

BETHANY HOUSE
Eliminating Domestic Violence One Family at a Time



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Annual Report

FY 2007-2008

I was naked, and you gave me clothing.
I was sick, and you cared for me.
I was in prison, and you visited me.
Matthew 25:36



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2007-2008

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER

**November 17, 2008
7:00 – 9:30 PM**

Geranio Ristorante
722 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22309

Prayer & Welcome – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer

Gathering for Fellowship and Annual Buffet Dinner

Meeting Part I: Annual Membership Meeting

- ❖ *Call to Order – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer*
- ❖ *Scripture Reading – Gail Smith*
- ❖ *Roll Call & Quorum for the Concerned Group – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer*
- ❖ *Nomination & Vote for New Members of Concerned Group*
- ❖ *Presentation of Board Members to Serve for 2008-2009*
- ❖ *Motion to Accept Members for 2008-2009*
- ❖ *Reading & Approval of the Minutes – Peggy Fisher*
- ❖ *Treasurer's Report – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer*
- ❖ *Executive Director's Report – Catherine Hassinger*
- ❖ *Family Assistance Program – Florene Price*
- ❖ *IT & Data – Jenny Chavez*
- ❖ *Joseph's Coat – DeAnn Duvall*
- ❖ *Motion to Adjourn – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer*



Meeting Part II: Meeting of the Board of Directors

- ❖ *Call to Order – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer*
- ❖ *Roll Call & Quorum – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer*
- ❖ *Reading & Approval of the Minutes – Peggy Fisher*
- ❖ *Vote for the Appointment of Officers 2008 – 2009*
 - Board President Richard Hannibal
 - Vice President Ken Fisher
 - Secretary Peggy Fisher
 - Treasurer Chris Moran
- ❖ *Old Business*
- ❖ *New Business*
- ❖ *Motion to Adjourn – Richard Hannibal, Treasurer*



Board of Directors 2008-2009

Richard Hannibal, President

Ken Fisher, Vice President

Christian Moran , Treasurer

Peggy Fisher, Secretary

Lisa Tychsen

and

Doris Ward, Founder



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CONCERNED GROUP MEMBERS

Lisa Hannibal

Andrea Kane

Dan LeMay

Esperanza LeMay

Diane Ridenour

Rick Ridenour

Fred Sheap

Joyce Sheap

Lee Smith

NOMINATIONS FOR THE CONCERNED GROUP

Paul Kane

Gail Smith



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BETHANY HOUSE STAFF

MAIN OFFICE :

Catherine Hassinger
Jenny Chavez
Naomi Collins
Jennifer Wassermann
Florene Price
Amleset Gebre
Carmen Wilmore
Nadia Fraga, MSW
Tamica Wakefield

Executive Director
Asst. Manager, Finance and Data Mgmt
Development Associate
Development Associate
Family Assistance Program Manager
Case Worker
Hotline & Lifeskills Coordinator
Independent Living Coordinator
Administrative Assistant

SHELTER MANAGERS

Lacette Cross
Silvia Guevara

Manager Shelter #1
Manager Shelter #4

JOSEPH'S COAT

DeAnn DuVall
Christina Kunz
Rhea Nell Knowles
Justin Domingue
Haideri Hanifa
Mary Robinson
Muny Sok
Amy Truong
Walter Brownlee

Volunteer Director
Manager
Assistant Manager
Floor Assistant
Floor Assistant (PT)
Floor Assistant (PT)
Floor Assistant
Floor Assistant (PT)
Driver (PT)

VOLUNTEERS

Ann Johnson
Susan Kral
Katherine Rizzardi
Judy Evans

Administrative Assistant
Hotline & Volunteer Coordinator
Joseph's Coat Volunteer
Joseph's Coat Volunteer

INTERNS FOR FALL 2008

Becky Beane
Adelle Ritchey

Jennifer Wilson

Marymount University, Counseling
Loyola College in Maryland,
Counseling
George Mason University, Social Work



Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc.:
Mission & Goals

Mission: To maintain facilities which will care temporarily for battered spouses and their children, who are homeless and destitute because of abuse.

Fiscal year 2007-2008 was a year of transition for Bethany House. Among the more significant changes were the additions of several key staff. The agency began the year under the leadership of a new Executive Director, Catherine Hassinger. Florene Price joined Bethany House in March 2008 as the Manager of the Family Assistance Program, filling the vacancy left by Sharleen Andrews, MSW, Director of Outreach and Interim Executive Director. Lacette Cross joined Bethany House in June 2008 as House Manager, taking over for Jan Lazer.

