



ECHO

February 2021

News from Bethany Children's Home

Bethany answers: What is Love?

We show love to the youth who call Bethany home. We work to make them feel safe, secure and cared for, sometimes for the first time.

We listen, we support, we guide. That is love.

We asked our team members to share what love is to them.

“Love is a combination of trust, integrity, loyalty, kindness, healthy boundaries and forgiveness,” said Rebecca Yearby-Bean, Cottage Support team.

“Love is unconditional, listening and overcoming,” wrote Melanie Zeiber, Compliance Specialist. **“Building trust and understanding and accepting a person for who they are, not what they do! Love protects and guides. Watch love grow!”**



“Love is accepting people for who they are,” said Kindall Wann, security team.

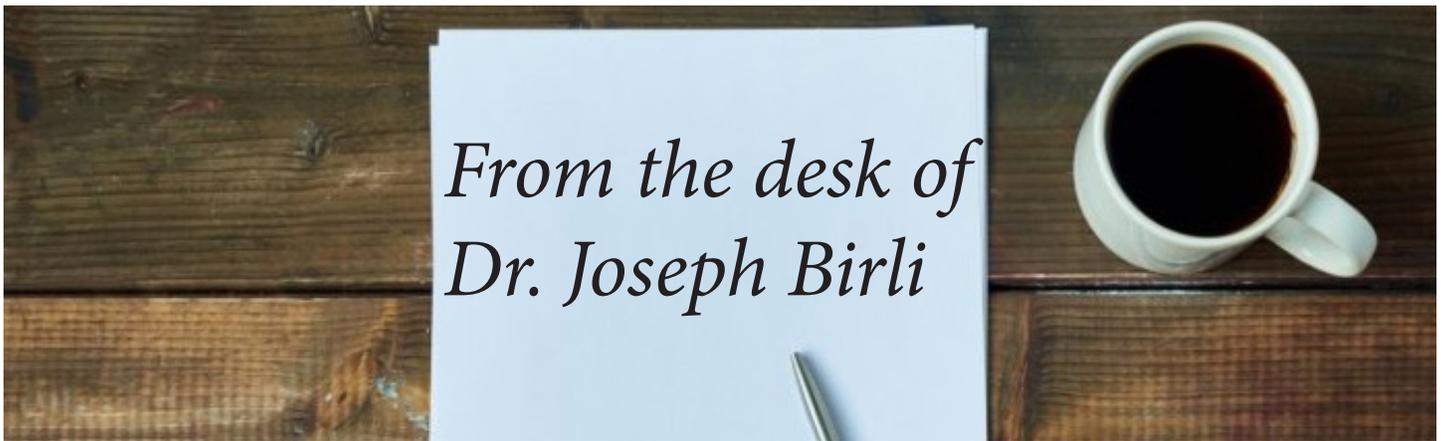
“Love to me is a decision,” said Noralva Aguilera, Helping Hands teacher. **“We make a conscious decision to care for those around us even when our feelings do not agree because we get angry with the imperfections that exist. We are human so we are perfectly imperfect.”**



“Love comes in many forms but for me, love means unconditional compassion,” said Beth Buser, Cottage Support team. **“Sometimes the tiniest expression of compassion can make a person's life change.”**

“When my heart, mind and soul are in total euphoria over a person, place or thing, I can feel a true love,” said Tony Brochu, Director of Food Service.

Visit our website for news and updates!
www.bethanyhome.org



The danger of taking love for granted

Have you ever loved so much that you have felt the aching pain in your heart when the object of that love is not in your presence?

I am often surprised by how many people take for granted the expression of love, giving love and receiving love. “Oh, they know I love them” or “my actions show my love for them” tend to be common statements among those uncomfortable to make the declaration and expression of love. If you are one of those people fortunate to be a giver and recipient of love, you may also identify with the concept of taking that love for granted, forgetting to appreciate the value of that love and cherishing it as a treasure.

