

The Beacon

Fall/ Winter 2012

Our Volunteers, a valuable part of our team!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Staff & Volunteers

Shattering Stereotypes

20th Anniversary Honorees

Winter Appeal

Donor List

Bethesda House Board of Directors

Sharran A. Coppola
Board President

Randall W. Roeser

Genghis Kahn

Fred Callins

Matthew Cutler

Alex Hallenstein

Bradley G. Lewis

Robert Long

Rick Mausert

Allee Rosenfield

Louise O'Leary

Richard Werner

Doty Pettengill-Hall

Alan Kinney

Scott Citek

Susan Salamh

Bethesda House Management Team

Kimarie Sheppard
Executive Director

Danny Payne
Director of Residential Services

Anne McGhee
Program Director

Harold "Butch" Fogg
Director Property and Facility
Operations

The Beacon is published twice a year to provide news to friends and supporters of Bethesda House

*For information contact:
Bethesda House
834 State St.
Schenectady N.Y. 12307
Phone 518-374-7873
www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org
Find Us on Facebook*

A message from The Executive Director

*Welcome to The Beacon's Fall/Winter issue celebrating Bethesda House of Schenectady's **20 years of service.***

On October 25, 2012, we celebrated Bethesda House's 20 years of service. Twenty years of serving homeless adults and individuals and families paralyzed by their limited financial resources.

It was an honor to receive recognition from Schenectady's Mayor Gary McCarthy, State Assemblyman James Tedisco, and Congressman Paul Tonko. Being acknowledged for our years of service is indicative of the importance of Bethesda House and other area service providers in the Schenectady community. Without the participation of non-profits, the cost of providing services would fall to city and county residents and taxpayers. We look forward to the continuation of our partnerships and hope that one day we can say that together we have ended chronic homelessness in our community.

During our 2011-12 fiscal year, our doors opened 43 thousand times; this represents individuals and families seeking services at least once. It is a number that shows the need for our services is on-going as well as the demand on our staff and volunteers. Within that number, we assisted over 2,900 people for the first time. Those were individuals that we did not see before July 2011. In addition, within our forty-three thousand attendance number, over 3,800 people were homeless.

In 1992, Bethesda House began as part of the Schenectady Inner City Ministry, SICM. Over the years we grew from a one room drop-in center on Franklin Street to a multi-service agency offering a safe haven, emergency services, crisis counseling, food, clothing, and housing.

We understand that people are not born with the intent of being homeless or economically disadvantaged. Choices and circumstances lead us down paths that result in success or despair. Our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers embrace the mission of Bethesda

House that was set forth by our founding leaders. We extend our hands to catch those who are falling and embrace those who are lost. Over time, our staff and volunteers have brought thousands back from the darkness of uncertainty. We have many success stories that bring joy to our hearts; and many stories that fill us with sadness.

While we celebrate 20 years of growth, we are aware that it comes at the cost of an increase in the number of people who not only need a safe haven but are desperately in need of a variety of services.

Bethesda House is proud to be a force working to end homelessness and stabilizing the lives of the impoverished. We would not be able to offer the wide range of services or meet the needs of thousands who walk through our doors without the incredible support and generosity of our donors. We celebrate 20 years of selfless love, caring, and working together to bring hope and guidance into the lives of the souls who stand on the edge of society.

As you embrace the warmth, happiness, and love of the holidays please remember those who walk among us that are less fortunate. Loneliness and desolation are cloaks that homeless and poverty-stricken members of our community wear. You can do much to dissolve those unwelcome cloaks: be a partner with Bethesda House and help us reinforce and continue biblical hospitality, creating a sense of community and sharing unconditional love with a friend and stranger alike – this has been and will always be the heart of the ministry of our agency.

Wishing you happiness, good health, and love during this holiday season

Kimarie A. Sheppard

Kitchen & Food Pantry Staff & Volunteers

Sustenance Served with Love and Hope

Over the last two decades, our staff and volunteers have lived the agency's mission and vision. Our volunteers are critical to our success and are part of our team, selflessly giving their time and compassion.

We rely on their commitment and dedication; their ideas are invaluable. Guests, residents, and staff find solace in their presence. During our 2011-12 funding year, our volunteer hours totaled over fourteen thousand.

Bethesda House serves 150 to 200 daily meals to Schenectady's homeless and working poor while hundreds of others rely on the food pantry.