On the Board of Directors, Bethany House welcomed Ken and Peggy Fisher. Ken and Peggy were committed members of the Concerned Group for a number of years. This past spring, they made the decision to participate as Directors, and the Board is excited to receive their energy and experience in the coming years.

Grants and Fundraising

Bethany House set out to put renewed emphasis and organization on its fundraising and grantwriting efforts. Two major goals were the submission of large grants to previous funders and the expansion of its grant sources. Keith Kroell, grantwriting consultant, continued to provide assistance and expertise long-distance from Nicosia, Cyprus. Of greatest significance was the application to the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, for which Bethany House was approved in full for two years, receiving \$128,975 in FY 08-09 and \$132,237 in FY 09-10 (tentative). Bethany House also received a grant from the VA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for \$31,778. The DHCD provided Bethany House with another \$5,282 at the end of the year out of its surplus funds.

Having managed our in-kind database for a couple of years, Naomi Collins expanded her position to include fundraising and community outreach. Her efforts yielded a new relationship with Blue Tulip, a retail store, that donated a portion of their sales to Bethany House. Peachtree Apartments, a large apartment complex in Falls Church, collected Christmas items for our clients along with food and other needed pantry items. Naomi also organized our first Open House to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and participated in legislative advocacy days in Richmond, VA, on behalf of victims of domestic violence and childcare.

Knock Out Abuse again selected Bethany House as a recipient of its fundraising efforts, and awarded the agency \$100,000.



Client Events

Along with the “routine” support of our clients, Bethany House also celebrated several special events with our families. We kicked off the year in September with the 2nd International Foodfest, a multicultural event that allows clients to share their native culture and cuisines with each other. As the holidays approached, we joined with area churches, community groups, and business to assist our families. With Lockheed Martin, we provided Thanksgiving meals to 20 families. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church again hosted us for a generous Thanksgiving meal in which more than 30 families participated. Through the Christmas season, we opened up our Christmas Shop to shelter clients and those participating in our after-care program, and gave gifts to 33 families. Our Christmas party was a reunion for 26 families.

May provided an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of women with our Women’s Day event. Over 25 women, both mothers and single women, came together to hear inspirational talks, music, and simply catch up with each other. Beautiful weather in June greeted us for our annual picnic, co-hosted by NOVACO.

Community Outreach and Support

We experienced tremendous community support in 2008 to help maintain our shelters. Bethany House was selected by Rebuilding Together Day (formerly known as Christmas in April) as a recipient of its volunteer efforts. On April 26, approximately 100 volunteers converged on two of our shelters to paint, caulk, hammer and provide minor repairs to the homes. Hands On Housing, a volunteer workgroup from Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown also adopted Bethany House. Hands On Housing provided unskilled and skilled labor from May through August to complete the painting, install light fixtures, sand and stain an outdoor children’s playset, and myriad other tasks. And finally, the youth group from Northwest Baptist Church in Indiana visited us in July and reset the walkway around our large shelter, built a secure garbage can storage unit, stained and installed outdoor carpeting on the deck to create a safe (splinter-free) children’s play area, and repainted the gazebo. We are extremely grateful to all three groups for the assistance they provided in maintaining the shelters, not only for the cost savings but, more importantly, because they contributed to our clients feeling welcome and at home while they stayed with us.

Data Management

Since the Alice System implementation in June 2007, Bethany House has made outstanding progress ensuring an efficient and reliable process in managing client information.

As of October 2008, 388 hotline calls have been documented on the Alice System. This has allowed us to improve our client screening process, thereby helping us to identify the appropriate services and referrals to better assist our clients.



The Alice System now stores the records of clients served in the Shelters and Independent Living Program since 2006. The System's latest statistics show that 103 adults and 70 children's records have been entered. In addition, case workers are able to keep records of their interaction with clients. This record log allows them to document their clients' progress and case management. All this information is consolidated in a database created through the Alice System, which also offers features that make our reporting system efficient and accurate.

These changes have increased the amount of data saved in our system and users with access to our network. Our information system functions through a small local area network (LAN) with twelve work stations and a computer as the dedicated server. Bethany House's goal is to continue its progress towards a reliable and secure information system. In the near future, we anticipate the need to transition into a system with greater capacity and more secure features.

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

As we look ahead to the coming fiscal year, we have already seen several significant changes that promise an exciting and productive year. The agency has already welcomed another new board member, Christian Moran, and accepted the resignations of Paul Kane, President, Nabila Sarwar and Gail Smith. The Board has a busy schedule ahead with efforts already underway to put into place a Strategic Plan that will help guide the agency over the coming 3-5 years. Additionally, the Board is reviewing the agency's Bylaws and updating its Personnel Handbook. Finally, the Board is accepting proposals to update the Bethany House logo, spearheaded by Doris Ward, Founder and Director.

