

The Beacon



"Building a just and compassionate community one person at a time"

Spring/Summer Issue/May 2014

A Semi-Annual Publication of Bethesda House Schenectady, Inc.

Help Hope Haven

*"We make a Living by what we get,
But we make a life by what we give."*

—Winston Churchill

Local Social Worker Gives Back, page 2

"Since I knew I would not become a professional baseball player, I decided to become a social worker," says retiree Kevin McCormick, who is giving back to the community by volunteering his skills and services at Bethesda House.

Kevin is pictured below with Bethesda House resident, volunteer and staff.



A message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the 2014 spring edition of Bethesda House's semi-annual newsletter.



This past year has been challenging, yet extremely rewarding. Bethesda House provides services and programs to the homeless and the at-risk of becoming homeless persons, who suffer from one or more disabilities. We are committed to providing leadership as we work continuously to serve impoverished members of our community and assist each to have stable housing and income; as well as engage in support services to further balance their lives.

Here are some of our program accomplishments during our 2013-14 funding year. Our Case Management staff has successfully housed 173 homeless individuals and stabilized housing for an additional 50. In our Residential Program we have provided safe and secure housing to 35 chronically homeless men and women. Bethesda House's Day Program has provided basic needs and crisis management to over 4,900 unduplicated households, served 30,533 meals, and provided 1,985 households food from our food pantry.

This year, we received two separate sources of funding that, when used concurrently, homeless persons would be rapidly housed and evictions would be prevented through landlord/tenant mediation. With the unique funding combination, we housed an additional 43 chronically homeless people and prevented 20 evictions.

We have the good fortune to have a Clinical Social Worker join our team. We know that without supportive services, individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic health concerns cycle back into homelessness. With our enhanced team we are able to provide wrap-around services, which is designed to be the support needed to navigate through the many health care systems.

As we work hard to bring change in our community and reduce homelessness, we recognize that we are interdependent upon services from other providers for success. To realize actual and sustainable change Bethesda House embraces the individual strengths and differences of all area providers while celebrating our commonality.

I am deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, contributors and community supporters.

Without your commitment and support to our mission we would not be able to provide the abundance of services that we have.

Thank you!

Many Blessings ✨

Kimarie A. Sheppard



By Caroline Codd, Development

Bethesda House implements new services for individuals with mental illness

There is a cycle that torments the very making of a human being, reaches the deepest parts of their soul and closes all doors to escape. The cycle is full proof and takes away a person's identity, subjecting them to the cycle's never-ending agony. It ruins lives, shatters relationships and leaves those who suffer from it to gather their bearings and survive with no place to call home.

The cycle is mental health and substance abuse. And it isn't being broken.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 20 to 25% of the homeless population in America suffers from some severe mental illness. Half of these people succumb to substance abuse. With no access to proper health care and medicine, those suffering from illnesses such as depression, schizophrenia and severe anxiety disorder resort to self-medication from drugs they can buy on the streets.

These nation-wide issues are hitting us right in our backyard. As the number of persons suffering from mental illness in Schenectady County continues to grow, overall substance abuse continues to increase. These are people in our community who currently find refuge from their mental illness through substance abuse. Without access to treatment and other resources, many feel drugs are their only option for relief. The State Department also reports that in combination with the drug abuse that often accompanies mental illness, out of every 10,000 people struggling with mental illness in Schenectady County, approximately 24 are hospitalized due to drug-related issues within a 30-day period.

Alcohol and marijuana are common drugs used to sedate the effects of mental illness and once these drugs are taken in, the addiction can start immediately. A report from the US Surgeon General estimates nearly one in three American adults who experience mental illness will engage in substance abuse. According to the New York State Department of Health, roughly 20% of adults in Schenectady County have reported to binge drinking within a period of 30 days.

Mental health can consume a person's entire life. It affects all ages, races, genders and socioeconomic background. Mental illness does not discriminate and we believe help offered shouldn't discriminate either. At Bethesda House, we dedicate our services to helping chronically homeless and at-risk individuals with mental illness regain their autonomy and win the battle against their addictions and substance abuse.