Visit the Bethesda House on Tuesday and you'll find a team of volunteers in the kitchen and food pantry stocking shelves, working with guests and giving their free time to help feed the hungry.

John and Karen Sapone, of Scotia, who have volunteered for the past two years, find the work very rewarding. "I feel that I am giving back a little, helping people who might be in desperate straits," said Karen, a substitute teacher.

Before individuals can get food from the pantry, they go to intake and have to provide background information. Sapone said it helps her better understand the individuals and how they reached this point. "Sometimes, they bare their souls. It's an eye opener."

Bethesda House Executive Director, Kimarie Sheppard, said volunteers in the food pantry are vital in the daily operation.

The volunteers come from all walks of life: When asked if she could help in the food pantry, retired Registered Nurse, Jean Machin, who also helps run the *Blood Pressure Clinic*, was happy to help.

Jean enjoys volunteering at Bethesda House, though she admits she's increasingly worried the social safety network is in jeopardy. There will always be some people who can't take care of themselves, she said. "You help those who can't help themselves. It's who we are."



Karen and John



Jean



Les (left) & Jake (right)

Terry Stroble who retired from SI Group in Schenectady, volunteers about eight hours a week and is shocked by how many people have lost jobs and turned to Bethesda house for basics like food. "We are really helping people who need assistance," he said.



Terry (left) & Louie (right)

Louie A. is a resident at Bethesda House. He has volunteered in the kitchen for the last two years. Louie said, "I love working in the kitchen with Jake! He is very understanding, a great friend, and never gives me anything I can't handle." Louie likes giving back. He said, "That at the end of the day, he and Jake make a great team."

Jacob Rowe, graduated from Schenectady County Community College, Culinary Arts program in 2001 however, his love for cooking began in 1999. He got his inspiration from his uncle who was a Head Cook at Mount Sinai Hospital, NYC.

Jake has been the agency's Food and Nutrition Coordinator since 2010. His menus are planned to offer healthy, nutritious meals while making sure he does not sacrifice taste or presentation. Jake is part of the agency's on-going, six-week nutritional education program which is well attended.

Jake realized a different kind of appreciation for food and the guests and residents we serve. Jake said, "At one time in my life I was on the other side of the counter." He understands and respects where the guests come from; he is filled with great appreciation when he is told that the meal served was good.

Student volunteers in our Kitchen & Pantry.



2012 Holiday Wish Appeal

It's time for Bethesda House's Holiday Wish Appeal! Each year we compile a list of gifts for friends and supporters in the community who wish to donate. Bethesda House gratefully acknowledges the generous gifts we receive that help us support the needs of so many. The items on our Wish List reflect our day-to-day needs as well as seasonal items. Bethesda House will hold its annual holiday party for guests in December. At that time, each guest will receive a gift. Items needed include gloves, hats, socks, children's toys/gifts (all ages) Donations accepted 9:30am-4:30pm. Please call 518-374-7873 for details.

Day-to-Day

Food

Non-perishable food items

Clothing

Gently used men's and women's clothing

Practical shoes and boots

Warm winter clothing: coats, hats, gloves, sweaters, and long johns

Underwear and socks – new, all sizes

Hygiene Products

Regular and hotel size shampoo, deodorant

Toothpaste, bars of soap, razors, toothbrushes

Linens

Sheets – all sizes

Towels, wash cloths

Seasonal

Home Depot or Lowes gift cards

Walk-off mats

Adopt Our Food Pantry. \$50.00 donation = \$200 worth of food purchased at the Regional Food Bank.

\$100.00 donation = \$500 worth of food purchased at the Regional Food Bank.

Adopt an Apartment. Visit our website to learn how.

