

# The Beacon

Spring / Summer 2012

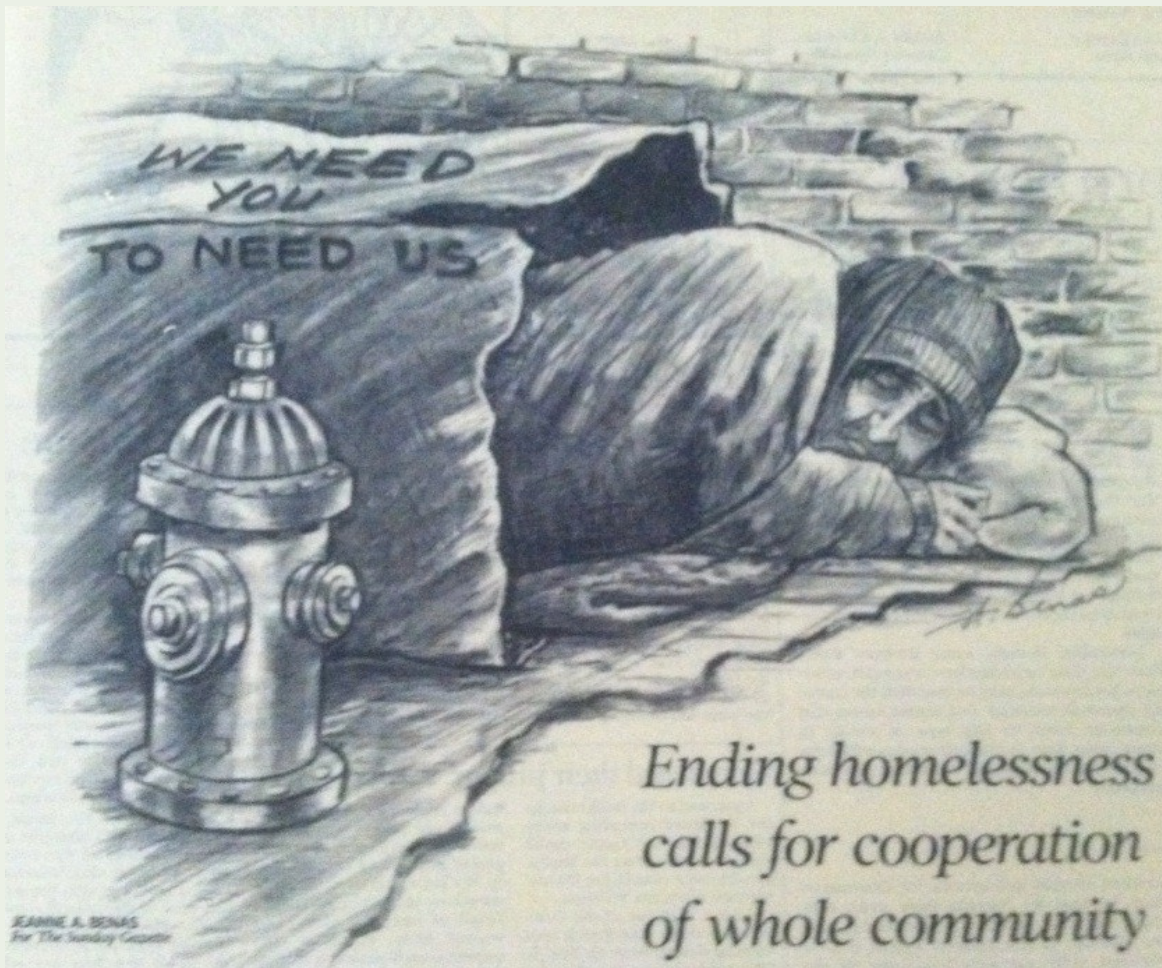


Photo courtesy The Daily Gazette

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## Bethesda House

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### Bethesda House

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Kimarie Sheppard

Executive Director

Danny Payne

Program Director

Anne McGhee

Dir. Residential Services

Harold "Butch" Fogg

Dir. Property and Facility

## A message from The Executive Director

Welcome to The Beacon's Spring/Summer issue celebrating Bethesda House of Schenectady's 20 years of service.

In the late 1980's a group of individuals came together to make changes in the City of Schenectady by bringing into focus homelessness and poverty. Under the guidance of wise and passionate leaders, the fundamental concept to end chronic homelessness was born and the course for a greater ideal was put in motion.