Bethesda House has long recognized the concerns facing homeless people in Schenectady County. Along with area providers, we have tirelessly worked to house our community's homeless and engage each person, as seamlessly as possible, in available services. We make sure our residents are available to the services we provide and encourage them to take advantage of help offered. However, navigating the mental health system is arduous and often times the long wait is too taxing for people with mental illness and substance abuse to endure. Without immediate resources, it is easy to fall

back on old habits and rely on what is comfortable. Often, self-medication is the only solution known because for so long it has been the only solution available.

In January 2014 Bethesda House was blessed with a clinical social worker who met with our staff in the hopes of volunteering his services, specific to individuals with mental illness. Our Case Management and Residential teams strategized and moved forward with services that have helped our residents and day drop-in center guests. Bethesda House is moving forward with a new program designed to further advance bridging the gap between available mental health services and efficiently helping those in need to obtain them.*

An Interview by Caroline Codd, Development

Local social worker gives back

"Since I knew I would not become a professional baseball player, I decided to become a social worker," says retiree Kevin McCormick, who is giving back to the community by volunteering his skills and services at Bethesda House. McCormick will lead a new project working in collaboration with our Case Management staff to implement services for the mentally ill. He is generously giving his time to Bethesda House, our guests, and residents.

A retired New York State Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Kevin McCormick has devoted his career to serving others and has helped people to better themselves utilizing the resources social workers can provide. With a strong work ethic, McCormick has spent his career helping the socially disadvantaged that suffers from circumstances like poverty, mental illness and social injustice.

McCormick attributes his inspiration to his father, who was active in his neighborhood, from shoveling driveways to organizing baseball teams. "He set the example," says McCormick. Now McCormick hopes to be an example to those he works with at Bethesda House. Through Bethesda House's Housing First model, he will offer help and programs to agency and community residents struggling with mental illness to sustain safe, comfortable and affordable housing. By collaborating with other service providers, he hopes to "build a safety net, which will enable persons to enjoy living in the community."

Kevin McCormick is an example of the kind of person Schenectady County needs to protect and serve its people in all aspects. The homeless and mentally ill deserve no less treatment and with McCormick's help, they can receive professional services that will enable them to safely return to the community. McCormick strongly encourages young individuals interested in social work to give back and "volunteer, volunteer, volunteer!"

"I admire persons with mental illness," McCormick says, "their strength, courage and genuine kindness." At Bethesda House, he will provide relief and support for those who need it most. He says, "It is a satisfying experience if at the end of the day I, in combination with others, can bring a moment of relief to those in need."

We hope you feel the same way and will join Kevin McCormick in our mission to serve and promote the dignity of the mentally ill in our community. *

Volunteers build a crucial foundation

By Caroline Codd, Development

At Bethesda House, our volunteers are our building blocks. They are the core of our foundation and without them; our organization would not be able to serve the many that walk through our doors in search of solace and assistance. Our goal at Bethesda House is to improve the quality of life for those in need and without our volunteers this goal would be unachievable.

One doesn't have to volunteer every day to make a difference; the smallest acts of kindest can change somebody's day. Every year we are blessed to have members of the community join together and give back as groups by volunteering at Bethesda House. Adults and youth from all over the capital district have donated their time to help those in need. This winter holiday season, a group of graduated Niskayuna High School students came to carol at our December 24th meal. Their voices rang through the halls as they entered our dining and lit up the atmosphere with "Jingle Bells." Our residents joined in gleefully, clapping and singing the whole time. One woman had grateful tears in her eyes as she explained she had never been sung to before. We hope to make this caroling concert an annual event - something for our guests and residents to look forward to during the holiday season.

Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops have come in to volunteer at Bethesda House; their youthful spirits instantly brighten our atmosphere. The importance of youth volunteering in their community is crucial to establishing a bond between the youth and those around them. A single volunteering experience may change a young child's life while they change the life of those in need. By making our youth aware of those in need, we can continue to build a caring and giving community. We rely on our youth to be the voice of tomorrow.