It is not usually until we are without that love that we recognize we have taken it for granted. The love I speak of may be the love for a parent, child, friend or significant other. For many of the young people who come to Bethany, they are all too familiar with a fractured love far beyond that of most people who have lived a lifetime. They fear allowing themselves to be vulnerable to feel love again, particularly for those they have trusted who contributed to their wounds and the need for Bethany services.

Having the opportunity to observe the healing of a youth who allows for vulnerability to be cared for and receive an unconditional love for humanity as Bethany Team Members exhibit every day, it is an honor to serve with those making such a healthy love

contribution to the lives of those youth.

From the day a youth arrives at Bethany, feeling confused, hurt and unloved, to the day they move onto their next life adventure, we are responsible to bring restoration, hope and healing so that they may encounter the value of love again.

Take a moment, not just when love is in the air, to express appreciation to those who love us. The aching hurt we feel in our heart when that love is absent is intended to be a reminder of the love we have in our lives.

Cherish it, treasure it, protect it and appreciate it.



Dr. Joseph T. Birli

Keep up with Bethany on social media

Meet our team members, get the latest updates and see pictures of our events!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethanyhome1863/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bch_1863/





BCH is now accredited by The Joint Commission

Bethany Children's Home has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Behavioral Health Care and Human Services Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

Bethany Children's Home underwent a rigorous review in September. During the review that spanned several days, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with Behavioral Health Care and Human Services standards spanning several areas including emergency management, environment of care, infection prevention and control, and medication management, among others.

"It has been a true honor and privilege to embrace this momentous journey with the entire Bethany Children's Home Team that marks this historical achievement of obtaining Joint Commission Accreditation, said Dr. Joseph Birli, Bethany Children's Home CEO. "I could not be more proud of the exceptional, collaborative and cohesive Team Members that brought this accomplishment to fruition.

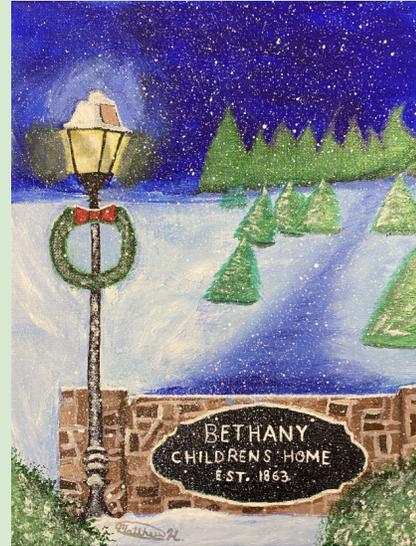
"In the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, the passion, resiliency and perseverance was never more evident than the months leading up to the Bethany Team's 4-day virtual inspection survey that ranked as one of the top 5 best organizations to be reviewed, according to Mr. Kevin Feisel, Joint Commission Inspector."

Our holiday card had a late start!

For all our planning and preparedness, we did not anticipate the woes experienced by the post office this past holiday season.

Our card was sent to the post office in early December, but many of you told us it only arrived in January!

We are doubly dismayed because the cover was designed by an incredibly talented youth, Matthew. Below is the cover of this year's holiday card.



The Development Department has moved!

The Development Department has moved from Smith Lodge to the Administration Building. The Archives remain at Smith Lodge.

If you would like to speak with someone in Development regarding donations, tours or more, contact us!

Carolyn Spano

Director of Development
610-589-6828
cspano@bethanyhome.org

Dana L. Hoffman

Marketing & Events Specialist
610-589-6826
dhoffman@bethanyhome.org



THANK YOU for making Christmas special for Bethany youth!

Christmas looked a little different for all of us.

This year, Christmas Land was held at the Gatehouse, and donations were scheduled to keep people safe and socially distanced.

Bethany youth had a wonderful holiday thanks to many generous donors and partners!

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas this year!