Bethesda House traces its origins to Friedens United Church of Christ on Franklin Street under the parent organization, the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM). From humble beginnings as a simple drop-in center for homeless and disabled adults, the agency has evolved into a leader in seeking to end chronic homelessness in our community.

Today, we are a strong interfaith provider, offering a wide array of services to the most disadvantaged people of Schenectady, including the working poor, who seek refuge and a sense of hope from the trauma of their environment.

Our mission continues, thanks to the generous private donors and government assistance that we've relied on for so long. Bethesda House has grown to expand its range of services, and increased its professional staff to meet new needs and become a solid foundation for helping the poor.

We appreciate the critical help our partners in government provide, yet our dependency on the support of everyday people is greater than ever.

We are blessed by citizens, faith groups and community organizations who understand that human dignity is necessary in our society, and know the importance of delivering a message of unconditional care and love to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Fulfilling the mission each day, we constantly strive to help and encourage people who refuse to give up trying to break free from their socioeconomic chains; who want to hold on to their dreams of finding a better life.

Our staff brings to life the mission and vision that was born from the recognition of the disparities in our city and county; we continue the legacy of caring and compassion that shapes Bethesda House to this day.

As we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends and supporters and ask that you continue to open your heart to the homeless, the working poor and the growing number of people affected by the economy.

We will always be grateful to our partners in the community who share our vision. We have accomplished a great deal of good work in the past two decades, and will dedicate our resources to accomplish much more in the years ahead.

Without you, our work would not be possible. Thank you again!

*Kimarie A. Sheppard*

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

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[www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org](http://www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org)

Find Us on Facebook!



Since 1992, Bethesda House has had a single goal: To end chronic homelessness in our community. Would you consider helping? To find what you can do visit:

[www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org](http://www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org)

## Our greatest strength is our staff

*Danny Payne, Program Director for Bethesda House, oversees all the programs. He left once to work elsewhere, but missed Bethesda House so much he came back. He loves the direct contact he has with the residents and wants to help them improve the quality of their lives. He sat down recently to talk about his job and why he enjoys it so much.*

"When people have no where else to go and might have to live on the streets, Bethesda House offers a safe haven," said Program Director Danny Payne, who has worked at Bethesda House since 2001.

Payne is responsible for all services on the first floor and below. He schedules facilitators such as the AIDS Council and National Grid, whose staff offer health and financial direction for clients. He oversees the Case Management Department, as well as all the essential services offered by the Program Department. He efficiently and effectively operates the day shelter/safe haven, which helps many as they struggle with the complications of their lives.

"I like the people," said Payne, who has direct contact with hundreds of people who utilize the daily programs at Bethesda House. "I don't judge them, I offer them hope. I try to tell people there *is* a better way to live."

Payne runs the components of his program with some pretty simple rules: No drugs, no alcohol, no violence and no profanity. He said he tries to keep neighborhood issues out of Bethesda House, create a civil environment and avoid any disputes.

"The evolution of Bethesda House has been amazing," said Payne, who started as the Hospitality Coordinator then was promoted to the House Manager at the Lighthouse Program. "I found it very interesting because our program was the first *Housing First* model in the area," said Payne.

He stayed in that job for a year then went to the Liberty Street location as Housing Case Manager. "This was great because I could actually see the results of my work to help homeless people find housing and help others find safe and affordable housing."

During his time at Bethesda House, Payne has seen some changes. More paperwork is required by the government, just as demand for services escalates. He's also noticed that certain segments of the population need more help – particularly veterans.

"I see there is a great need for services for veterans returning from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. These guys deserve the world if we can give it to them," said Payne. He referred to a quote from Benjamin Franklin to make his point. "*All it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing.*"

Payne, originally from Brooklyn, has held other jobs outside Bethesda House that required patience and compassion. He was a nurse technician, worked at the AIDS Council and Regional Food Bank. He left his job at Bethesda House for a brief time, but said he missed the people and the work so much he returned.

When asked what keeps him going in the job, he said he has the kind of personality and is the type person who wants to give back to others. He hasn't forgotten the times in his own life when he needed some kindness from strangers and a sense of direction. "I thank God people were there when I needed them and I want to give back."

Executive Director Kimarie Sheppard praised his work. "Danny keeps his finger on the pulse of the community and brings his wealth of knowledge and compassion to the staff and guests. He is an extremely valuable employee and we are fortunate that he calls Bethesda House home."

Visitors to Bethesda House can't miss Danny. He circulates around the Hospitality Center and throughout the building making sure everything is running smoothly.

When he's not at Bethesda House, Payne loves to listen to music, watch movies, work on his house and spend time with his four grandchildren.