Over the last two years, adults have chosen to come in during the holiday season to fold clothes and serve meals instead of going to holiday work celebrations. We rely on the graciousness and willingness of volunteers to help make our foundation stronger.

Our longstanding and new volunteers have given strength to our staff and to their community. At Bethesda House we focus on creating a loving and safe environment for those who are struggling. This environment is the product of our volunteers and the love they give every day. Any time you give can make a difference, and the difference starts with our volunteers. ❄️



Pictured left, Bethesda House volunteer Terry Stroble helps out at the Food Pantry during the especially busy holiday season. Other photos show Bethesda House volunteers from the Girl Scouts, General Electric (GE), Union College and the community.





By Kimarie A. Sheppard and Caroline Codd

Social Injustice: An issue then, still an issue today

The catchy tunes of *Les Misérables* and the historical fiction story line have captured the interest, emotions, and spirit of millions across the globe. The victory in epic tunes like “Do You Hear the People Sing?” has inspired the masses to have empathy for those less fortunate and to come together as a community to oppose the horrors of poverty and injustice. Victor Hugo's epic novel of 1,500 pages is based on historical facts in France between 1815-1832 exposing social injustice, the vulgar discrepancies in health care and economic status, and oppression. In 1832, the masses had enough and a rebellion ensued led by idealistic and charismatic students many of whom denounced their upper class/royal status. And while the events in Hugo's novel took place centuries ago, we are still faced with the same devastation in our economy today.

Throughout this novel, moral philosophy and ethics are presented which involve questions dealing with human morality, concepts such as good and evil, right and wrong, virtue, justice and crime. In the years and months leading up to the historical June 5-6 rebellion there were significant economic problems, harvest failures, food shortages, and increases in the cost of living which created an increase in poverty and discontent among the classes. In 1832, a wide cholera outbreak devastated the poor; this raised suspicion that the government poisoned the wells. Idealistic students dedicated to political and economic change in France were willing to crusade for change and to elevate the poor. We see similar trends in America today proving that even the world's wealthiest country must acknowledge and help those who have fallen through the cracks of poverty.

For centuries authors have woven the tales of social injustice whether based on facts or an emotion for change that is so overpowering that they were compelled to expose how the oppressed is viewed, treated, and helped. Most people walk away after reading or viewing these pieces with a renewed desire to be part of the societal change that calls. A quote from Victor Hugo about *Les Mis*, “I don't know whether it will be read by everyone, but it is meant for everyone. ... Wherever men go in ignorance or despair, wherever women sell themselves for bread, wherever children lack a book to learn from or a warm hearth, *Les Misérables* knocks at the door and says: 'open up, I am here for you'.”

Bethesda House plays a significant role in leading the changes that need to be made in our community. Collectively we see how economics affect those less fortunate, how untreated illness festers due to lack of appropriate health care, how emotional support is critical to the wholeness of a person and how the basic needs of security and safety make a difference. Just as the *Les Mis* finale proclaims, “To love another person is to see the face of God,” our mission serves to provide more than a roof and a warm meal. We are here to provide a safe and loving community for those who have become all too familiar with the darkness of poverty. The people sing and become one.

Most likely, a novel will not be written about our agency. But what has already been written is what we do, the passion that we have in our hearts and the commitment to make a difference in the lives of many. Bethesda House staff and volunteers are proud of what we do. We work toward social change and economic justice, just as those early leaders of the French Revolution did so many years ago. ✽



Vet relocates to Schenectady and finds himself homeless and alone

When Frank came to Schenectady, he was looking to start over and begin a new life. A veteran of the Gulf War, he bravely served his country and was ready to come home and live safely in America.

With the horrors of war still haunting him, Frank decided he needed a change. Feeling suffocated, Frank packed his few possessions and freed himself of the clutches of all of his worldly possessions and the pre-war security he had known. Frank arrived in Schenectady with hope, but soon found himself homeless. Alone and in an unfamiliar city with no friends or acquaintances to guide him, Frank had hit rock bottom and he had no idea where to go for help.

