

Bethany House

Annual Report 2025

A Year of Strategic Progress

Photos on cover page (L to R): *We Care Fund of the Nassau Bar Association, Inc. presenting their donation check to Anne Degruttola and Katie Swanson of Bethany House; Jane McCabe, Volunteer Coordinator, with 8 year old Rachel and her "read it forward" donation of Books & Buddies; Malverne Eagle Scout Audrey Lavoie's Eagle Scout Project – a "stroller garage" for a Bethany family shelter; Ashley Ruchalski collected diapers at her baby shower for babies at Bethany House; Bethany House Staff holiday party; South Side High School National Honor Society raised funds for Bethany House by taping Principal Dr. Walsh to the school lobby wall*

A Note from the Board Chair



Sincerely,

Bonnie Arrante
Board Chair

If you can believe it, Bethany House began in 1978—almost 50 years ago—in direct response to a growing need in our community. Since then, we've expanded our reach and deepened our roots. And over the past five years, we've undergone a remarkable transformation—one focused on strengthening our core so we can serve even more people, even more effectively, for the next 50 years and beyond.

At the heart of this transformation is exceptional leadership. Katie Swanson joined us as Executive Director after nearly two decades with the Nassau County Department of Social Services. Her experience, energy, and vision have brought new momentum to Bethany House, and the impact of her leadership has already been profound.

I am thrilled to share some truly exciting news: Bethany House has purchased a new home. This is the culmination of a years-long endeavor to secure financing, the right property, neighborhood, and leadership to execute. This marks the next chapter in our commitment to walking alongside our guests from crisis to independence. It's not just a building—it's a promise. A promise that we are here, growing, adapting, and meeting the real needs our community.

But none of this is possible without our supporters. Every dollar raised helps us sustain and grow programs. It helps us furnish new spaces, fund our licensed social work team, and ensure that every guest has not only a bed—but a plan, a purpose, and a path forward. Together, we are not just breaking the cycle of homelessness—we're building a cycle of hope.

A Note from the Executive Director



Over the past year, we have continued to demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and commitment to our mission despite a rapidly evolving environment. This year brought both opportunities and challenges, and I am proud of the dedication shown by our team, partners, and supporters.

Through collaboration, innovation, and strategic focus, we achieved meaningful progress across our key objectives while maintaining our commitment to excellence and long-term sustainability. These achievements reflect the strength of our organization and the trust placed in us by our stakeholders. We also remained focused on improving operational efficiency, strengthening relationships, and investing in future growth opportunities.

As we look ahead, we remain optimistic and committed to building on the momentum of this past year. Our priorities for the coming year include expanding our reach, partnering with other non-profits to deliver the best services possible, ensuring that we continue delivering value and making a positive impact.

On behalf of the leadership team, I would like to sincerely thank our employees, volunteers, partners, investors, and community members for their continued support and confidence in our organization. We look forward to another year of progress and success together.

Sincerely,

Katie Swanson
Executive Director

Our Mission

Bethany House provides a safe place for healing and personal growth for women, and women with children, experiencing homelessness. It is built on a foundation of community support to provide a continuum of care, from uncertainty to stability.

Through our partnerships, we provide the women in our programs with trauma informed services, in-house and community-based health services, and case management focused on securing educational and employment growth opportunities and a path to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

We strive for our guests and their children to experience a sense of self-worth and belonging in response to their experience with our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Our Services

Founded in 1978, Bethany House supports women, and women with children, on Long Island who are experiencing homelessness. We provide a continuum of care to take these individuals from uncertainty to stability.

At its core, Safe Ground for Families is a three-tiered, multi-generational program that seeks to break the cycle of homelessness. The three steps are:

- **Step I:** Emergency shelter and case management – food, clothing and shelter; child and family recreation; social work; milieu treatment; maintenance; meal preparation; program and volunteer coordination and health services offered directly by Bethany House with the support of the Nassau County Department of Social Services and corporate and community-based organizations
- **Step II:** Transitional living services, and semi-independent living provided in a Bethany House residence (opened August 2023) – Women's Empowerment Groups; individual and family counseling; early childhood services provided in partnership with universities and other community-based organizations
- **Step III:** Independent living with optional support services, aftercare services, provided by Bethany House and funded through foundations, grants and contributions.

With this approach, we provide services intended to prevent **homelessness recidivism,** ensure **child health and wellness,** enable the achievement of **educational and career goals,** facilitate **secure employment** with **sustainable income,** and enable **greater earning potential**, and thus, the ability to **build savings.**

Bethany House

Program Highlight

Creating Safe, Healing Environments

For single women and women with children experiencing homelessness, safety is more than a basic need—it is the foundation upon which healing and hope are built. Many people arrive at Bethany House during one of the most difficult periods of their lives. Our first priority is to ensure that every guest's basic needs are met in a safe, welcoming, attractive environment where they can begin to regain a sense of stability and move forward with confidence.

Bethany House shelters are intentionally designed to feel like homes. They feature welcoming shared living spaces furnished with comfortable, residential-style furniture, colorful décor and artwork that foster dignity and comfort. Families are provided with private bedrooms while single women are accommodated in private or shared bedrooms. Located in suburban neighborhoods, each shelter offers convenient access to public transportation and essential community resources, including schools, libraries, shopping, houses of worship, restaurants, and recreational opportunities.

