, many of them first think of Mary Ann. She has made a difference in so many people’s lives in this community. Her impact will never be forgotten.”

“Frequently when I get a case in Intact Family Services, the family states to me that they know Bethany because they have worked with Mary Ann in the teenage parenting program, they were in one of her school programs, or their children are in her school programs. They all loved and respected her. She is definitely one of a kind and will be missed.”

“We had so much fun teaching classes together in each and every classroom that we entered. We prided ourselves on making sure that we had the best lessons possible for each classroom. Mary Ann was great at recognizing exactly what materials and lessons were best suited for each level that we taught. There will be everlasting memories in regard to the educational field trips that we used to take our UT students on each year to celebrate their success in our class.”
In-Kind Drive: School Supplies

Don’t tell the kids, but in just a few weeks it will be time to shop for school supplies! The children served by Bethany’s Foster Care, Therapeutic Recreation, School-Based Therapy, and Phoenix School greatly benefit from in-kind donations of new school supplies! To schedule a time to drop off items, contact Callahan Herrig at (309) 736-6644 or cherrig@bethany-qc.org.

Needed Items

- Book Bags
- Boxes of Tissues
- Calculators
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Hand Sanitizer
- Highlighters
- Index Cards
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Markers
- Paper Towels
- Pencils & Sharpeners
- Pens (Black, Blue, Red)
- Pocket Folders
- Rulers
- Spiral Notebooks
Bethany for Children & Families has added two new services, Positive Parenting Program and Nurturing Parenting Program. Both of these programs are headed by Parent Educator Hannah Ackerman, who focuses on aiding families and parents through education and support. The programs are contracted through the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services.

Hannah meets with families, reviews their circumstances, evaluates needs, and discusses which program (PPP or NPP) would be most beneficial. Her purpose is to ensure the family has a positive and supportive experience.

During visits, she connects with families regarding their current circumstances, reviews goals, and finds out how the parent is coping. She then goes through curriculum, which contains information about positive discipline, appropriate development, developmental screens, self-care, coping strategies, and more.

The objective of the program is to help families feel empowered and capable. Parenting is hard, especially in a world where there is enough support (physical, emotional, financial or otherwise). Hannah’s goal is to help families feel comfortable asking for help, to practice different parenting and self-care strategies, connect them to community resources, and just help the family stay together, happy, and safe.
Cones for Kids!

Monday, June 14, 2021
All Quad City area Whitey’s locations!
Half of all cone sales will benefit our programs and services!