Gifts That Keep On Giving: Deferred gifts to Bethesda House can have a lasting effect on our future strength and sustainability. Please give serious consideration to:

A bequest to Bethesda House

A donation of a life insurance policy

A gift of appreciated asset (stock, property)

BETHESDA HOUSE OF SCHENECTADY, INC. Friends of Bethesda House– Profile Update/Gift

Name _____

Company/Organization/Group _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax # _____ E-Mail _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ (Please make checks payable to Bethesda House)

Are you a G.E. Employer or Retiree? () YES () NO

BETHESDA HOUSE IS A G.E. MATCH RECIPIENT

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT BETHESDA HOUSE? () YES () NO

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF () \$100 () \$150 () \$200 () \$250 () \$500 () \$1,000

() OTHER \$ _____



You can also donate at www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org and click

Donate

Selflessly Giving Their Time, Energy, and Love

Our 20th Anniversary Honorees



Susan Williams worked in the medical field for thirty years, beginning as a nurse in New York and Montana and through promotions became the Vice President of Patient Care Services at Ellis Hospital (St. Clare's). In 1997, Sue joined Bethesda House's Board of Directors, and one year later, still a Board member, she volunteered 30 hours each week. The passion that she felt and her commitment to serve the homeless and impoverished became such a part of her that in 1999 she accepted a position at the agency. For the next eleven years Sue housed the homeless and worked with thousands of individuals who suffered from economic stagnation and decline. Sue spearheaded the Women's Group, which is designed to address women's issues, including domestic violence; developed the Representative Payee Program, and played a major role in the implementation of the housing first model. These programs enabled women to climb out of abusive existences and helped countless disenfranchised individuals become financially stable and maintain secure, safe housing. Sue retired from employment in 2010 leaving a legacy of hope, healing and love. In 2011, she returned as a volunteer to the agency and people she has always inspired with her energy, dedication, and positive presence in the lives of the poor.



June Schermerhorn, a retired nurse from Ellis Hospital (St. Clare's) was a member of Friedens United Church of Christ when the idea for Bethesda House came to fruition. June immediately began volunteering one day a week, offering donuts, coffee, and conversation. In 1998, Bethesda House moved to Liberty Street where she volunteered in the clothing room, at the reception desk, and in the kitchen. When the *Schenectady Free Health Clinic* began offering medical services at this location, June volunteered her nursing expertise. Once at our State Street location, June started the *Blood Pressure Clinic* which has proven to be a significant service to our

guests, residents, and staff. June brings so much joy to her work; she is looked to for advice and is loved by everyone. We are blessed that June chose to volunteer at Bethesda House. We are grateful that she cares unconditionally and truly loves her work and all the people she interacts with.



Bob Christoffel's journey with Bethesda House began in 1992 when his wife Mary began bringing sugar, coffee, and tea to a small room in Friedens United Church of Christ. For many years guests and residents were nourished by Mary's generosity. Contributions from their congregation, friends, and family made it possible for the desired commodities to be realized. The beverages—coffee and tea— as associated with warmth. Homelessness and poverty, even on the hottest night are tempered with the chill of loneliness and despair. Many times, the last warmth of the day is consumed at a soup kitchen. In the morning, the sensation of a hot beverage is what welcomes the day and alleviates the iciness of the night. We serve coffee and tea with sugar and with the help of our volunteers, we encourage conversation. Bob with the help of his grandson, Sam, carries on Mary's vision to serve those in need that was started 20 years ago.



Ellen MacNeal, has been Bethesda House's Clothing Room Coordinator for the last seven years. Ellen has successfully managed this highly used service and helped over 4,000 individuals and families each year. She has assisted staff with data tracking for our funding sources and has given her shoulder and ear to our guests and residents. Ellen showers her love and gives hugs to the homeless and the financially paralyzed people in our community. She is an extraordinary person and a great supporter of our mission and vision. We are fortunate that Ellen has spent the last seven years dedicating her time and compassion to our house of mercy.

SHATTERING STEREOTYPES

Meet Bob S., an Army veteran, who lost his way after serving in Iraq. He suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome, drinking heavily, and roaming the streets of Schenectady until he found help at Bethesda House where he lived for almost a year.

Jill P. had a well paying job with New York State. She lost her job, her unemployment ran out and she bottomed out financially, losing everything including her home. Jill P. was a very productive person, but the magnitude of her losses were too much for her to bear. She too found respite at Bethesda House.

De, who is from the Midwest, has a college degree and was very productive. She worked as an engineering clerk and travel agent. After her fourth job change she had a nervous breakdown. She found herself with no job and no resources to pay her rent; everything came crashing down. She was homeless three years before she came to Bethesda House.

Several people tend to stereotype the homeless and conjure up an image of a scruffy, middle age man, who is an alcoholic, drug addict or mentally ill, roaming the streets, sleeping in a cardboard box and begging for money.