Payne is proud of the work that is done at Bethesda House. "If the people we help weren't here, where would they be?"





# History: A Room at Friedens Marks the Birth Of a Schenectady Agency

From its unassuming beginnings as a drop-in hospitality center that served a few dozen people, to a permanent shelter for the homeless, Bethesda House, which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, continues to serve the community's poorest and most vulnerable members. Bethesda is an Aramaic word meaning *House of Mercy*, and from the very first day of its existence as a daytime drop-in center at Friedens United Church of Christ on Franklin Street, that is what Bethesda House has been.

The Schenectady Inner City Ministry opened the first program in March 1992 at the urging of local community leaders. State deinstitutionalization of mental health hospitals created a crisis of humanity, when former residents of these facilities returned to their home cities and towns with no services ready to welcome and care for them. Schenectady's streets became home for many of these vulnerable people. Business owners and government leaders were alarmed and concerned, giving local churches an opportunity to serve according to God's will. A means to care for these homeless and poor was a critical need for the city. The First Reformed Church of Schenectady on Church Street was one congregation that was instrumental in the early stages and growth of Bethesda House.

Meeting the demand for services came one step at a time, yet the enduring legacy of that first cup of coffee, served to the first individual entering the doorway at Friedens is love for our brothers and sisters in need.

So much has changed since that opening day, however, Executive Director Kimarie Sheppard's astute reflection is telling: "If one thing has remained constant in the last two decades, it's the need for services in the community as well as the need for private donors and public funding." City, county, state and federal support was limited. Demand for services grew, putting pressure on leaders for more funding. In 1997 amidst budgetary cuts at all levels of government, the city stepped in to restore \$16,000 in critical federal money to keep Bethesda House open for those in need of help. All resources provided by the greater community support Bethesda House's core mission: to assist the homeless and poor in moving toward self-reliance. Within the community we serve, are people who have experienced the harshness of life, which for some, began with their

first breath, others through circumstance and choices. They stand with hearts broken before God and ask for guidance out of the darkness that has become their lives. Bethesda House was and remains that beacon. For 20 years, staff has worked tirelessly, successfully helping thousands achieve a better life. We are committed to continue serving, helping to heal wounds, taking the pain out of the struggle to survive. Bethesda House's legacy of helping the most in need in our community will be enduring. Among the expanded services offered through the years are self-help programs like instructor-led classes in parenting, nutrition and life skills.

Bethesda House's goal was to help those in need take advantage of existing services, while at the same time find out how the agency can better serve the community. Growth in programs was inevitable. By 1998, Bethesda House had outgrown its space and moved to 418 Liberty St., where an afternoon hot meal began, a clothing room was open and an intensive case management program started. Guests included homeless and those who lived in emergency shelters. Bethesda House evolved with the times and a women's weekly support group started, which still meets today.

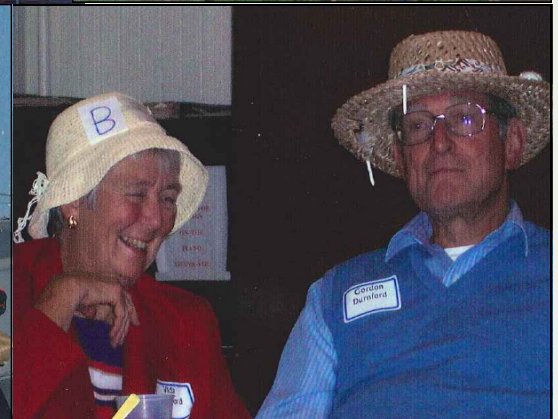
By 2002, the Lighthouse Residence, offering permanent supportive housing, opened and the Volunteer's Physicians' Program began to serve the medically uninsured.

Bethesda House remains in the forefront of innovative programming. Embracing Schenectady's goal to end homelessness, 15 permanent supportive apartments opened in 2010 at 834 State Street. It offers Day Shelter and Essential/Emergency Services including a food pantry, clothing room, telephone, laundry, daily meal and safe haven. Anyone is "unconditionally welcomed."

Today, more than 38,000 people are served annually at Bethesda House facilities, providing a critical service not only to the homeless and poor, including working families under financial stress, but also to the city and county of Schenectady. People who would otherwise be scraping for survival on the chilly, unforgiving streets are welcomed by human service professionals in a loving, caring, interfaith environment. It is under the watchful eye of a loving God that these people have a home and place to be safe.



