



IMPACT REPORT 2024



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



Our Organization

MISSION

To prevent homelessness for children and families in the greater Whitewater community 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

"We spent 2024 celebrating the 30th anniversary of Bethel House. For a small, grassroots organization, that milestone was incredibly significant, and we're so grateful for how our community showed understanding of just how critical our work is. And it is extremely critical because so many families who call Whitewater home are struggling. As we look ahead to 2025, our support to help keep local children and families housed will be more important than ever. We thank those who join us in caring for these families, advocating on their behalf, and working to make our community an equitable place for ALL families to live."



Board of Directors

Julie Caldwell, Suzanne Chenoweth*, Kent Hutchins, Julie Letellier, Don Norman*, Barb Penington, Harry Penington, Mary Rogers, Robin Sdano (vice chair), Jenna Singer, Chelli Taylor, Jim Winship, Amy Zahn (treasurer)

**served for a portion of the year*



Megan Hartwick
Executive Director

"It was an honor to lead this organization through its 30th anniversary year. I continue to be awestruck by the generosity and caring power that this community invests into the mission of Bethel House. It is humbling and incredibly inspiring."

In 2024, we had the pleasure of recognizing the founding members of Bethel House, whose caring power created this organization thirty years ago and whose support has been critical in the three decades since.

*Ken Kidd - Jim Winship - Carole Scharinger - Don Triebold
Dick Triebold - Richard Telfer - Mark Olm*

Your legacy inspires our work each day.



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)
- Support checks are mailed directly to vendors on a client's behalf.
- Families can apply for assistance one time per year.

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.
- Families must sign and abide by a program agreement contract.
- Applications are kept on file and reviewed as vacancies become available.



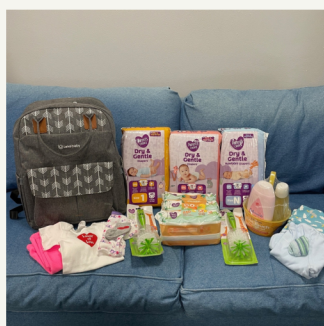
Case Management/Referral Services

- 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
- WIC support & applications

We are proud to serve local families of all ethnicities, races, religions, and backgrounds.

Client Pantry

Bethel House operates a client pantry in our office that is **FREE** for any community member to use as needed for toiletries, and often books, blankets, and other household items. **The pantry is stocked solely through local donations.**





2024 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 2024, we housed a total of 17 adults and 22 children in our Transitional Housing program.



Those Transitional Housing families collectively saved \$20,389 in our savings account program.



Our case management program aided our housed families in a number of goals, including obtaining a GED, getting a driver's license, applying for FoodShare, setting up a bank account, applying for Section 8 housing, increasing credit scores, paying down debts, and much more.

Our unique program covers all expenses for our seven homes, allowing families time to save as much as possible and pay down debts during their 12 months in our program.

"For the first time in my whole life, someone saw me and my kids as worthy of support. Bethel House truly changed our lives."