A visit to Bethesda House on State Street or the Light-house in Mont Pleasant, which both provide permanent supportive housing for the homeless, and help for the economically disadvantaged, will shatter these stereotypes.

In truth, the face of the homeless is as diverse as the general population. The homeless are single, married, young, old, many are women. They are families with children, who may have lost their homes to foreclosure. They are middle class individuals who lost a job. And many are veterans returning after serving overseas in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Homelessness results from a complex set of circumstances, which require people to choose between food, shelter and other basic needs, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Sadly, homelessness has increased over the past 20 to 25 years because of a growing shortage of affordable rental housing, along with an increase in poverty.

Bethesda House, like other non-profits, is seeing the trickle down effect and is filling the gaps. "We are seeing a significant increase in need for emergency services by individuals, singles and families that are at risk of homelessness," said Bethesda House Executive Director Kimarie Sheppard. "This rise is due to our larger facility and the ever growing need of services for the poor and at risk population in Schenectady. The economic downturn of our state and nation has resulted in an increase in the number of people who are finding themselves on the street. Our economy continues to struggle to turn around;

until we realize a significant change, the number of homeless and people in poverty will continue to rise."

Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked and poor people are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, health care and education. Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some necessities. Once someone loses a job, they can't pay rent and like a domino effect— everything can crumble.

Often, housing absorbs a high proportion of income that must be dropped, said the Coalition. If you are poor, you are essentially an illness or a paycheck away from living on the streets.

Mayor Gary McCarthy commented, "Homeless is a problem everywhere, especially for those who are facing difficult economic situations and those who served for our country and are not able to secure permanent housing. In the City of Schenectady we have agencies which provide vast services to our Homeless population; Bethesda House is one of those agencies that has helped homeless individuals for many years. We, the City, have authorized \$66,590 from the 2012 Emergency Solution Grant to be used for Bethesda House ~ Homeless Prevention/ Emergency Services Program and Bethesda House ~ Safe Haven Programs."

Meanwhile, the average daily attendance at Bethesda House in 1992 was 35 and it more than quadrupled by 2002 to 175 people. In the past year, attendance is up a staggering 12.5 percent.

In turn, Bethesda House is faced with a delicate fiscal balancing act: More individuals and families need assistance, yet state and federal funding allocated to Bethesda House has not increased and donations are down.

"We've seen a decline in donor contributions, because so many non-profits are in need of financial support. We are going after the same private donors and foundations. Donors are giving less to each in order to give support to *many* non-profits," said Sheppard.

Bethesda House, this "House of Mercy" first opened its doors in 1992 as a Simple Drop In Center in a church basement. It was open four hours a day, offering the homeless a respite from the streets and access to a telephone; they served about 35 people a day. From its earliest days, Bethesda House emphasized client dignity.

To meet the dramatic need for services, and provide much needed housing for the homeless, the Liberty Apartments, a 16 bed facility on State Street, opened in 2010 and allows residents to live privately, yet still have 24 hour a day access to Bethesda House's staff. All residents are encouraged to make their home their own and stay permanently.

SHATTERING STEREOTYPES continued

Bethesda House was one of the first agencies in the country to open a *Housing First* Permanent Supportive Housing program. The Lighthouse, a ten bed facility in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, opened in 2002. This model provides housing first for the chronically homeless population and then combines it with supportive treatment services in areas of mental and physical health, substance abuse education and employment.

Providing housing for the homeless helps them become more self-sufficient and gives them hope for a better life, said Sheppard. One of the goals for residents is greater independence.

Bethesda House's Day Shelter on State Street is the "point of contact" into the system of care, where an average of 150 to 200 people a day are fed in the soup kitchen. Bethesda House also operates a clothing donation room, has showers, and offers daily programs including women's group and nutrition sessions.

Bethesda House also has phones and computers available that allow people to access e-mails, set up a job interview or make calls to different agencies.

One recent day, when the temperatures were starting to drop, Bethesda House was packed. Marissa, who has no job, had come seeking help. "I have no income, I have two children. I need help and I have no where else to turn," she said as she slipped into the hospitality center.

Very often, individuals who come to Bethesda House do successfully turn their lives around with the help of case managers. Anne McGhee, who was Director of Residential Services, scoured hospitals and outpatient clinics to get Bob, the Iraq veteran the help he needed and deserved. After making dozens of calls, she was able to set him up with inpatient care at Four Winds, where he received the help he needed and became stable. Bob is now receiving outpatient care in Schenectady and is progressing.