# Reflections: Bridges to Self Sufficiency





# Making Lives Better: One Person At A Time

## Every Volunteer Makes a Difference: A Chat With Robert Christoffel

For the last ten years, Robert Christoffel has picked up the coffee, ice tea, lemonade and thousands of pounds of sugar, packed it up and delivered it to Bethesda House, where nourishment is served to Schenectady's most needy residents.

By quietly giving of himself, he's made a difference in thousands of lives.

"I ask what they need and that's what I get," said Christoffel, 84, of Schenectady, who is retired from General Electric.

Christoffel is a humble soft-spoken man and not one to take the spotlight. As he explained his volunteer work, he said he's merely carrying on the work his late wife Mary started and felt he had to do it. "I didn't want to get struck by a bolt of lightning," he joked.

Mary, who passed away in 2007, began bringing small amounts of sugar when Bethesda House was housed in a small room that offered travelers' aid in Friedens Church Hall. He said Mary had a way of finding out when there was a need for something in the community.

She soon learned that there were dozens of hungry and homeless people. "It became apparent they needed more than sugar," said Robert.

Mary, pictured above, enlisted her friends from St. Helen's to donate ice tea in the summer and coffee in the fall to Bethesda House. Eventually, she asked St. Helen's Church to set aside a portion of its weekly collection to donate to Bethesda House.

Even in their free time, the Christoffels were thinking of ways to help Bethesda House. For Mary's 70<sup>th</sup> surprise birthday party, the invite read that Mary had only one request: "Bring 15 pounds of sugar..she'll pass it along to Bethesda House for good that will be done."

Party guests brought a staggering 450 pounds of sugar to Mary's party. "We were thrilled," said Christoffel, who said he worried the floor would collapse under the weight of all that sugar. But everything worked out and he delivered all that sugar to Bethesda House.



Robert (Bob) Christoffel

Today, Christoffel and his 17-year-old grandson Sam, carry on the 'family tradition of giving' that Mary started so many years ago. It's a ritual: They go to BJ's to buy the coffee and other beverages that the residents and others enjoy at Bethesda House.

Why does he keep doing it? "Why not? There's a need," said Christoffel.

"Bethesda House is one of the greatest things that's happened in Schenectady", said Robert, and he wishes more people knew about the good work that's being done to help so many people in need.

His good deeds have not gone unnoticed.

"During Bethesda House's capital campaign, donations were made in honor of Mary's tireless efforts to provide for the most vulnerable in Schenectady's community," said Executive Director Kimarie Sheppard. "Our Hospitality Center bears the name of the Christoffel family and friends whose generosity is felt every day. The agency has been blessed with the love and caring that Mary instilled in so many. How fortunate are we that Bob continues Mary's mission."

Sheppard said Bob is an amazing volunteer. "He puts smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts. We are nourished both physically and spiritually by him."

By his estimation, Christoffel has brought thousands of pounds of sugar to Bethesda House in the last ten years.

He said he's hopeful the sweet tradition that Mary began by bringing a few cups of sugar to Bethesda House will continue for years to come.



Mary & Robert Christoffel (Right) with State Assemblyman James Tedisco (Left) along with some St. Helen's parishioners.

# 2012 Spring Appeal

It's time for Bethesda House's Spring 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. 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.

Clothing/Summer Dresses

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

Garden plantings; flowers; vegetables

Home Depot or Lowes gift cards

Adopt Our Food Pantry. A \$50 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.

## **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](http://www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org) and click *Donate***



## Schenectady Mayor Visits

### Mayor McCarthy & Macy's

Mayor Gary McCarthy and Macy's representatives toured Bethesda House in late March when Macy's presented a donation check to Bethesda House. It was part of Macy's "Bag Hunger" fundraising campaign, "It's a fundraising drive geared to get money and food to local food banks," said William Oldick, District Merchant Macy's East District. Macy's wanted to donate to a place that had been impacted by the 2011 storms in the Schenectady area and they chose Bethesda House.

Board member Imam Genghis Kahn said "Bethesda House is like a one-stop shop for those in need. We're glad you found us and we found you," he told Macy's representatives, who also served the noon meal that day.

Mayor McCarthy said the picture of Bethesda House is 'one of compassion'. "If there is anything the city of Schenectady can do to help Bethesda House we are ready and willing," the mayor told those gathered.