Advent Lutheran Church
Mr. Walter Alsegg
American Legion Post 880 Home
Association
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Gene Aulenbach
Beacon of Life Chiropractic
Ms. Anita Bixler
Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Bloss
Bob and Donna Rhoads Fund
Mr. and Mrs. David Bossard
Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn E. Brubaker
Mr. Randall W. Chapman II
Church of the Good Shepherd UCC
Ms. Melissa Clemmer
Community Evangelical Church
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Davidheiser
Ms. Mickey Delong
Ms. Jenna Derr
Ms. Barbara Dietrich
Dreisbach UCC
E.J. Breneman LLC
Emmanuel UCC
Falkner Swamp Reformed UCC
Fanatics
Mr. Steven Finkel
First UCC
Fisher Financial Associates Inc.
Ms. Pauline Follmer
Friedens UCC
Gap Factory Outlet
Good Shepherd UCC (Tuckerton)
Ms. Patricia Green
Gulph UCC
Ms. Marilee Hauck
Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Jennifer
Heilenman

Himmel's Church
Ideal Concepts
Ms. Kristi Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Klinger
Mrs. Jennifer M. Koch
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Kramer
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Kranyecz
Lancaster Catholic High School
Ms. Heather Lanshe
Ms. Lynette Lutz
Mrs. Susan S. McCartney
Ms. Lewann Neifert
New Goshenhoppen Sunday School
Old Zionsville UCC
Olivet Schwenkfelder UCC
One UCC
Ms. Judy Oulouhojian
Mr. and Mrs. John Patterson
Penske Truck Leasing Co.
Pleasantville UCC
Reformed Church of the Ascension
Ridge Valley UCC
Roehling Medical Lancaster
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rogers
Ms. Zellamae Ryner
Salem UCC
Salem UCC Spangsville
Mr. and Mrs. Gene M. Schlegel
Ms. Katie Seibert
June Seibert
Ms. Jennifer Smeed
Mrs. Sue E. Snyder
Solomon's UCC
St. Andrew's UCC
St. James UCC
St. John's (Hains) UCC

St. John's Hill UCC Women's Guild
St. John's Kimmel's Church
St. John's UCC
St. Luke's UCC
St. Luke's UCC Adult Sunday School
Class
St. Mark's UCC
St. Matthew's UCC
St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
Women's Guild
St. Paul's UCC
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
St. Peter's Pikeland UCC
St. Peter's Tohickon UCC
St. Peter's UCC
St. Peter's UCC (Molltown)
St. Peter's UCC of Orwin
St. Stephen's UCC
StoneRidge Retirement Community
StoneRidge Poplar Run Residents
Association
Mr. Kenneth J. Swart
Ms. Linda Szortyka
The Bridge of Hope Church
The Real Church 516
Tompkins VIST Bank
Trinity Reformed UCC
Trinity Tulpehocken UCC
Mr. Freddy Vasquez
Mr. and Mrs. Irvin I. Weinreich
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Werner
Ms. Paula Wilkie
Wyomissing UCC
Zion Church Lewistown Valley
Zion's (Snyders) UCC
Zwingli UCC

VOLUNTEERS

Ssg. Herb Beaver
Mary Bossard
Sfc. Derek Bucher
Barb Dietrich
Dawn Dietrich
Eve Dietrich

Ssg. Aswad Jones
Lynette Lutz
Kirstin & John Patterson
Paige Spano
Sue Snyder

** Please forgive any omissions
or mistakes with our reporting.*

Thank You!

Christmas at Bethany



Members of Pleasantville UCC in Chalfonte created very thoughtful goodie boxes for each youth!



Programming's Morgan Omlor plays elf to CEO Dr. Birli's Santa as he prepares to deliver gifts to cottages.



Christmas Land volunteers were a huge help with wrapping gifts!



Thanks to Salem UCC, Doylestown, each youth received gifts from their wish lists.



Fisher Financial Associates brought a caravan of cars full of donations for our youth and cottages.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Do you know anyone who is looking for employment and who would be a great fit at Bethany? We are looking for caring, self-motivated team members to help youth along their healing journey.

We have multiple needs for Direct Support Professionals working 2nd and 3rd shifts, where they are expected to provide the children with proper physical care, and assist with activities of daily living when necessary.

We have other openings as well; the latest available positions are listed at bethanyhome.org/employment.

Applicants can text BETHANY to 57682 to apply!

Spread the Word!

We love to chat with people about Bethany's history and mission.