Jill P. was able to secure housing in the community and obtain financial assistance. "With the help of case managers, she was able to turn her life around. Jill was able to find employment and now, when she can, she returns to Bethesda House to volunteer," said Sheppard. "Bethesda House has opened my eyes to the real world," Jill P. said.

Like others, De said Bethesda House is a bridge to a better life. Without Bethesda House, she said she's not sure where she would be.

As the agency celebrates its 20th anniversary, Bethesda House remains a place of refuge and hope. "If these individuals weren't here, where would they be?" asked Danny Payne, current Director of Residential Services.

With poverty and lack of affordable housing, so many factors can push people into homelessness.

The National Coalition for the Homeless said lack of affordable health care is one. For families or individuals struggling to pay rent a serious illness or disability can begin a downward trend into homelessness; with a lost job and depleted savings a person can end up with an eviction ~ just what happened to De.

Battered women who live in poverty are often forced to choose between abusive relationships and homelessness. In addition, 50 percent of the cities surveyed by the Conference of Mayors identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness.

Another factor is lack of affordable housing and according to HUD, in recent years the shortages of affordable housing are most severe for units affordable to renters with extremely low incomes. This discrepancy has forced many people to become homeless and put a large and growing number of people at risk of becoming homeless.

The system can be frustrating. To qualify for Bethesda House's HUD supported beds, clients must have to document four episodes of homelessness in the past three years and have a documented disability.

While it is a challenge to obtain the appropriate documentation for chronic homelessness, the agency staff are resourceful and successful. The need for our services is unmistakable; Bethesda House's staff has the talents and gifts necessary to meet the ever growing need.

Sheppard said, "No matter what is going on in the world, it is important to remember that some things do not change:

- All people have basic needs to meet; food, clothing, shelter, medical care, adequate income
- All people need to feel safe, secure, and loved
- All people need to feel accepted; they need to experience a sense of belonging.

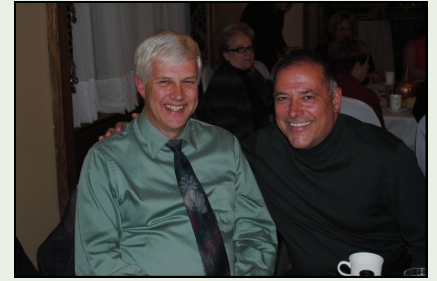
Our guests and residents are brave, they suffer in poverty but they live hope. Others shun them, yet they embrace the gifts of the day. They are often victimized and abused and yet they understand forgiveness. They have very little, yet they willingly share with others. Our guests and residents understand that being a good neighbor; that living in a community; that embracing faith is a condition of the heart. Individual differences are celebrated, not feared.

Many of our guests and residents search for a different life, a path out of their current circumstances. Bethesda House staff work with other area providers in order to provide the necessary tools so that they can succeed and reach their dreams."

Shattering the stereotype of homelessness and poverty is essential in order to develop new and different ideas to solve this critical concern that has affected so many communities.

Fundraising and our Mission

Message from the Board President Sharran A. Coppola



Bethesda House is a faith-based organization dedicated to the homeless and impoverished people in Schenectady County. During the last two decades, staff and volunteers provided essential services that met the basic needs of existence: personal hygiene, clothing, food, shelter, housing, and a safe, secure place to rest for the day, eases the guest's minds which allows us to their address significant issues.

Clearly, fundraising and development is an essential component needed to support the viability of a non-profit agency. Contracted revenue, which is funding from our governmental partners, is the stable revenue stream that is the foundation of human service agencies. This essential funding allows us to maintain a base level of operations within the agency, however, does not account for growth, **particularly the growth at which our specific services are needed.**

During our 2011-12 fiscal year, **your donation dollars** helped to served 43 thousand individuals and families that walked through Bethesda House's doors. Without the generosity of our donors, we would not have been able to provide the level of service to house, feed, clothe, counsel, and financially stabilize guests and residents.

Our on-going vision is to continue to enhance and ameliorate the services of Bethesda House. In order to carry out our mission and vision we need your support. If enough people believe something must be done to bring about positive changes, it will happen.



October 25, 2012 was no ordinary day for Bethesda House; we celebrated twenty years of service to the community. The event took place at The Stockade Inn and was an evening filled with laughter, friendship and many remembrances of the early days of Bethesda.