### The View from Here: Butch Fogg

We've been busy over the past few months. The Hospitality Center needed a cosmetic lift; a new coat of paint and chair rail to help protect the walls proved to be the right choice. We are grateful that Kelly Daly of Plum and Crimson Interior Design visited and offered interior design suggestions that benefitted one of the busiest rooms in the agency. Our maintenance staff refreshed hallways and offices with expert brush strokes. Average daily attendance at Bethesda House is 170 and maintenance projects and repairs are ongoing and woven into our schedules.

As days get warmer, gardens at The Lighthouse and the State Street locations are 'calling your name'. The tilling of the ground has begun and soon it will be time to plant again. About 98 percent of what we grow is used in the kitchen. We need volunteers and donations to make our gardens successful. Teaching our guests and residents the value of planting nature's seeds and harvesting the



bounty for healthy meals is a continuation of our nutritional program; sponsored by Cornell Cooperation Extension. At both locations we engage our guests and residents in the care of our environment. We are blessed to have the best staff and volunteers; no one can tackle what we do here without their tenacity and devotion.

### From Our Residence to Yours: Anne McGhee

The New Year brought many changes: We have four new staff at the Lighthouse, who bring a wealth of experience and positive energy that has a profound impact on residents.

The Lighthouse converted 3 of its 10 beds into emergency shelter beds for veterans. We provide intensive case management and have 60 days to establish positive goals. Sharon Chaires, Residential Supervising Case Manager, has done an excellent job identifying vets' needs and assisting them on the path to success.

Several residents attended our on going 6 week nutritional education program and learned about the benefits of fresh vegetables; this year's gardens are greatly anticipated. Residents are waiting for the first cookout of the season with our homegrown vegetables as the star attraction.

Lighthouse and Liberty residents are participating in community activities; their preference is going out to lunch with staff once a month.

Bethesda House sees the whole person and strives to bring mind and body together. Planting a garden, becoming involved in a community are small steps that will help us reach our five year goal to have residents volunteering or working in the community. People in poverty find it hard to believe their lives can be different, we give them hope. The positive work and the significant progress we have made could not have been accomplished without our wonderful volunteers and the generosity of our donors.



# Fundraising and our Mission

## Message from the Board President Sharran A. Coppola

The Bethesda House Development Committee is looking forward to a very active and financially successful year.

The committee is pleased to announce a partnership with Union College. The event, the Empty Bowls Project 2012, which took place Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Proctors Theatre was a great success.

The enthusiasm of the Union College students who planned this event was contagious! We shared the proceeds from the evening with the City Mission and would like to thank everyone for their attendance and support. We gathered at Proctors where everyone received a bowl and enjoyed a meal together. It was a time to share our stories and hopes for the future of two wonderful organizations.

As we move into June, we have been blessed by the generosity of the Eastern Parkway Methodist Congregation and Rev. Alan Kinney to host our first barbeque. This event will take place on Saturday, June 2, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the church - rain or shine. The cost will be \$15.00 per meal. Plan on joining us for great conversation and a delicious barbeque, take-out will be available. We are happy to announce that LT's Grill in Niskayuna will be preparing the meal and we look forward to this partnership.

During the summer we will be planning for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are excited to be sharing our joy with the community on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM at the Stockade Inn, Schenectady.

You may recall that last year during this time frame we held our first mystery dinner theater and a great time was had by all. This year there is much to celebrate so we will combine a wonderful dinner with fitting tributes and recollections for the past twenty years. The invitations will be in the mail shortly.

In November we are planning a Gospel Singing festival. We will give thanks for our blessings of the past year in spiritual songs by some of the community congregations. We plan on choosing a Sunday and will only ask for a free will offering followed by a light meal at Bethesda House.

We are excited about the events we have planned to support Bethesda House. Thank you everyone in advance and we look forward to meeting you in person at one or more of these events. Your support is our future.



**Save the Date** for Bethesda House's annual fundraiser on 25th of October. This year we are planning a special 20th anniversary celebration and we will reach out to business partners, friends, family and colleagues for continued support.