One day, while eating a meal at the City Mission, another homeless gentleman recommended that he go to Bethesda House. Frank met with a Case Manager who gave him a referral to the local DSS for emergency placement. While in emergency shelter housing, his Case Manager found permanent housing for him and through partnerships with local agencies, Frank received furniture and household items for his new apartment. His Case Manager was also able to establish a budget plan for his utilities and personal needs, so that he would not find himself homeless due to his fixed income. Frank is just one example of the many veterans who find themselves living on the streets due to unforeseen circumstances.

With many Veterans, after suffering the traumas of war, they live in desolation with limited resources to help them, no matter how hard they work or how motivated they are. Frank says, “If it were not for the man I met that day at the mission who recommended me to Bethesda House, I would not have gotten my life back.” For those who bravely and selflessly serve to protect our country, America's veterans at the very least, deserve to live independently in a safe environment and with the help of our caring and efficient Case Managers; Frank was able to do just that. ✽

Making the dream a reality

By Caroline Codd, Development

Help to Make the Dream of Employment and Self-Reliance a Reality: Volunteer to Be a Part of Our Literacy Team

It is a common misconception in American culture that unemployment is the result of laziness. In a society that strongly stresses the power of the individual, it is easy to fall through the cracks when an individual has no outside support. These outlets of support largely rely on the opportunities an individual is exposed to. Perhaps the most influential opportunity in the job market is a person's level of education. We realize at Bethesda House that a number of factors may prevent one from receiving an adequate level of education, thus hindering them from becoming an employed, self-sufficient individual. In an economy that is harsh on even the most educated of people, we must make sure there are educational resources for those who may not have been afforded a fair opportunity.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, as of August 2013, 6.9% of the Schenectady County population is unemployed - approximately 10,700 people. This does not account for those working below minimum wage and/or without benefits. Compared to the national unemployment rate of 6.7%, we agree that while these numbers are dwindling they are still too high. Plenty of hard-working, motivated and intelligent individuals come through our doors at Bethesda House in defeat. Unable to support themselves and their families, they have no other choice but to come here for a hot meal or access our emergency and basic needs services whenever they can. Employers won't hire them because they simply are not qualified.

Most employers require at least a GED for full-time employment, or the equivalent of a high school diploma. While in the state of New York, students are legally required to attend school until they turn 18 years of age, many drop out anyway. They may drop out if they find work to support their families or because of other conditions that render them unable to keep up with schoolwork. The New York State Education Department reports dropout rate for Schenectady High School alone is 24.9%, at least four times more than other high schools in Schenectady County. This creates a large, concentrated population of high school dropouts who are competing with others in a small area to get jobs without a GED or high school diploma.

If one of these students were to decide in the future to get their GED or a higher-level certificate, they are still battling the odds. After being out of school for so many years, these individuals struggle from significant literacy issues and therefore cannot pass an exam for their GED. There is a myriad of tutoring and online services available, but these are often costly. For the unemployed, this is an expense they cannot afford.

That's why, at Bethesda House, we are working to create a fully functional volunteer staff to help our residents and individuals from our day drop-in center improve their literacy rates in order to prepare for GED testing. We are collaborating with the Executive Director of Literacy New York, Sylvia Jimison, to put together a trained group of volunteers with a

passion to help others achieve their goals.

We sincerely hope you will join our team and volunteer so we can begin to fill in the cracks, allowing our fellow community members to rise and walk above them. ❁



Pictured left, Sarah Beitch, Bethesda House Student Volunteer. Below (right) Sarah volunteers at the annual Bethesda House Thanksgiving dinner with friend, Rachael Chabot.

Sarah Beitch, Student Volunteer

Sarah has been volunteering at Bethesda House for four years. Kimarie Sheppard, Executive Director, describes Sarah as having a special quality about her. She says, "Sarah exudes passion for helping others and being part of the solution to end homelessness. Sarah has worked in all areas of our agency and our staff look forward to the times she is working with us. This year Sarah was the lead in putting together our booth at the Carrot Festival held at the Congregation Agudat Achim, Schenectady."