Fundraising cannot happen with out the support of donors and staff. We are blessed with a hard working and talented group of individuals that are willing to take the extra steps to make our fundraising projects worthwhile and profitable.

From our house to yours, we wish everyone a peaceful and *Happy Holiday Season.*



Save the Date for Bethesda House's next event will take place **Sunday, November 18th**, at The State Street Presbyterian Church, across the street from Bethesda House. We will start at 3PM, with music followed by an Open House with a light meal at Bethesda. This is a free-will offering.

A Miraculous Turnaround : One Step At a Time: Kathy Ody

Since she moved into Bethesda House, Kathy Ody, 49, is a new woman.

She gets her hair cut, keeps a clean, tidy apartment on the second floor and has finally found a home after years of living off and on the streets.

"I've been here a long time, I like my room. It's cozy," said Ody.

Ody has had many struggles in her life. At age 3, she lost her mother. She and her baby sister were raised by their alcoholic /drug-addicted father.

They either lived on the streets of Schenectady or found refuge in cemeteries, empty buildings or infested apartments. She never had a female role model and therefore never learned about personal hygiene.

When she moved to Bethesda House in 2011 she arrived emaciated and filthy, but since she became a resident, Ody has been trying to pull her life together. She wants some stability. She wants a home.

Her life skills counselor at Bethesda House began working one on one with Ody to help her get cleaned up and started the long process of helping Ody establish a sense of pride in herself.

Each day her counselor met with her to help her learn how to keep her apartment clean - a skill we take for granted, but has to be learned.

Initially Ody was reluctant, this marked a huge change for her. She would cry, insisting she couldn't possibly clean the apartment.

Her counselor also helped Ody budget her money and taught her to purchase necessities rather than alcohol or drugs.

Ody has made a miraculous turnabout, said staff.

She is learning to tackle life's daily challenges. She goes to the grocery store with some help, cooks in her apartment and for the first time in years is getting her hair cut.

Now when her counselor visits, Ody comes to the door smiling. She tells him he will be proud of how she cleaned up her apartment.



She goes to the grocery store, excited that she can purchase her own food for her apartment using a WalMart gift card or food stamps. While a trip to the grocery store or cleaning an apartment may seem like small, inconsequential steps, for Ody they are milestones.

Anne McGhee, former Director of Residential Services, said Ody is doing a great job adjusting and is becoming more independent. She's got a coffee pot, boom box and set of dishes in her apartment. "I try to keep it up, it's not

easy," said Ody.

She's created her own home for the first time in her life. Stuffed animals line a shelf in her room. "Anne gave me the animals," she said proudly with a smile.

Bethesda House Executive Director Kimarie Sheppard recently visited Ody in her apartment and told her she's doing a good job and that she's proud of her.

"I need to talk to Danny about going to the grocery store," said Ody, who was getting anxious and wanted to get to the store in order to fill her cupboards.

"Remember patience," said Sheppard.

"I've been following the rules," said Ody. "Can I stay here forever?"



Robert (Ghost), left Kathy, right

A Gift Of Love That Changes The Lives Of Our Chronically Homeless



Josie (left), Barbara (right)

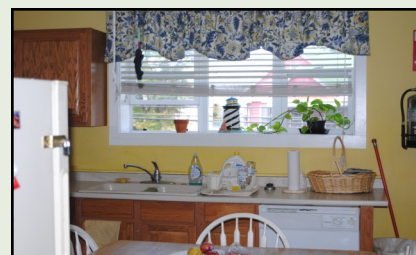
Josie Davis was an employee of Bethesda House who worked at the front desk at our Liberty Street location. Josie's heart is big and she always looked for ways to ease the discomfort of our daily guests. She knew that Bethesda House was in need of a

residential location for our Lighthouse program. In 2003, she spoke to her brother-in-law, who owned property he no longer wanted. To Bethesda House's surprise, Josie's brother and sister-in-law, Victor and Barbara DePoalo, made the decision to donate their Van Cortlandt property to us.

In 2004, their property became our current Lighthouse facility. The Lighthouse program is a 10-bed facility that from its inception until 2012 classified all ten beds as permanent supportive housing for adults who are chronically homeless with a disability. In 2012, three of the ten beds were reclassified to offer emergency shelter housing to veterans. Both programs have helped reduce homelessness in our community.



