

**BETHANY HOUSE**  
*Eliminating Domestic Violence One Family at a Time*



**BETHANY HOUSE of  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA,  
INC.**

*Eliminating Domestic Violence One Family at a Time*

# **Annual Report**

## **FY 2012-2013**

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 2012-2013**

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**ANNUAL MEETING  
WELCOME & DINNER**

**November 11, 2013  
6:30 – 10:00 PM**

Richard Hannibal  
1727 Baldwin Drive  
McLean, VA 22101

*Prayer & Welcome – Ken Fisher, President*

*Gathering for Dinner and Fellowship*



**Board of Directors**  
**2013-2014**

**Martha Birdseye**

**Mae Cheung**

**Ken Fisher**

**Peggy Fisher**

**Margarite Gooden**

**Richard Hannibal**

**Pastor King Rhodes**

**and**

**Lisa Tychsen**

**BETHANY HOUSE STAFF**

**MAIN OFFICE**

<b>Catherine Hassinger, MS</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>
<b>Jasmin Witcher</b>	<b>Director of Development</b>
<b>Gayan Peart, MSW</b>	<b>Family Assistance Program Manager</b>
<b>Nina Acheampong</b>	<b>Senior Case Manager</b>
<b>Kristen Lucia, MSW</b>	<b>Case Manager</b>
<b>Rebecca Beane, MA</b>	<b>Counselor in Residence / Helpline Coordinator</b>
<b>Kerry Tousignant</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant/ Volunteer Coordinator</b>

**SHELTER MANAGERS**

<b>Michelle Kuhns</b>	<b>Manager Shelter #1</b>
<b>(vacant)</b>	<b>Manager Shelter #4</b>

**JOSEPH'S COAT THRIFT STORE**

<b>Rhea Nell Knowles</b>	<b>Manager</b>
<b>Matthew Jefferson</b>	<b>Team Leader</b>
<b>Amy Truong</b>	<b>Floor Assistant</b>

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

*Mission:*

To help women and their children who have suffered from domestic violence regain health and dignity and become re-established in their community by providing temporary housing and support.

Fiscal year 2012-2013 saw significant change to the organizational structure of BHNV. The agency bade farewell to the Concerned Group, an advisory group that voted to disband itself in the winter of 2013. This led to updates to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws, which redefined the governance of the agency solely to the Board of Directors. After moving to Annandale in April 2012, Joseph's Coat continued to suffer from poor sales. After a year in operation marked by struggling sales, the Board made the difficult decision to close Joseph's Coat Thrift Store. The store officially closed in August 2013 after several weeks of clearance sales. This marked the end of 19 years of support from the thrift store, including financial revenues, tangible goods and a job training program for BHNV clients.

Additionally, Rich Hannibal stepped down as Board President after four years. Ken Fisher was voted into the office of President, and Rich accepted the Treasurer's office. Mae Cheung was elected as the new Vice President, and Peggy Fisher agreed to remain as Secretary. The Board also welcomed a new Board member, Marguarite Gooden, who joined the Board in February 2013.

BHNV actually began FY 12-13 in crisis mode. Severe weather systems in the summer and fall reminded us how thankful we are for modern technologies. The derecho wind storm that hit the DC metro area on June 29, 2012 knocked the power out in the shelters and Joseph's Coat Thrift Store—in the midst of sweltering heat. While the storm blew through on June 29, the power outage carried over into the new fiscal year. As such, BHNV welcomed in FY 12-13 with bags of ice to preserve as much food as possible, charcoal to grill perishable food and gratitude that the damage was not more severe. Later that year, Hurricane Sandy threatened the DC metro area, but little more was felt than heavy rains. The BHNV office remained closed for two days, but there was no long-term or significant damage to any of BHNV's facilities or programs.

Among BHNV's five service areas, outreach to the community is critical but often secondary to our main focus to provide emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence. Outreach, however, was very much front-and-center during the past year. Cathy Hassinger, Executive Director, serves as Co-Chair of the Fairfax County DV Network's Training Committee, and BHNV was an organizer and presenter at the new

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certificate program in domestic violence offered in Fairfax County. The training, titled “DV Tier One,” is a 20-hour, 3-day class for agency staff, volunteers and others interested in working with victims of domestic violence. The first series was held in fall of 2012 followed by subsequent sessions in winter 2013 and summer 2013. The training will remain ongoing with three sessions offered annually.