In an interview, Sarah said, "I'm very happy that I had the opportunity to represent Bethesda House at the Carrot Festival and spread their message. Bethesda House's booth was stationed in the community service tents with other local organizations. I was pleased at the amount of people who approached me with questions about this wonderful agency. Bethesda House plays a huge role in the community. That became even more evident to me from all the people who approached me and talked about their experiences with Bethesda House and the people they knew there. Overall, the Carrot Festival was a great experience and I'm honored to have represented such a great organization that day."

Sarah is graduating this year and will be heading off to college; her volunteer experience has resulted in scholarships. Bethesda House staff, volunteer team, residents and guests all wish Sarah our best.❁

Women's Group



Every week an average of thirty-three (33) women meet to discuss their life issues and seek emotional support as they work through the effects of abuse. Our confidential group meets weekly and addresses a variety of issues related to domestic violence. The group provides a comfortable atmosphere to develop healthy relationships in a nurturing environment and is facilitated by professionals from Bethesda House, YWCA and Sexual Assault Support at Planned Parenthood.

There are several volunteers that come each week to assist with the weekly meal and provide additional support as needed. The group discusses topics such as drug and alcohol addiction, housing crisis issues, abusive relationships and their children. All participants provide confidential and emotional support to those who attend and the facilitators are also available for outside referrals and counseling. Occasionally, guest speakers from the community come in to discuss topics that are of interest to the women. Facilitators plan community outings such as a yearly picnic and a Mother's Day special luncheon; when financial assistance is available, crafts are purchased for attendees to make gifts and holiday projects. The group receives a lunch and for most, is the only meal that they may eat for the day. The group is free and could be the only source of support or counseling that is available for those who are not able to afford otherwise.

So often women and children are at the heart of the community; each are met with respect in a non-judgmental setting that is nurturing and safe. Bethesda House greatly appreciates the support it has received from the community as we work through the challenges of domestic violence, substance abuse, lack of adequate resources, and the struggles of raising children. Our goal to provide a safe haven for our confidential support group continues with your support. Thank you.✽

Bethesda House 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 are accepted between 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.✽

Please call 518-374-7873 for details.

Day to Day

Food

- Non-perishable items

Kitchen

- Spices, Coffee, Iced/Hot Tea, Lemonade

Clothing

Gently used items for men/women

Practical Shoes

Summer Clothing/Dresses

New underwear and socks

Hygiene Products

- Regular and hotel size shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, soap, razors and toothbrushes

Linens

- Sheets, towels, wash cloths

Seasonal

- Garden Plants
- Home Depot/Lowes Gift Cards

Adopt our Food Pantry

A \$50 donation gives us \$200 in food products from the Regional Food Bank.
A \$100 donation gives us \$500 in food products from the Regional Food Bank.

Adopt an Apartment

Visit bethesdahouseschenectady.org for details

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 _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to Bethesda House)

Are you a GE Employee/Retiree? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Bethesda House is a GE Match Recipient)

Would you like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Bethesda House? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