Providing a secure environment remains central to our mission. Our shelters are equipped with automatically locking exterior doors, security cameras in common areas and outside each building, locking bedroom and bathroom doors, and are staffed 24/7. All baby equipment meets Consumer Product Safety Commission standards. Behind the scenes, our full-time maintenance staff work daily to keep each property safe, functional, and well maintained.



Throughout 2025, Bethany House made significant investments in strengthening these healing environments. We secured generous NYS grant funding to plan the renovation of the kitchens and selected bathrooms in two of our shelters, creating more functional, welcoming spaces. These investments reflect our belief that healing begins with safety, dignity, and a place to feel at home. By providing welcoming spaces, essential resources, and compassionate care, Bethany House empowers women and children to rebuild their lives, develop new skills, and take meaningful steps toward lasting housing stability and financial independence.

Achievements in 2025

In 2025, we:

1) Initiated architectural plans and permitting for capital improvements at two of our emergency shelters, utilizing a legislative grant from Senator Kevin Thomas and a NYS Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program (NICIP) grant secured in 2025.
2) Continued to strengthen structured day time programming for residents in our "She Shed," which serves as a vibrant hub for arts programs, mental health discussions, yoga and more.
3) Initiated employment workshops and opportunities for guests with corporate partners, including Chipotle and PSEGLI, and university partners, such as Molloy University's Office of Minority Affairs.
4) Addressed components of our five-year Strategic Plan:
    a. Make Bethany House a great place to work:
        1) Continued to strengthen our staff development plan by offering training in flexible time slots to accommodate evening and overnight staff.
        2) Initiated staff community relationship building by sharing training opportunities and costs with similar agencies, such as Momma's House, a transitional residential program for young mothers and babies.
    b. Expand BH Footprint:
        1) Successfully responded to a Nassau County Request for Proposal to open additional shelter beds. We purchased a brand-new home in Roosevelt to operate as a nine-bed emergency shelter for single women, scheduled to open in the Spring of 2026.
        2) Continued to expand our list of partnerships with community-based service organizations to secure a broad array of services that can continue to provide post-discharge support to guests; examples include Opportunities for Community Living, and Women United.
5) Broadened the breadth of experience of our Board of Directors through the addition of four new members with expertise in real estate, law, and marketing.

Our Partners

Our partners in the community are an integral part of the services we provide, both directly and indirectly, as we work to fulfill our mission. These partners include government, local universities, local public and private school PTAs and honor societies, houses of worship, businesses, private and corporate foundations, and individual donors and volunteers. In 2025, volunteers helped out in innumerable ways, including implementing a huge organizational effort for donated goods and creating a "Bethany Boutique" where guests can "shop" for themselves and their children, and creating a fund to support children's attendance at live performing arts events! Our volunteers are essential in:



Bethany children mesmerized at a live performance

- Providing direct services (conducting arts and crafts activities, yoga classes and reading groups).
- Making all guests feels special with birthday and holiday celebrations, including delicious meals, stunning cakes and gifts for children.
- Planning, organizing and executing successful fundraising events, directly by volunteers and through the efforts of our own Development and Communications Committee (DCC), which is 85% volunteers!



Women's History Month collection from local libraries organized by Legislator Debra Mulé (R), shown with Linda Lassiter and Katie Swanson of Bethany House

In Memory of Our Founder

We remember Sister Aimée, the Founder of Bethany House, who sadly passed away in the summer of 2025.

Sister Aimee dedicated much of her life to creating a place of safety, dignity, and hope for women and children experiencing homelessness. She expanded Bethany House's reach over the course of four decades in response to the needs of the community. Her vision laid the foundation for the work we continue today.

We honor her legacy, and the countless lives touched through her commitment to serving others.

Among the many heartfelt comments on Facebook:



"She led with heart, lived with purpose, and leaves behind a legacy of kindness and strength that will never be forgotten."

"She was the TOUGHEST and most kind-hearted person I ever knew personally."

"Today, Bethany House thrives because of all those who believe in, and continue, your mission of love and care of the homeless."

A Guest's Journey

Amazing things can happen when community organizations come together.

"Mary," a 35-year-old mother, came into care facing homelessness, substance use challenges, and the loss of custody of her young son. Through the combined support of Bethany House and Options for Community Living (https://optionscl.org), her life began to change.

Mary resided in one of the Bethany House family shelters for a little over a year. She had the vision for and commitment to a clear plan, and the wisdom to ask for and accept help from multiple sources during her journey. With the stability and support of Bethany House's case management services, and health home care coordination from Options for Community Living, Mary regained custody of her son, committed to her recovery, and built a strong foundation for her future. Today, she celebrates two years of sobriety, attends therapy and support groups regularly, and continues to grow as a parent and individual.

When the time came to find permanent housing, the Options partnership once again made a difference. Bethany House identified a safe apartment, Options provided a housing subsidy and moving support, and community partners helped furnish their new home. Today, Mary and her son are thriving in stable housing—continuing to receive support, building independence, and looking ahead to a bright future. Inspired by her journey, Mary is now pursuing a Peer Advocacy Course to help others find hope, just as she did.



FY25 Financial Summary

The following is an overview of Bethany House's income and expenses for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.

Total Support & Revenue:	$3,037,287
Program Expenses:	$2,057,608
Management & General Expenses:	$ 449,652
Fundraising Expenses:	$ 53,451
Total Expenses:	$2,560,711
Total Assets:	$4,911,452
Total Liabilities:	$ 141,210
Ending Net Assets:	$4,770,242

Bethany House of Nassau County Corporation is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Board of Directors

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Bethany House

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