As a member of the Faith Communities in Action Domestic Violence Prevention Taskforce, BHNV also participated in county-wide training to members of the faith community. The clergy training organizes various faith-based agencies and government programs to present on domestic violence to members of clergy and lay ministers and provide practical tips on working with members of their congregations who may disclose that domestic violence or family violence is occurring in their home.

BHNV was also invited to speak at a presentation on domestic and family violence to staff within the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. The presentation to employees at Catholic daycare centers and schools provided a perspective on domestic violence from the effects it has on children. Finally, BHNV joined a panel of speakers who trained members of the United Methodist Women on domestic violence.

In a nod to BHNV’s Family Assistance Program, the Family and Children’s Trust Fund of Virginia (FACT) contacted BHNV to provide a speaker for their first-ever fundraiser. FACT is a statewide agency governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor with a mission to raise funds for family violence programs. BHNV presented to their Board of Trustees in December 2012. Following that presentation, FACT requested a former client of BHNV speak about her experiences at their inaugural fundraiser in April 2013.



In May, BHNV celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden of Light fundraiser. The event raised over \$13,000, including \$3,300 in sponsorships and \$6,140 from the silent auction. The event included a moving presentation by a former client, live music by Crys Matthews, and a silent auction with more than 70 packages to bid on. The 96 attendees enjoyed a delicious meal in beautiful spring weather. The event was supported by a volunteer Fundraising Committee managed by Jasmin Witcher, Development Manager.

## **Community Outreach and Support**

Community support is critical to BHNV's efforts to assist victims of domestic violence. Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October provides a perfect opportunity to engage the community in the fight to end domestic and family violence. In October 2012, BHNV exhibited its clothesline display at George Mason Regional Library. These t-shirts are decorated by women living in the BHNV shelters and allow the clients to use art and imagination to reflect on their experiences of violence. The t-shirts are often quite powerful in the echoes of past abuse and the women's hopes that the violence in their lives has ended.



In the media, BHNV was invited by ABC 7 to participate in a brief story on homelessness. The broadcast reflected the ongoing challenges of serving vulnerable populations despite the economic recovery. Local Channel 10 also conducted a radio interview specifically on BHNV and domestic violence.

Our community partners continued to play an important role in both fundraising and direct services to clients. A new retail partner, Lou Lou, held a one-day Shop to Give event on August 4. Lou Lou donated a portion of sales for that day and ultimately raised over \$4,100 for BHNV. BHNV also participated in Macy's Shop for a Cause on August 25. For the Macy's event, BHNV sold \$5 shopping passes and kept 100% of the proceeds from those sales—just over \$100 was raised. Metro Run Walk in Springfield also hosted two run/walk events in support of BHNV and donated \$936.

Locally, in October the Moms Club of Alexandria hosted another fun Harvest Party for the children in the shelters. The Club provides costumes, games, homemade treats, and, of course, candy! The kids have a great time dressing up, eating and collecting as much sugar as possible.



In December, BHNV was invited to present to the Community Action Advisory Board. This group is responsible for managing a portion of the CCFP (Consolidated Community Funding Pool) and selected BHNV as a recipient for FY 12-13 and 13-14 funds. At the meeting, they presented BHNV with a collection of children's coats, scarves and other winter accessories. Items were collected by CAAB members and Fairfax Fire and Rescue teams in partnership with Operation Warm.

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A great group of volunteers from Tri Sigma Sorority came out once again to help set up the Christmas Shop. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year they committed to organizing the Shop in preparation for the clients, and they do a fantastic job. A local vendor donated the space for the event with the invitation to return the next year.

The Connection Church stepped in to manage the Christmas Party while Truro Church donated bags of Christmas candy to the women

and children.

The number of donors to BHNV is tremendous, and it would be impossible to name them all. A couple of examples include the Project Night Night bags that provide new pajamas, a blanket and a toy for all children moving into the shelter. The intent is to reduce the fear of moving into a shelter and provide the child with something exciting to call their own.



Girls on the Run also put together welcome baskets for the children with a collection of toys and small arts and crafts.