**You can also make donations at
www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org
using PayPal.**

Friend Up to \$100



Acacia Court #77 Order of the Amaranth
 ADAH Chapter #60
 Adams, Christine
 Amell, Joan
 Anderson, Frederica
 Babin, Mike
 Bagepalli, Bharat and Jolanta
 Batten, Nancy Jane
 Bergeron, Michele
 Blackmer, Richard
 Brinkman, Earl and Rita
 Bucci, Cesare and Blanche
 Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Womans Club
 Cerasuolo, Joseph and Gloria
 Chaney-Artis, Shahmeeka
 Chequer, John and Taft, Elizabeth
 Christoffel, Thomas
 Chrys, Alexander and Josephine Cristy
 Ciancetta, Thomas and Clausi, Patricia
 Cognetti, Darlyne
 Collins, William
 Coluzza, John
 Comparin, Tom
 Cox, Paulyn
 Danielson, Lee
 DaPore, Nancy
 Darling, R. G. and E. A.
 Deierlein, Paul
 Dekalb, Gretchen
 DeMasi, Michael
 DePaoli, Bruno
 Dickson, Beryl W
 Dodson, Carlene
 Dohring Jr, John
 Duesterdick, Paul and Tracey
 Duff, Thomas and Kathleen
 Ehrcke, Elizabeth
 Epstein, Celia
 Fenton, Robert and Anastasia
 Fialkoff, Sanford and Suzanne
 Foroughi, Joseph
 Gauthier, William & Sandra
 Gebell, Alan and Yvette
 Gittinger, Norman C. and Mildred
 Gollmer, Arlene
 Grant, Georgia
 Green, Dominique
 Greene, Richard G.
 Grom, Walter and Anna-Maria
 Guzzo, Judy
 Hamilton, Cynthia W.
 Heffler, Joan
 Hemmendinger, David and Kort, Gail
 Hopson, Norman
 House, Eric and Noreen
 Jackson, Sharon & Dugald
 Jaquith, Rosemarie
 Johnson, Karen Brown
 Kaehler, William and Kerry
 Kapushinski, Ronald and Deborah
 Katz, Miriam
 Katz, Samuel and Jean
 Kazmierczak, Christine
 Latimer, Arlene
 Leblanc, Eileen
 Lemmerman, Eugene
 Lillquist, Patricia P
 Linehan, Charles
 Lisha's Kill Reformed Church Women
 Long, William F.
 Machin, Jean
 Macivor Brunner, Shari
 Madonna, Alberta M
 Mahoney, Richard & Jane
 Maneri, Charles

Mangano, Thomas and Mary Anne
 Mann, Richard and Joanne
 Martindale, Christian
 Mason, Robert and Patricia
 Mausert, Richard and Kathleen
 Mc Elroy, Robert S
 Mc Kee, Douglas and Rita
 McAteer, Margaret M.
 McDermott, Chris and Margaret
 McDermott, Mark and Virginia
 McGhee, David and Alice
 Mele, Richard and Margaret
 Monaghan, Natalie
 Morlock, Walter and Edith
 Nadler, Faye
 Nelligan, Angela
 Nolte, Ann
 Orr, David
 Paden, Debbie
 Pangburn, Charles and Inge-Lise
 Payne, Danny Jr.
 Perillo-Lasky, Joanne
 Peroutky, Alberta
 Phelan, Beverly
 Philbrick, Richard
 Pierce, Gerry
 Pitts, Jeffrey
 Potochnik, Frank
 Potrikus, Edward
 Presseisen, Kathleen R
 Purcell, Peter
 Quinn, Dennis
 Rakus, Barbara & Mark
 Regan, John and Danielle
 Reich, Gary
 Rickson, Tyler
 Rickson, Whitney
 Roberts, Kathleen
 Rosenberg, Marsha
 Rosenthal, Robin
 Rubarsky, Anna and Mary
 Ryan, Jane
 Saburro, John and Constance
 Sapone, John and Karen
 Sargent, Steven
 Schenectady Ole Timers Baseball Club
 Schmitt, Marjorie
 Schumacher, David and Nancy
 Shapiro, Ricki
 Shaw, George and Paula
 Shuff, William
 Singer, Roger
 Sisters Of St. Dominic
 Smith, Janice
 Soellner, Anna Ria
 Sosnow, Peter
 Spingarn, David
 Storch, Larry G
 Stroble, Terry
 Stryjski, Olga
 Susich, Jane and Erwin
 Teresco, M J
 Thomas, Crystal
 Tobiessen, Joanne
 Tobiessen, Jon and Nancy
 Traxler, Robert
 Union College Davidson Residence Hall
 Vandenberg, Leonard and Margarethe
 Waddell, Douglas and Donna
 Waldbillig, Norma
 White, Virginia
 Wingle, Raymond
 Zebrowski, Janice
 Zimmerman, Ronald F