We are available to present Mission Moments to churches, community groups and other organizations!

Throughout the pandemic, we have spoken with groups and church congregations via video or Zoom calls as well as in-person visits.

If you would like us to speak with your church or organization, contact the Development Department:

Carolyn Spano
Director of Development
610-589-6828
cspano@bethanyhome.org

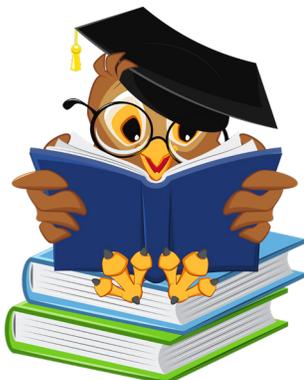
MISSION MOMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

Several youth have earned academic honors for the most recent marking period!

Five youth earned High Honor Roll, three earned Honor Roll, and one youth earned a place on the Principal's List!

We are so proud of them and their achievements!



Several youth, with guidance from art instructor Linda Aragon, sketched and painted this amazing mural on a wall in the Henning Center.

Getting **CREATIVE** at Bethany

To celebrate the artistic ability of Bethany youth, we planned an exhibit before the holidays spotlighting paintings, pottery and other artwork they've created.

The pandemic had other plans. We created a virtual art show, with art instructor Linda Aragon hosting as she introduced the artwork and several youth artists.

You can still view the virtual art show on **bethanyhome.org**. Most of the art, as well as sets of note cards featuring some of the paintings, are available for purchase!

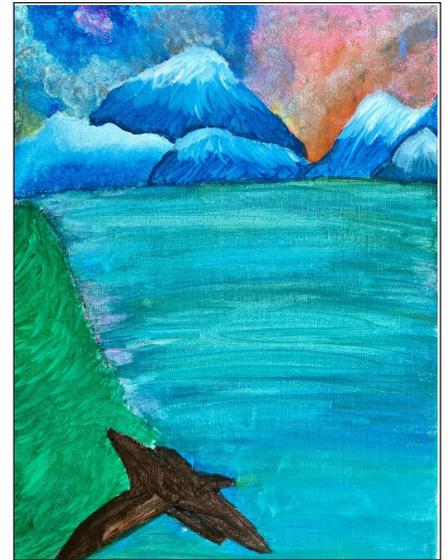
Below are some of the paintings in the art show.



Purpleish, Jasmine C.



Floating thoughts, Jahlexys B.



The Colorful Lake, Rotrica W.



Overcoming, Jahlexys B.

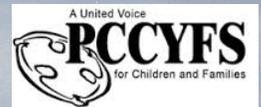


Aroma Flower, Calan S.

Blue Lagoon, Cash A.



1863 Bethany Road
Womelsdorf, PA 19567
bethanyhome.org
610-589-4501
RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



ABOUT BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME

FOUNDED IN 1863, Bethany Children's Home has provided a safe place of nurture, protection and supportive care to aid youth in their own self awareness, growth and healing for a brighter, healthier future.

Every day, youth who have been abused, neglected or abandoned are taking back their lives with the help of Bethany.

Services: Spiritual services, art & recreation, Safe Spaces, anger management, social services and more are provided to every youth at Bethany.

Programs: Bethany offers individualized programs for youth who for whatever reason cannot live with their family or a substitute family. From emergency services to longer term Residential Treatment programs, Bethany supports youth while they heal and prepare for the next steps of their journey.



A Simple Gift

through your will or estate will help us with what we do today and far into the future.

It's a simple gift that costs nothing during your lifetime.

To learn more about Bethany's planned giving program, please call 610-589-6828 or visit bethanyhome.org.

EITC

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

Bethany Children's Home is an approved EITC organization. Education Improvement Tax Credit funds are used to enhance the academic support and enrichment programs provided at Bethany.

Funds from EITC benefit education remediation for youth served at Bethany. The program focuses on a balance of individualized services and group learning based on academic and educational needs.

To find out how to support Bethany through the EITC program, go to bethanyhome.org/get-involved/eitc or call 610-589-6828.