## **Family Assistance Program**

Despite signs of an economic recovery, the challenge of finding housing for clients preparing to leave the Family Assistance Program (FAP) remained high in FY 12-13. The lack of affordable housing in Fairfax County has long been an issue in the County, and its ripple effects among the homeless population are all too familiar to BHNV families. Even clients that are stable, i.e., employed, struggle to find housing units that they can reasonably afford. As a result, BHNV clients have traditionally exited the FAP and moved into transitional housing programs. Once in the transitional housing program, clients sign up for housing vouchers which are generally issued within the two years they spend in the transitional housing programs. However, housing vouchers for low-income families are frozen, and no new vouchers will be available until 2015. This coupled with the lack of affordable housing means that existing clients in the housing programs are unable to exit on time—which means no new families can move in.

This backlog in transitional and permanent housing solutions for clients results in longer lengths of stay for BHNV clients and may result in fewer clients served. In FY 12-13, BHNV provided shelter to 42 families (42 women and 65 children) with an average length of stay of 79 days. When compared to two years ago in FY 10-11 when BHNV served 47 families with an average length of stay of 65 days, the consequences of a tight housing market have a very real impact on BHNV's outreach to vulnerable families. The freeze on housing vouchers through the next year will likely perpetuate the cycle, and BHNV will be challenged to find alternative solutions to helping women and children seeking safe shelters.

One response from BHNV over the past year was to increase its budget for emergency hotel stays from \$1,500 to more than \$9,500. While not ideal as a long-term strategy, both in terms of cost and family comfort, hotel placements do allow BHNV to offer refuge to families at imminent risk of harm even when space is not available in the shelter. Families placed in hotels continue to receive case management and services through the Family Assistance Program until more permanent placements can be found.

In a carryover from last year, the planned expansion of BHNV's oldest shelter, House 1, remained on hold throughout FY 12-13. Via a referral from HomeAid Northern Virginia, BHNV enlisted the help of an attorney to provide pro bono support for negotiations with the County, and the hope is that the necessary applications will meet with approval by the end of FY 13-14. HomeAid remains committed to helping BHNV with the renovation of the home, and everyone is eager to begin the actual construction. BHNV is using the time to continue fundraising for the Raise the Roof! capital campaign and hopes to have all funding in place by the time the building permits are issued.

**BETHANY HOUSE**  
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*BHNV Helpline*

At the start of the Great Recession in 2008, forecasts called for a greater number of individuals experiencing domestic and family violence due to increased financial tensions on already fragile families. This forecast was borne out in the increasing number of calls to BHNV's Helpline. Unfortunately, the number of calls to the Helpline continued to rise despite indications of economic recovery. In FY 12-13, total call volume reached 745 (557 unduplicated callers) which included 557 adults and 708 children. Call volume averaged 62 calls per month. This is a fairly dramatic increase from even one year ago when total calls equaled 576 (525 unduplicated callers). At the same time, while domestic violence shelters remained the greatest need overall, fewer clients sought emergency housing resources and requests for help were more evenly spread out among human services.

During FY 12-13, the average call length was 11.7 minutes, and 30.2% of adult clients and 17.8% of child clients were identified as being in danger. Among the reasons for the call, the top five requests for help were (callers may request more than one type of referral):

<u>Reason for Call</u>	<u># of Callers</u>	<u>% of Calls</u>
Domestic violence shelter	408	77.9%
Homeless shelter	161	30.7%
Legal assistance	39	7.4%
Support/talk	27	5.2%
Financial	26	5.0%

Helpline staff and volunteers made 733 total referrals to 557 callers (unduplicated). Referrals to BHNV, other domestic violence shelters, or homeless shelters remained the most requested assistance. Other common referrals included legal, financial, mental health/counseling, protection order, support group, safety planning, food, and maternity. Among the 469 callers requesting services, callers identified the following types of abuse (callers may have identified multiple types of abuse):

<u>Type of Abuse</u>	<u>% of Calls</u>
Verbal/emotional/psychological	84.8%
Physical	79.7%
Financial	18.9%
Rape/sexual	11.7%
Stalking	11.5%
Use or threat of weapons	9.5%
Destruction of property	9.5%
Confinement	6.6%
Attempted homicide or threat of homicide	0.9%
Other	2.3%

## **Joseph's Coat Thrift Shop**

Joseph's Coat Thrift Store began the year with a deficit and was simply not able to pull out of the deficit during FY 12-13. Donations were brisk, but sales did not keep pace with the expenses in the new location at 7219 Columbia Pike in downtown Annandale. The decision was reached by the end of the fiscal year to close the store.