Patron Up to \$499



Bair, Elaine
 Baker, Richard
 Barbanel, Julius
 Bechtel Plant Mahinery, Inc.
 Benamati, Stephen and Amanda
 Bianchi, Mary C
 Bigelow, John E
 Bloodgood, Sheila and Joanne Herrick
 Bloom, Mark T
 Boudiwan, Elias and Kerbaje, Georgette
 Boyd Sr, Ralph and Catherine
 Brown, Gregg & Bitner, Lizabeth
 Bubb, Ian G
 Bucci, Joseph A
 Buczkowski, Gary and Kathleen
 Burns, James and Judith
 Butzel, Miriam
 Carosella, Paula
 Chen, Jung
 Chouffit, Audrey
 Christman, Anne
 Congregation Agudat Achim
 Coppola, Sharran A
 Cramer, Steven and Bonnie
 Macwhinney-Cramer
 Cumini, Edith
 Curro, Stephen
 D'Ascoli, Richard and Karen
 Demkowski, Carolyn
 Denisoff, Gail
 Diamantis, Joanne
 Elliott, Rebecca and Feinland, Gary
 Fink, Richard
 First Reformed Church Of Scotia
 First United Methodist Church
 Fleishman, Leo J
 Foster, Jacqueline
 Frank, Paul
 Gilbert, Alfred
 Giokas, George and Marie
 Girl Scout Troop #2430
 Grant, James and Lynn
 Hallman, Darren
 Hamblin, Robert and Carol Miller
 Hathaway, Mark
 Hebert, Clifford and Janet
 Herman, Leonard
 Hicks, Analine
 Hirshorn, Donald
 Huber, William and Clarke, Penny
 Karowe, Marjorie
 Knapik PDC, "E J"
 Kreifels, Douglas
 Lisha's Kill Reformed Church
 Little, Meredith
 Long, Robert
 Magagnos, Roseanne & Partick
 Mahon, Geraldine
 Malone & Tate Builders Inc.
 Marr, Jonathan and Rachel Sterne
 McCormick, Kevin
 McGhee, Anne
 Michaels, Robert and Eileen
 Moran, Sean C.
 Myers, James
 Nardini Trust, Dr. David B
 Nelson, Dolores and Paul
 Neville, Roy E. and Mary C.
 O'Connell, Kathleen
 Ognibene, Richard and Elaine
 Olsen, David
 Orsini, Anastasia
 Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Paupst, Catherine
 Pearson, Elyse

Peterson, Nancy J
 Petro, Joan
 Porter, Don and Lois Shepherd
 Quilts and More
 Rhatigan, Laetitia
 Ringlee, Robert and Helen
 Sankar, Richard
 Schenectady Friends Meeting
 Sciocchetti, Michael and Linda
 Seigel, Martin
 Senior Sewers Of Schenectady
 Shank, Thomas and Anna
 Sheppard, Kimarie
 Smith, Benny and Carolyn
 St. George Greek Orthodox Ladies
 Philoptochos Society Inc.
 St. Joseph's Church
 Stecher, Christian and Ruth
 The Evangelical Lutheran
 Church Of The Good Shepherd
 The Evangelical Lutheran
 Church Of The Messiah
 The Troy Savings Bank Charitable
 Foundation Inc
 Thompson, Dorothy
 Tolge, Bruno P
 Tonko, Paul D
 Trow, Christopher
 Unitarian Universalist
 Society Of Schenectady
 Upadhyay, Ram K
 Walther, Anita
 Wilkinson, John
 Wingle, Ray
 Wood, Andrew and Anne
 Wood, Rory
 Yang, Walter and Alison
 Zimmerman, Karl and Niefeld, Susan
 Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Citizen Up to \$1,000



Christoffel, Robert
 Dunkerley, Gary and Kathleen
 Functional Communications Corporation
 General Electric Woman's Club
 Gibelius, Nancy
 Golub Family Foundation, Inc.
 Hillis, Lee and Sandra
 Jones, Christopher and Pat
 Ladies Of Charity Schenectady Vicariate
 MacNeal, Ellen
 Payne, Danny
 Roecker, David and Lauren
 The Community Foundation
 Williams, Susan M

Advocate Up to \$3,999



Armstrong, Rosemarie
 Christ Community Reformed Church
 Eastern Parkway
 United Methodist Church
 First Reformed Church Of Schenectady
 Reschovsky, John and Sandra
 Roeser, Randall W and Patricia
 Smingler, David B and Dona Rossetti
 Stewart's Foundation
 Sweeney, James
 Sylvestsky, Sam and Estelle

continues on next page

Bethesda House

is an Interfaith 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.



