



2015 Annual Report to the PSEC

Providing youth the opportunity to have the life they deserve!

A NEED FOR CHANGE

In the Summer of 2013, Bethany Board of Directors were forced to make some tough decisions. For the previous 10 years Bethany was experiencing huge financial deficits. The budgeted loss for the fiscal year 2013/2014 was a minimum \$3.5 million dollars if no changes occurred. At that rate Bethany had just several years before all of its reserves were depleted. The reality of the picture was, the demand on services was decreasing and we needed to change meet the needs of our youth in the community. Through extensive conversations and planning sessions with Children and Youth Services, Bethany was able to identify the critical needs the CYS youth have; identify additional therapeutic services to be provided; and develop programs to help kids get the opportunity to live the lives they deserve.

Through these changes and constant communication with Children and Youth Services, Bethany has grown in a year with a campus of 35 youth to 90 youth. The youth we serve are primarily placed with us from Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill, and Montgomery Counties. All of the youth residing at Bethany are in need of a safe, nurturing, and protective environment so that they may learn the appropriate behavior and skills to cope with the trauma they have faced in their young lives.

FUNDING

A question raised often is how does Bethany receive funding for the youth we serve? Our funding is primarily from two sources – County/State Per Diems and Philanthropic Gifts. Bethany receives a daily rate/per diem for basic services for each youth in care. These funds partially cover the costs of food, housing, clothing and education. However, the majority of funding comes from philanthropic gifts from our local community, alumni, churches and friends which support the home like environment offered at Bethany. Private giving enables Bethany to provide each youth opportunities to participate in art, music, recreation, spiritual/moral development, cottage trips and special activities. We are thankful for these gifts as they also provide lifetime memories of going to the prom, eating in a restaurant, providing birthday and holiday gifts, enjoying a movie, playing miniature golf or experiencing an amusement park for the first time! We are also blessed because our youth will also have an opportunity to attend a higher education institution or trade school if they choose to do so after high school with this support.

Bethany is also proud to have two business entities – Bethany Farm and Bethany Springs – which provide income to Bethany Home to offset costs related to programs and services that are not funded by other revenue streams.



COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Since its beginning, Bethany has had a strong affiliation to the church and providing spiritual and moral development to the youth in residence. Recognizing that our youth come from many faith or non-faith backgrounds, our goal is to help them explore, seek and potentially understand the value of having a healthy spiritual life. Each week, Bethany hosts a worship service on campus along with providing youth opportunities to attend worship, youth groups and bible study.

Our Board and Staff are committed to the United Church of Christ and recently reaffirmed our relationship with the UCC. The following commitment was made in February 2015.

“Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Bethany Children’s Home in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania with gratefulness and thanksgiving reaffirms its desire for Bethany Children’s Home to continue its historic and covenantal ties with the United Church of Christ. Supported by the churches of the United Church of Christ with many different kinds of gifts and uplifted in prayer since its very beginning, Bethany Children’s Home acknowledges our loyalty and commitment to this denomination which bears the spiritual inheritance of its former denominations: the German Reformed Church, the Reformed Church in the United States, and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In reaffirming our relationship, we acknowledge that we will support the ministry of Bausman Memorial Church on campus and the call of a United Church of Christ minister to serve as Chaplain for Bethany Children’s Home. May our ministry to children serve the United Church of Christ and its ministry in our geographical area. Day by day may we show the love of Jesus Christ to the children we serve.”

Bethany is thankful for the ongoing support the Churches provide to our youth. We thank you for welcoming them to attend worship, participate in Sunday school, attend fundraisers, share in picnics and spend fellowship with you.

HELPING HANDS

In June 2014, Bethany Children’s Home started the Helping Hands program to provide unaccompanied children and youth the opportunity to be reunited with their families in the United States. The youth stay with Bethany on average of 10-12 days and receive basic medical care, food, clothing, shelter, moral/spiritual development and basic education while we locate their families. As of April 2015, Bethany has reunited 119 children with their families throughout the United States. No children have been reunited in the State of Pennsylvania. Thank you for helping these kids have a family again!

You have wiped their tears....

You have fed them....

You have clothed them.

You have provided them a warm bed....

You gave them HOPE!!!

THANK YOU!!!