Transitional Housing Client



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

**includes utilities, maintenance, renovations, and insurance*

2024 CLIENT IMPACT: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE



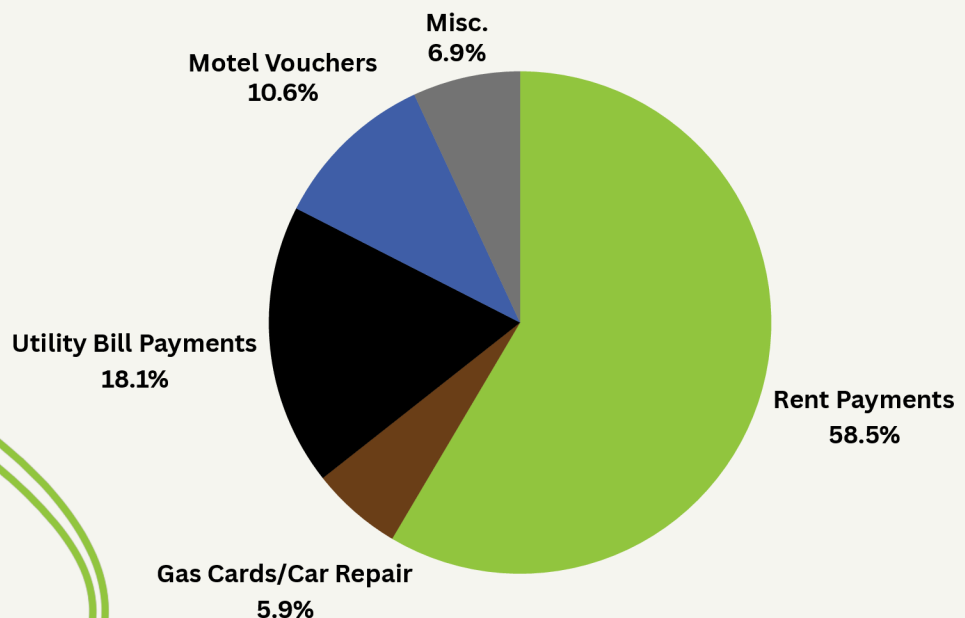
Our Emergency Assistance program provides one-time financial support to help keep local children and families in their homes. Far too often in our community, families face eviction because they are \$300 behind on a rent payment or utility bill. Evictions are costly to families and communities, so Bethel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



Our EA support directly avoided 24 evictions and utility disconnection notices in 2024.

Total Emergency Assistance support distributed in 2024 to 70 local families:

\$20,380



"We got an eviction notice because I missed too much work after my kid got pneumonia. Bethel House helping with our rent kept us from being homeless. I'm so grateful."

Emergency Assistance Client

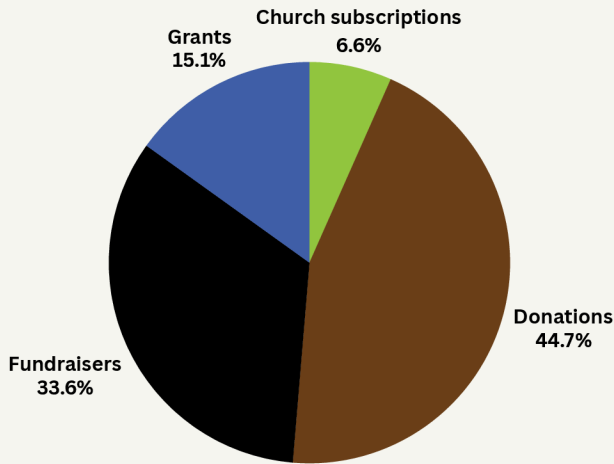
All approved EA payments are sent directly to the vendor on the client's behalf.

Thank you to St. Pat's & FUMC for their partnership support programs that help us keep so many local families housed.

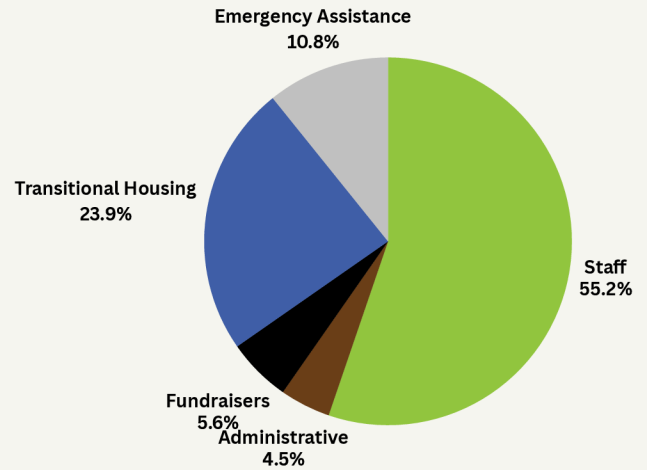
Our Funding



»»» 2024 Income: \$244,481



»»» 2024 Expenses: \$208,681



May 15th, 2024: Spring Raffle Fundraiser - 841 Brewhouse

»»» Raised \$14,338

Generously Sponsored by:

Champion Sponsor (\$2,000): Bernie & Nancy Labovitch and Big Tex

Investor Sponsors (\$750): First Citizens State Bank -- Bob & Sharon McCullough

Advocate Sponsors (\$500): Dick & Roni Telfer -- Fort Community Credit Union -- Kent Hutchins



November 1st, 2024: Farm & Vine to Table Fall Dinner - Staller Winery

»»» Raised \$41,529

Generously Sponsored by:

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

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

Family Advocates (\$1,000): Carole Scharinger -- Harry & Barb Penington -- Bob & Sharon McCullough -- Ellen & Everett Long
Bev Bonge-Ganser & Tom Ganser -- Germaine & Mark Olm -- Richard & Roni Telfer

Hope Builders (\$500): Kent Hutchins -- Thayer & Anne Coburn -- Aurelio & Diana Callope -- Dorie Hanson
John Pecha Agency w/ American Family Insurance



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. In 2024, a total of 178 local donors invested in our work to ensure all children and families in our community are safely and stably housed.

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

\$5,000+ DONORS

Kathleen Bolchen
Bev Bonge-Ganser & Tom Ganser
Jim & Julie Caldwell
Discover Whitewater Series
First Citizens State Bank

First English Lutheran Church
Geneva Lake Women's Association
Mike & Laura Grubb

Richard Halvorson
Bernie & Nancy Labovitch
Carole Scharinger
St. Patrick Catholic Church
United Way of Walworth County

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

Congregational Church UCC
Ken & Sue Kidd

TDS Telecom
The Gittrich Family Charitable Fund

United Way of Jefferson County
David Yochum

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

Gerald Bertsch
Mary Beth Byrne
Culver's of Whitewater
Kathryn Drexler
Doris Hanson
Stephani & Timothy Hoffman
John Hoffman
Kent & Connie Hutchins
Kiwanis Breakfast Club of Whitewater
LaGrange United Methodist Church

Nick & Janet Lesar
Mary Levall
Living Word Fellowship
Ellen & Everett Long
Kat & Rob Mawhinney
Bob & Sharon McCullough
Soren Miller
Rick Nishimura
Germaine & Mark Olm
Harry & Barb Penington

Charlie & Pat Smith
SSM Health
Gayle Stettler
Charles Taggart
Charles & Barbara Taylor
Richard & Veronica Telfer
The Chapel
Don Triebold
Whitewater Lions Club

\$500 - \$999 DONORS

American Family Insurance
Luke & Lori Bocher
Mark & Patricia Bromley
James Bronson
Aurelio & Diana Callope

Thayer & Anne Coburn
Vick & Russ DeVitt
Fort Community Credit Union
Lyle & Dawn Hunter
Bobby Landsee

Noelle Larson
Donald & Linda Meyer
Donald & Mary Sorensen
Bernard & Linda Tangney
Raymond & Mindy Triebold

IN-KIND DONORS

841 Brewhouse
Congregational Church UCC
Chris Durbin
Dick Durbin
First United Methodist Church

Tom Ganser
Mike Kachel
Leif Knudsen, CPA, SC
Paul Krahn

Mark Olm & Associates
Joe Sherman
Staller Winery
Strizel Heating & Cooling
Renea Zuehlke

Bethel House in 2025



Welcome Angeline Doman as the new Director of Case Management & Operations at Bethel House!

Angeline holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Aurora University and brings over six years of social work and case management experience to our organization.

"I am excited and honored to help lead an organization that is so special within the Whitewater community. I'm looking forward to meeting with local families, listening to their stories, and helping them navigate their hardships."

HOW CAN YOU INVEST IN OUR MISSION?

»» Make a monetary donation

»» Join our Board of Directors

»» Donate to our toiletry pantry

»» Register as a volunteer

»» Subscribe to our newsletter

»» Donate furniture & household items

»» Follow us on Facebook

»» Advocate for local housing!

Support our 2025 Fundraisers!

May 7th - Spring Raffle - 5:00-6:30pm - 841 Brewhouse

November 7th - Fall Dinner - 6:00pm - Staller Estate Winery



DONATE HERE!

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



VOLUNTEER!