Bethesda House Board of Directors

Sharran A. Coppola
Board President

- Fred Callins
- Doty Pettengill-Hall
- Alex Hallenstein
- Genghis Khan
- Alan Kinney
- Bradley G. Lewis
- Robert Long
- Rick Mausert
- Louise O'Leary
- Allee Rosenfield
- Susan Salamah
- Thomas Weiss
- Richard Werner

Bethesda House
Management Team

Kimarie Sheppard
Executive Director

- Danny Payne
Director of Residential Services
- Anne McGhee
Program Director
- Harold "Butch" Fogg
Director Property/Facility
Operations

Fundraising:

A Necessity for Non-Profits

"Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." – Luke 6:38

One of the major strengths of our agency is the support we receive from our community, current and past. Your donation of time, talent, and resources support our mission and help us to create an outstanding provider for Schenectady's homeless and impoverished citizens. Ours is a community that deeply cares about its citizens and we see it every day in the community's engagement and commitment to building a strong foundation for those most in need.

In addition to your time and dedication to being involved in our programs, we heavily rely on your generous monetary donations to keep our programs open. We have an experienced and passionate staff who lead our most crucial services because of the support we have received in the past. It is the reason we are able to grow and serve as many people as we do today. From our Food Program to our daily meal, from our crisis and housing case management to our financial and budgeting case management, from our basic living needs services to our residential supportive housing programs, giving dollars provides an immediate and direct benefit to those less fortunate in our community. We greatly appreciate and value every donation. The giving is a tax-deductible way to impact your community.

As a non-profit organization, we cannot sufficiently and effectively help the poorest in our community with our efforts alone. Every dollar goes directly to our services and improving the condition of living for our residents. The stories of those who are able to rise above the grasps of poverty after coming to Bethesda House inspire a hardworking and caring community. With your help, we can continue to make these stories of success happen. Our greatest satisfaction is helping caring people like you make a difference in the lives of the impoverished, our brothers and sisters who search for a beacon to guide them out of the darkness that surrounds them. You are a part of that beacon of light. We hope this empowers you as much as you empower those around you with your hope and generosity.

We have made contributing as easy as possible, including providing the option to donate online using PayPal, see our website for details, www.bethesdahouseschenectady.org ✽

Bethesda House Donors

continued from page 7

In-kind Donations



- BJ's
- Chipolte
- Congregation of Agudat Achim
- Eastern Parkway Methodist Church
- Friendship Baptist Church
- Grace Lutheran
- Immanuel Lutheran
- Ladies of Charity Schenectady Vicarate
- Our Lady of Fatima
- Our Redeemer Lutheran
- Panera
- Peter Harris
- Price Chopper
- Shop Rite
- Starbucks
- St. Georges of Clifton Park
- St. George Episcopal Church
- St. George/St. Stephen of Schenectady
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha
- St. Josephs of Scotia
- St. Mary's of Gallway
- St. Joseph's of Glenville
- Subway
- Temple Gates of Heaven
- The Ladies Philotochos Society of
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- Union College

Bethesda House is grateful to these individuals and organizations who donated from \$1 to \$9,999. Your generosity allows us to continue our mission this spring and summer with helping 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 year. Every donor is important to us. Our goal is to list each person or organization as the donor wishes.

A special Thank You to donors contributing through United Way, we are grateful that you chose to direct your donor dollars to Bethesda House of Schenectady, Inc. Thank you to donors who participate in the GE Match.

If your name does not appear as you would like it to, please call Bethesda House (518) 374-7873 and ask for Christine Adams so we may correct our records.

**Thank you
for your continued support.**