# Donors & Development-November 2011 Thru April 2012

## Donors

### Patron

Up to \$499

AAUW	Chequer, John & Taft, Elizabeth	Gorla, Michele & Michaela Vicki	Lindy, Marilyn	Newberry, Nancy	Shank, Thomas & Anna
Abbott, Viola	Cherubin, Kenneth	Gorman, John	Linehan, Charles	Newbold, Aileen	Shapiro, Ricki
Acacia Court #77 Order of the Amaranth	Chouffi, Audrey	Gosda David & Patricia	Lishakill's Reformed Church	NYS Department or Labor	Shaw, George & Paula
Ackerman, Donald	Christman, Anne	Gray, Peter	Lishakill's Reformed Church—Women's	O'Connell, Kathleen	Sheppard, Marianne
Aetna Foundation	Conyers, Carol & Comparin, Thomas	Greico-Hackett, Michele	Long, Robert	O'Conner, Dennis & Wendy	Sheppard, Peter
American Legion Post 1005	Coon, Frank & Turney, Lara	Grom, Walter & Anna	Longo, David	O'Conner, Kevin	Shultz, William
Angle, Elizabeth & King, F.E	Coppola, Sharron	Hagerty, Jeanne	Lyons, Alyce	O'Neil, Michael & Joan	Siegel, Martin & Raphael
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Armstrong, Rosemarie	Cowin, Joyce & Russell, Julia	Haller, G Keith	MacNeal, Linda	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church	Sisters of St. Dominic
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B.P.O.E. Rotterdam Lodge 2157	Crossley, Margaret	Hamilton, Cynthia	Magid, Alvin	Palmer, Geoffrey	Skinner, Nick
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Bertalan, Lillian	Donohue, Thomas & Patricia	Hopson, Norman	Mason, Willard	Pierce, Gerry	Stecher, Christian & Ruth
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Bloodgood, Sheila	Felice, Linda	Jackson, Sharon & Dugald	McGhee, Anne & Armstrong, Michele	Rakus, Barbara & Mark	Taylor, Regina
Bolenis, Richard	Fenton, Robert & Anastasia	Jarrett, Suzan	McKee, Douglas & Rita	Reformed Women's Church	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
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Bucci, Joseph	First Reformed Church of Scotia	Kerker, Valerie & Robert	Miskinis, Lorraine	Ringlee, Robert & Helen	Traxler, Robert
Buczkowski, Gary & Kathleen	First United Methodist Church	King, Margaret	Morlock, Walter & Edith	RN Club	Trinity Evan. Luth. Church
Burns, James & Judith	Fleishman, Leo	Kirk, Zilpha	Morrow, Garry & Christine	Roberts, Samuel & Santina	Truist
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Cerasuolo, Joseph & Gloria	Gernert-Dott, Kristine & Peret	Lanka, John & Lenore	Nelson, Paul	Sarnacki, Eleanor	Voss, Sandra
	Gibelius, Nancy	Leary, Eugene	Neville, Roy	Sarsmit, Ann	Vullo, William
	Gilbert, Alfred	Lewis, Bradley & Catherine	Nevius, Josefina	Schenectady Ole Timers Baseball Club	Waldbillig, Norma
	Glasgow, Constance	Lewis, Elizabeth	Newberry, Arthur	Schnell, Kim	Walther, Anita
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					Whisenhunt
					White, Virginia



**Patron  
Up to \$499**

**Continued**

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Wolfram, Katherine  
Wood, Andrew & Anne  
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Up to \$999**

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Diamantis, Joanne  
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General Electric Women's Club  
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Myers, James  
Reschovsky, John & Sandra  
The Community Foundation  
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Glenville  
The First Unitarian Society of  
Schenectady

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Christoffel, Robert  
First Reformed Church of  
Schenectady  
Hahn, Gerald & Beatrice  
Khan, Genghis & Nahla  
Last Man Standing Club 2009  
McNeal, Ellen  
Reformed Church in America  
Roeser, Randall & Patricia  
Shoe Rite  
Smith, John  
Stewart's Foundation

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Eastern Parkway United  
Methodist Church

**Founder  
Up to \$9,999**

GE Employee Gift Match  
SEFCU Foundation

**Visionary  
Up to \$50,000**

BJ's Charitable Foundation

**In Kind  
Donations**

Albany Med (Mary Isabella & Co-Workers)  
American Red Cross  
BJ's  
Cappiello Diary  
Chipolte  
City Mission  
Co-Op in Niskayuna  
Congregation Agudat  
Achim  
Congregation Gates of  
Heaven  
Grace Lutheran |  
Holiday Inn in  
Schenectady  
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

**In Kind  
Donations**

**Continued**

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  
The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St.  
George Greek Orthodox Church  
Turtle Fur Group  
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.



**Happy Birthday Bethesda House**

For her 9th birthday, Morgan Felix, of Burnt Hills, asked her mother instead of receiving a present this year she would like to make a donation to Bethesda House. Morgan's generous gift was much appreciated and shows our donations - and our donors - come in all sizes. Morgan (R) is shown here with her sister Peyton. Thanks Morgan!

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

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Albany, NY

**B**ethesda 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.