A clearance sale was advertised beginning in June and lasting through July. Final sales of fixtures and other items were made during the first week of August, and the store closed for good on August 6, 2013. At the present time, there are no plans to seek new space for the store.

During the year, the staff of Joseph's Coat tried various ideas to boost revenue. These included subleasing a portion of the floor space to "Dr. PC Cell" and becoming a U-Haul vendor. The subtenant brought in modest income, but not enough to cover the deficit between revenue and expenses. The U-Haul venture ended abruptly as the zoning code for the property did not cover truck rentals. Nevertheless, staff persevered to the end and worked diligently to make the final days of Joseph's Coat as profitable as possible.



A tenant was found to move into the space, and an assignment of lease was signed in September 2014. The expectation is that the new tenant will be successful in the Columbia Pike location and will be able to take over the lease completely in two years. At that point, BHNV's lease obligations to the Columbia Pike store will terminate entirely.

## **Client Demographics**

Following is a summary of our client services over FY 2012-2013

- 557 unduplicated adults (745 total calls) and 708 children received emergency and crisis intervention assistance through the BHNV Helpline.
  - Compared to 525 unduplicated adults (576 total calls) and 681 children in FY 11-12.
  - Compared to 478 unduplicated adults (543 total calls) and 574 children in FY 10-11.
- 52 intake interviews were conducted and 33 households entered the program.
  - Compared to 35 intake interviews and 29 households in FY 11-12
  - Compared to 44 intake interviews and 38 households in FY 10-11.
  - Compared to 25 intake interviews and 19 households in FY 09-10.
- 107 clients (42 adults and 65 children) received emergency shelter.
  - Compared to 94 clients (39 adults and 55 children in FY 11-12.
  - Compared to 97 clients (47 adults and 50 children) in FY 10-11.
- 9 households were in the program at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- 9 heads of household were employed upon entry into the shelter; 27 adults were employed upon exit.
- 33 adults and 20 children participated in life skills activities.
- 36 adults and 7 children received group counseling.
- 29 adults and 6 children received individual counseling.
- 34 households exited the program during FY 12-13:
  - 19 households were accepted into a transitional housing program.
  - 6 households signed leases for permanent housing
  - 3 households moved in with family or friends
  - 2 households returned to the abuser
  - 3 households exited into unknown situations/other

**Financial Statements**

**BETHANY HOUSE OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUMMARY**  
For the year ended June 30, 2013

**Revenue:**

Thrift Shop Revenue	136,732
Contributions	230,364
Non-Government Grants	96,418
Government Grants	140,000
Inkind Goods and Services	74,498
Fundraisers	70,149
Newsletters	9,000
Other Income	2,686
Interest/Investment Income	17,894
Realized Gains/Losses	29,127
Unrealized Gains/Losses	(22,724)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 784,144</b>

**Expenses:**

Program Services	793,773
Management & General	57,481
Fundraising	95,593
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 946,847</b>

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<b>\$ 1,044,249</b>
Change in Net Assets	(162,703)
Net Assets at End of Year	<b>\$ 881,546</b>

The Audit was completed October 14, 2013.

**Grants and Other Funds Received**  
**FY 2012-2013**

**Foundations**

The Dr. Francis P. Chiaramonte Private Foundation .....	50,000
Washington Forrest Foundation .....	15,000
BJ's Charitable Foundation .....	10,000
John E Fowler Foundation .....	10,000
Corina Higginson Trust.....	5,000
Gannett Foundation .....	5,000
Philip L. Graham Fund .....	2,500
Titmus Foundation.....	2,500
Sally Beauty Holdings.....	2,000

**Non-Profit Grants**

Freddie Mac Foundation.....	65,000
United Way / Combined Federal Campaign.....	17,454
Shepherd's Gate .....	2,500

**Government Support**

Fairfax Consolidated Community Funding Pool .....	140,000
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<b>Churches</b> .....	52,001
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**Fundraising**

Knock Out Abuse Foundation .....	65,000
Garden of Light.....	13,540
Retail Fundraising .....	5,149

**Corporate**

L.T. Services, Inc.....	5,000
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<b>Clubs/Community Organizations</b> .....	3,687
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**Individuals**

Individuals .....	32,810
Newsletters .....	9,000
Direct Mail.....	7,775