Within the agency, long-time Director of Finance & Administration, Mahmood Belal, left in October, and Bethany House moved its accounting and payroll functions to outsourced accounts. Halt, Buzas and Powell, LTD will manage the accounting functions, and Paychex will administer the payroll functions.

Jennifer Wassermann joined Bethany House in July as our second Development Associate. Jennifer will focus her efforts on grantwriting and volunteer development while Naomi continues to develop community and church relationships.



Family Assistance Program

Bethany House serves a critical need in Northern Virginia communities. Our mission is to reach out to the most vulnerable members of our community, and we do so through our shelter program and our Hotline. However, FY 2007-2008 proved to be a challenging year for two notable reasons: the scarcity of transitional housing in Fairfax County and the types of clients the agency serves.

Bethany House anticipated serving 285 families during the year (285 adults and 265 children), similar to years past. The actual number of clients served was 265 families (265 adults and 310 children). A factor in the decreased number of families was due to the inability to move families out of the shelter at the expected rate. Simply put, the agency retained clients in our shelters for longer-than-normal stays. As a result, we had generally full shelters, but were not able to house as many families as in the past.

The transitional housing market in Fairfax County was extremely tight during late 2007 through mid-2008. Clients who had completed their length of stay with Bethany House found they had nowhere to go due to the absence of transitional housing. A lack of affordable housing in Northern Virginia compounded the problem. As a result, Bethany House maintained families for extended periods until transitional housing opened up. Some shelter stays ended up being as long as 11 months—far beyond the scheduled 4-6 month residency. The consequence to these extended stays was that Bethany House was not able to welcome new families into its shelters.

Additionally, one of the characteristics of Bethany House is our open door policy to all victims of abuse. Traditional shelters adopt definitions of abuse that are limited to victims traumatized by an intimate partner. Victims who do not fit that classic definition, like the elderly or other dependent family members, are excluded from traditional domestic violence services. Bethany House was the only domestic violence service provider in our jurisdiction that helped these non-traditional victims of abuse.

Bethany House's compassionate response to all victims builds better communities by diminishing calls to the police and reducing visits to emergency rooms, disruptions in children's schooling, and long-term dependence on local social service programs.

Despite the longer-than-average stays, Bethany House was pleased to provide housing and support to 33 families (33 adults and 44 children). These families received individualized care that included case management, life skills, individual and group counseling, and financial support. Two families received donated cars.

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The following factors contributed to Bethany House's success over the past year:

1. Flexibility within shelter guidelines that allows the agency to adjust time in the shelter according to client needs as opposed to strict time limits; this allows Bethany House to provide compassionate assistance to clients with immigration issues as well as other mitigating concerns, such as mental health or disability, until longer-term housing can be found. This policy prevents vulnerable clients from returning to abusive homes or ending up among the general homeless population.
2. Committed volunteer base which assists with the Hotline, office work, client care, and specialized services and support.
3. The capacity to serve large families who wish to continue living in cohesive family units.
4. Counseling for parents and children to overcome the trauma of abuse.
5. ESL and job skills training that prepare recently arrived immigrants for gainful employment in a competitive marketplace. A concerted effort is made to place clients in gainful employment within 30 days of their arrival.

Highlights of FY 2007-2008

- Renewed emphasis on client-written Individual Service Plans, which incorporates the basic building blocks toward independent living as well as unique client goals.
- Staff engagement in professional development training, helping to strengthen our commitment and ability to help clients achieve their goals.
- Continued refinement and evaluation of our 2-year after-care program to better serve clients once they leave the shelters.
- Implementation of the Alice database, enabling staff to more efficiently record and evaluate client information.



Joseph's Coat Thrift Store

Joseph's Coat Thrift Store was organized in 1993 by Doris Ward as a way to provide basic necessities and funds to underserved women and children. It began as a "yard sale" type business 15 years ago and has evolved into a successful, thriving thrift store which creates revenue to support the women and children in the Family Assistance Program.

The primary objective of Joseph's Coat is to serve as a facility which receives and re-sells donated goods to the general public. The money from sales generates income for use by Bethany House to assist the work in our shelters and after-care programs.

The far-reaching goals and accomplishments of Joseph's Coat are numerous. Some of them are:

- To provide much needed clothing, household items, furniture, etc. free-of-charge to Bethany House women and their families. Many times women are forced to leave these items behind when they leave abusive environments. Through their donations, the Thrift Store helps our clients rebuild homes and lives.
- To provide a Christmas Shop for Bethany House clients during the holiday season in order for them to provide gifts for themselves and their families.
- To provide job-training and experience to women who are transitioning into the work place. They can participate in a safe and nurturing environment with emotional support and encouragement as they learn basic job skills and the value of being a "member of the team." Their participation in the store's operation provides an excellent opportunity for their overall personal growth, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- To provide a work site that facilitates various "out-reach" programs for, e.g.,
 - People who are required to provide community service hours by county officials.
 - People from the Disabled Community, who volunteer their time in exchange for job skill experience and personal growth opportunities.

