



IMPACT REPORT 2023



"An ecumenical nonprofit providing hope and housing to local children and families."



133 S. Franklin Street - Whitewater, WI 53190

262.473.2715 - www.bethelhouseinc.org

Our Organization

MISSION

To prevent homelessness for children and families in the greater Whitewater area through transitional housing, emergency assistance, and case management services.

VISION

Bethel House believes in a community where all families have access to safe and stable housing.



Jessie Dugan
Board Chair

“Last year marked a significant period of transition and success for Bethel House. One of the pivotal successes was hiring a new full-time case manager who brought a fresh perspective and dedication to our mission. Additionally, the appointment of an incredible executive director infused our organization with renewed vigor and vision for continued growth and impact as we celebrate 30 years of service in the Whitewater community. Despite successes, meeting increased demand for affordable housing for families when they leave our program continues to be a challenge, along with ongoing and resource constraints. Fundamentally, Bethel House remains a vital support system, offering emergency assistance, ongoing resources, and advocacy for those facing homelessness, striving for a community with equitable housing access.”

Board of Directors

Julie Caldwell
Amy Houwers
Kent Hutchins

Julie Letellier
Don Norman
Barb Penington

Harry Penington
Mary Rogers
Robin Sdano

Jenna Singer
Chelli Taylor
Jim Winship

Amy Zahn, Treasurer

Staff



Megan Hartwick
Executive Director
director.bethelhouse@gmail.com

“I’m honored to lead an organization that invests in critically foundational support for local families. I am equally humbled by the generous investments made in our mission by so many local supporters. Sydney and I are proud to do this work and serve families who need us.”



Sydney Johnson
Director of Case Management
casemanager.bethelhouse@gmail.com

In 1994, a family practice doctor in Whitewater discovered one of his patients, a single parent with two young children, had spent the winter living in a camper. Although working, she did not have the money for a security deposit or the first month’s rent for an apartment. His interest in finding a way to help led to the creation of Bethel House.

Throughout those 30 years, Bethel House has provided support to more than 1,000 local families.

Our Programs



Bethel House serves families with children under the age of 18 who are in their care at least 50% of the time. Families must live or work within the Whitewater Unified School District area and/or have a strong connection to the greater Whitewater community.

Emergency Assistance Program

- An application must be submitted online or in person at the Bethel House office.
- Applicants must provide documentation supporting the request (lease, utility bill, etc.).
- Support checks are mailed directly to vendors on a client's behalf.

Transitional Housing Program

- Applications must be completed in person during a scheduled appointment.
- All housed families MUST actively participate in our extensive case management program and sign a program agreement contract.
- Applications are kept on file and reviewed as vacancies become available.



Our Director of Case Management offers extensive support for ALL clients seeking help, including:

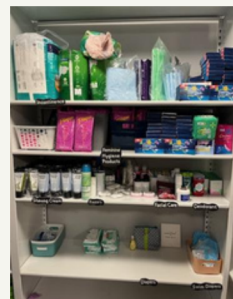
- Section 8 housing applications
- FoodShare/SNAP applications
- Childcare subsidies
- Government phones
- Food pantry connections
- BadgerCare/Medicaid
- FSET or W2 program
- Domestic/sexual abuse referrals
- Low-income housing referrals

Client Pantry

Bethel House operates a toiletry pantry in our office that is FREE for any community member to use as needed.

The pantry is stocked solely through local donations.

Spacesaver Corporation generously donated and installed all new shelving for our pantry!





2023 CLIENT IMPACT: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Our Transitional Housing program provides seven families with safe, stable housing and the opportunity to work on addressing the issues that led to their homelessness. All TH families must actively participate in an extensive case management program and are required to pay 30% of their monthly income into a savings account (which is returned to them when they leave our program). They are provided all the support they need to help them reach their goals and develop a level of financial stability before leaving our program.



In 2023, we housed a total of 20 adults and 29 children in our Transitional Housing program.



Those Transitional Housing families collectively saved \$9,821 in our savings account program.



Our Director of Case Management aided our housed families in working towards obtaining a GED, getting a driver's license, applying for FoodShare, setting up a bank account, applying for Section 8 housing, and much more.

Bethel House covers all utilities, maintenance & repairs for our seven homes, allowing the families to save as much as possible and pay down debts during their 12 months in our program.



The average monthly cost* of maintaining our seven properties in 2023 - 100% funded by LOCAL donations.

"Your program truly saved me and my kids, and for the first time in my life, someone helped me without judging me."