PJ has been with Bethesda House for quite some time. He always makes the other residents and staff members laugh and his smile lights up the room. PJ's journey has been a very long and rough one. He was brought up in a state institution where children were beaten and tortured. PJ quickly learned to keep to himself and stay out of the way. To this day, he has flashbacks of the horrid images. However, throughout the years, PJ has learned to let go of grudges. He doesn't feel resentment towards the people who abused him as a child. Eventually he was sent to a state reformatory where, when he was 20 years old, he ran away. On impulse, he stole a car and ended up serving 5 long years in prison. He was married and divorced, bounced from town to town, job to job – he had no boundaries or limitations. "My life was like a gypsy's; floating from place to place," PJ recalls. He was homeless for months, he slept under bridges and in hallways. He sought services from Bethesda House. Once he began receiving services, he began straightening up his life and working on shaping up his act. "Bethesda House provided a good foundation to start this process." Without the agency's help PJ believes he would still be homeless. With the help of the staff PJ has learned to deal with whatever life throws at him. He is now back on his feet and at 73 is looking to get to work! PJ doesn't want to be a millionaire, he just wants to live comfortably. Bethesda House provided him with a home and a family when he did not have his own. "Bethesda House is a great place for people that need help getting back on their feet.



Donors & Development-May 2012 Thru October 2012

Patron

Up to \$499

AAUW
Amell, Arnold
Anderson, Frederica
Barnore, Sincere
Barney, Keith & Pat
Bartik, Maeve
Benamati, Steve & Amanda
Bigelow, JE
Blake, Barbara
Bloodgood, Sheila
Bouton, Susan
Brown, Anne Marie
Brustman, James and MaryBubb, Ian
Bunzl USA, Inc.
Bynum, Ronya
C.T. Male Associates
Callins, Fred
Carosella, Paula
Caruso, Maria
Chabot, William
Chaney-Artis, Shahmeeka
Chi, Han and Ren, We-Min
Chouffi, Audrey
Christman, Anne
Church Women United
Congregation Gates of Heaven
Coppola, Helen
Coward, Bernedette
Cox, Paulyn
Cramer, Steven and Machwinney-Cramer, Bonnie
Cristy, Nicholas
Curro, Stephen
DePore, Nancy
Decesare, Douglas
Dell, Alex and Christina
DePaoli, Bruno
Diamantis, Joanne
Dodson, Carlene
Dollard, Sheila
Donovan, Kathryn and Brian
Dybas, Robert and Alice
Eklund, Neil
Fenton, Robert and Anastasia
Fifield, Richard and Susan
Fogg, Butch & Karen

First Reformed Church of Scotia
Forester-Tear, Deborah
Frank, Paul
French, Hope
GE United Way
Gebell, Alan & Yvette
Grestler, William and Cheryl
Gibbons, Ann
Gibelius, Nancy
Gleason Funeral Home
Goble, Richard and Sandra
Golub, Neil & Jane
Grant, James & Lynn
Hall, Stephen and Doty
Hallenstein, Alex
Hallman, Darren
Hebert, Janet and Clifford
Hicks, Analine
Hudson, Norma
Hunt, Daryl
Hwang, Wontae
Hyman, Earlene
Imam, Imdad and Shahin
Ipsen, P.G. and Joan
Isabella, Mary
Jacobson, Roland and Mary-Ann
Johnson, Karen
Brown
Jones, Nancy
Kane, Father James
Kautz, J Edward
Keybank
Khan, Genghis and Nahla
Kinney, Alan
Klein, Michael and Deborah
Ladies of Rotterdam
Elks 2157
Lavelle & Finn, LLP
Lemmerman, Eugene
Leonard, Gary
Life Worth Living N.A Group
Lisha Kill Reformed Church
Liu, Wenpeng
Long, Robert
Lyons, Alyce
Machin, Jean
MacMurray, Susan
Madonna, Alberta