In general, Joseph's Coat Thrift Store is a successful retail business that has far exceeded its original goals and expectations. It continues to thrive and serve its community on many meaningful and important levels.



Statement of Faith

In 2007, the Board of Directors and staff of Bethany House wrote a Statement of Faith as a Christian witness to the women and children who come to us for help.

“I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.” Matthew 25:36 (NLT)

Bethany House of Northern Virginia is a Christian ministry that provides housing and care for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. As revealed by God through His Sacred Word, we believe these statements to be true of every man, woman and child who enters through our doors.

We affirm that all human persons are:

Worthy of LOVE.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7 (NIV)

Worthy of HOPE.

“But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.” Psalm 9:18 (NIV)

Worthy of DIGNITY.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Worthy of CARE.

“He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.” Luke 10:34-36 (NIV)

Worthy of MERCY.

“But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.” Nehemiah 9:31 (NIV)

We believe that all human persons:

Are EQUAL in the eyes of God.

“So God created man in His own image . . . male and female He created them. And God blessed them . . .” Genesis 1:27-28 (RSV)

Have a Godly PURPOSE.

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” Jer.29:11 (NIV)

Receive HEALING through God.

“He restores my soul.” Psalm 23:3a (NIV)

May turn to God for SAFETY.

“The poorest of the poor will find pasture, and the needy will lie down in safety.” Isaiah 14:30 (NIV)

Are PRECIOUS in His sight.

“I have summoned you by name; you are mine..you are precious and honored in my sight.” Isaiah 43:1 and 43:4 (NIV)



Client Demographics

Following is a summary of our client services over FY 2007-2008.

- 265 adults and 310 children received emergency and crisis intervention assistance through our hotline program.
- 44 intake interviews were made and 23 families entered the program.
- Only 8 head of households/adults were employed when they came to Bethany House.
- 20 shelter and 5 transitional living clients were in the program at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- 3 clients moved from shelter to the transitional living program
- 78 clients (44 children and 33 adults) received shelter and transitional living services.
- 28 adults and 24 children participated in life skills activities.
- 28 adults and 27 children received group counseling.
- 28 adults and 8 children received individual counseling.
- 6 clients were accepted in a transitional housing program.
- 13 households/clients (out of 26 exiting the program) moved to an unstable housing arrangement.
- 2 clients received assistance for driving lessons, only 1 completed.
- 2 donated vehicles were transferred to two clients; they also received assistance with insurance, registration and repairs.
- 4 clients received assistance for car repairs.

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Financial Statements

BETHANY HOUSE OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUMMARY
For the year ended June 30, 2008

Revenue:

Thrift Shop Revenue	414,962
Inkind Goods and Services	290,016
Grants	199,569
Fundraising	114,615
Donation	75,604
Churches/Clubs/Community Organizations	64,260
Other Income	556
Interest/Investment Income	19
Total Revenue	\$ 1,159,601

Expenses:

Program Services	970,918
Management & General	143,839
Fundraising	83,906
Total Expenses	\$ 1,198,663

Change in Net Assets	\$ (39,062)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 964,878
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 925,816

The Audit was completed October 20, 2008.

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Grants and Other Funds Received

Foundations

The Dr. Francis P. Chiaramonte Private Foundation	\$45,000
Washington Forrest Foundation	\$15,000
The Titmus Foundation	\$5,000
Amerigroup Charitable Foundation	\$1,500
Other Supports	<u>\$584</u>
	\$67,084

Non-Profit Grants

United Way / Combined Federal Campaign NCA	\$26,046
Freddie Mac Foundation	\$20,000
The Philip L. Graham Fund	\$2,500
Community Impact Fund—Fairfax/Falls Church	<u>\$9,400</u>
	\$57,946

Government Support

VA Dept. of Housing & Comm. Dev. Shelter Support	\$37,039
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Churches

General Support	\$49,335
Church Organizations	<u>\$4,550</u>
	\$53,885

Fundraising

Knock Out Abuse Foundation	\$100,000
Retail	\$995
In-house	<u>\$12,920</u>
	\$113,915

Clubs/Community Organizations

Clubs	\$6,613
Community Organizations	<u>\$3,761</u>
	\$10,374

Individuals

Individuals	\$54,417
Bequest—Ada & Albert Widel Foundation	<u>\$15,000</u>
	69,417