Transitional Housing Client

**does not include needed renovations, appliance replacements, etc.*

2023 CLIENT IMPACT: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE



Our Emergency Assistance program provides one-time financial support to help keep local children and families in their homes. Far too often in our community, families face eviction because they are \$300 behind on a rent payment or utility bill. Evictions are costly to families and communities, so Bethel House works to keep as many families housed as possible.



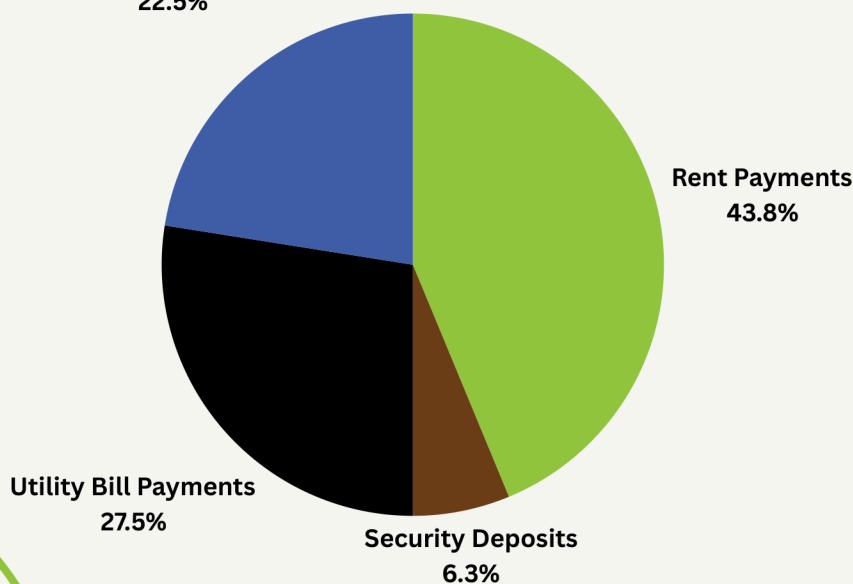
50

**Our EA support
directly avoided 50
evictions and utility
disconnection notices
in 2023.**

**Total Emergency
Assistance support
distributed in 2023 to
80 local families!**

\$22,925.21

Misc. (gas cards, car repairs)
22.5%



"I lost my job after staying home with my sick child. One week later, we got an eviction notice. We would have been on the street without the support of Bethel House."

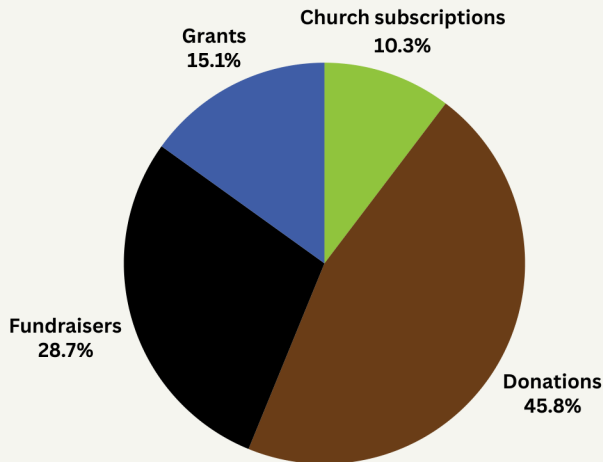
Emergency Assistance Client

All approved EA payments are sent directly to the vendor on the client's behalf.

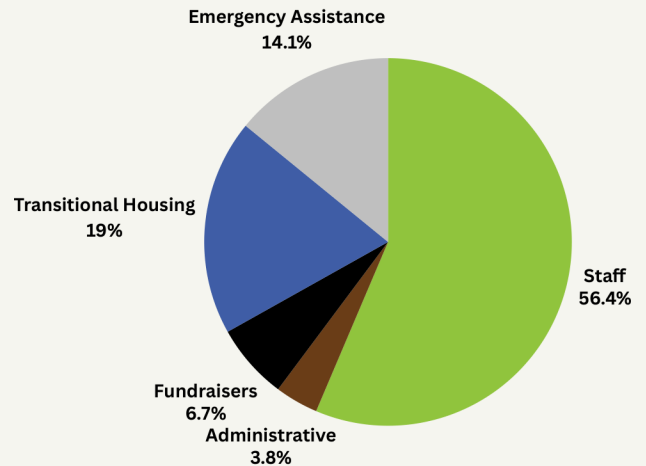
Our Funding



»»» 2023 Income: \$184,242.98



»»» 2023 Expenses: \$163,048.98



May 24th, 2023: Spring Raffle Fundraiser - 841 Brewhouse

»»» Raised \$9,325

Generously Sponsored by:

Hero Sponsor (\$1,000): Bob & Sharon McCullough

Investor Sponsors (\$750): First Citizens State Bank & Kiwanis Whitewater Breakfast Club



November 3rd, 2023: Farm & Vine to Table Fall Dinner - Staller Winery

»»» Raised \$27,000

Generously Sponsored by:

Humanitarian Hero (\$5,000): Bernie & Nancy Labovitch

Community Investors (\$3,000): First Citizens State Bank, Sue & Ken Kidd

Family Advocates (\$1,000): Carole Scharinger, Harry & Barb Penington, Bob & Sharon McCullough, and The Coburn Co.

Hope Builders (\$500): Dick & Roni Telfer, Bev & Tom Ganser, Everett & Ellen Long, and Kent Hutchins



Our Donors & Supporters



Our organization fully relies on the generosity of local donors & supporters, and we couldn't be more appreciative of the kindness and donations that continue to be shared to support our mission.

Your investment in our work TRULY makes a difference in the lives of others.

CHURCH PARTNERS

Community of Christ the Servant
Congregational Church U.C.C.
First English Lutheran Church

First United Methodist Church
LaGrange United Methodist Church
Living Word Fellowship

St. Patrick Catholic Church
The Chapel

\$5,000+ DONORS

Jim & Julie Caldwell
Virginia Coburn
Discover Whitewater Series
First Citizens State Bank

Tom & Bev Bonge-Ganser
Mike & Laura Grubb
Bernie & Nancy Labovitch
Wendy & Steve Prater

Carole Scharinger
United Way of Walworth County
United Way of Jefferson & N.
Walworth Counties

\$2,500 - \$4,999 DONORS

Mary Beth Byrne
Greenhouse Movement

Gittrich Family Charitable Fund
Ken & Sue Kidd

Bob & Sharon McCullough
Soren Miller

\$1,000 - \$2,499 DONORS

Beta Alpha Psi
Brunner Family Charitable Fund
Bill & Sue Chandler
Chuck & Barb Taylor Charitable Fund
Culver's of Whitewater
Kathryn Drexler
First English - Women of ELCA
Generac Foundation
Geneva Lake Women's Association

Richard Halvorson
Doris Hanson
John & Nancy Hoffman
Kent Hutchins
Nick & Janet Lesar
Mary Levall
Mark & Germaine Olm
Harry & Barb Penington
Rodney & Sue Scherer

Charles Taggart
The Coburn Company, Inc.
Dick & Roni Telfer
Don & Marjorie Triebold
Walmart Foundation
WE Energies Foundation
Whitewater Lions Club
David Yochum

\$500 - \$999 DONORS

James Bronson
Thayer Coburn
Michael Czerwionka
Violet DeWind

Stephani & Timothy Hoffman
Mike Kachel
Kiwanis Whitewater Breakfast Club
Everett & Ellen Long

Ryan Oezer
Charlie & Pat Smith
Bernard & Linda Tangney
Pamela VanDoren

IN-KIND DONORS

Joe Sherman
Mark Olm & Associates
Leif Knudsen, CPA, SC
Paul Krahn

Stritzel Heating & Cooling
Dick Durbin
Chris Durbin
Tom Ganser

Dennis Wellnitz
Renea Zuehlke
841 Brewhouse
Staller Winery

Our Ongoing Needs



For the past 30 years, Bethel House has provided unwavering support to prevent homelessness for children and families in the greater Whitewater area. As a small, grassroots nonprofit supported through the generosity of local donations, Bethel House has epitomized the impact of the collective caring power of a community.

In 2024, we'll celebrate those influential 30 years by reflecting on who and what brought us here, highlighting the strength of our current critical work, and looking ahead to strategically plan how we can continue to support families for the next 30 years.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- » Make a monetary donation
- » Donate toiletries to our client pantry
- » Join our Board of Directors
- » Register as a Bethel House volunteer
- » Subscribe to our email newsletter



DONATE HERE!

Sponsor and/or attend our 2024 Fundraisers!

May 15th - 5:00-6:30pm: Spring Raffle
841 Brewhouse

November 1st - 6:00pm: Fall Dinner
Staller Winery



VOLUNTEER!



**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
OUR PROGRAMS**



133 S. Franklin Street - Whitewater, WI 53190



www.bethelhouseinc.org



director.bethelhouse@gmail.com



Whitewater Bethel House



Bethel House of Whitewater