Magagnos, Roseanne
Malone & Tate Builders
Mason, Robert & Patricia
Mausert, Richard
Mazzone Management Group, LTD
McArdle, Teresa
McCarthy, Mayor Gary
McGhee, Anne and Armstrong, Michele
McKee, Douglas and Rita
Merrill, Jeffrey and Judith
Michaels, Robert and Eileen
Miskinis, Lorraine
Mohawk Honda
Monahan, Sarah
Morgan, Mildred
Morlock, Walter and Edith
Mukherjee, Yu
Nelson, Paul
Neville, Roy
Newbold, Aileen
Nichols, James
Nimmer, Ronald
Ognibene, Richard & Elaine
O'Leary, Louise
Ostrowski, Michael
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Rosary Society
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Payne, Danny
Phelan, Beverly
Pomeroy, Anne
Prater, Thomas and Mary
Raid, Roseanne
Rakus, Barbara & Mark
Reitz, Janet
Rickson, Tyler
Rieffel, Emily
Ring, David
Ringlee, Robert & Helen
Roeser, Randall & Patricia
Rosenberg, Marsha
Rosenfield, Alleesa
Ryan, Jane
Sankar, Richard
Sapone, John
Sargent, Steven
Scanlan, Peter
Schermerhorn, June
Schmitt, Marjorie
Sheppard, John
Sheppard, Kimarie

Sheppard, Marianne
Sisters of St. Joseph
Skinner, PB
Slepski, Jonathon
Smith, Karen
Snyder, Jennifer
Spoeneman, Elsie
Stacy, Lil
Stecher, Christian and Ruth
Stern, Jean
Styles, Twitty
Subramaniyan, Arun
Karthi
Sutton, Owen
Sylvetsky, Sam and Este
Tallman, James
Taylor, Regina
Teresco, MJ
The First Reformed Church of Glenville
Tonko, Paul
Truist
Tupper, Leland
Union Presbyterian Church, Women's Association
United Methodist Church
Vacca, William
Van Patten, Duane
Vandervort, Christian
VanHeusen, April
Wachsmuth, Tina
Wang, Liping
Watson, Peterson & Company CPA PLLC
Werner, Richard & Eunice
Wexler, Margaret
Williams, Susan
Wilson, William and Lois
Wingle, Raymond
Wolfe
Wood, Andrew and Anne

Citizen
Up to \$999

AMF Refrigerated Products
Benefit of The Links Foundation
CDPHP
Coppola, Sharran
Emmanuel Friedens Church

Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church
Heatcraft
Islamic Center of the Capital Region
Lewis, Bradley & Catherine
Lombardi, Walsh, Wake man, Harrison, Amodeo
Lynwood Reformed Church
MacNeal, Ellen
Macy's Employee Match
Niskayuna Foundation
The Woodzell Family Gift Fund
Union College- Kennedy Center

Advocate
Up to \$3,999

United Way
Blackwood, Ralph & Nicholas, Nancy
Christoffel, Robert
First Reformed Church of Schenectady
Fisher, Kenneth
Macy's Corporate Giving
Reformed Church in America

Founder
Up to \$9,999

Walmart
Home Depot
SEFCU Foundation

Visionary
Up to \$50,000

The Carlilian Foundation
The COINS Foundation
GE Employee Match
William Gundry
Broughton Foundation

In Kind Donations

Bake-Rite
BJ's
Cappiello Diary
Chipolte

City Mission
Congregation Agudat Achim
Congregation Gates of Heaven
Grace Lutheran
Immanuel Lutheran
JEZREEL
Latham Medical Group
Muslim Soup Kitchen
Our Lady of Fatima
Our Redeemer Lutheran- Perrecca's Bread
Peter Harris
Price Chopper
Scotia Diner
Starbucks
St. George's of Clifton Park
St. George Episcopal Church
St. George/St. Stephen of Schenectady
St. Helens
St. Joseph's of Scotia
St. Madeleine Sophie
St. Mary's of Galway
Sunmark
The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. George
Greek Orthodox Church
Union College

Bethesda House is most grateful to these individuals and organizations who donated from \$1 to \$50,000. The generosity allows us to continue our mission this spring and summer and help others by providing for basic needs in an environment that encourages and supports positive life changes. We thank you and look forward to another successful 20 years.

Bethesda House of Schenectady Inc.
834 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12307

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #126
Albany, NY

Bethesda House is an inter-faith ministry to the homeless, disabled and economically disadvantaged citizens of Schenectady County building a just, hospitable and inclusive community one person at a time by affirming the dignity and addressing the needs of each guest entering this House of Mercy.



Friedens Church 1992-1998



418 Liberty Street 1998-2009



834 State Street 2010-Present