

Marie's Gift Proposal

Proposal: Provide funding needed to build an addition to a Bethany House residence for victims of domestic violence

Proposed by: Judy Christofferson

Project Anticipated Cost: \$135,000

Project Name: Funding Bethany House of Northern Virginia Shelter Addition

Brief Description: The project would enable Bethany House of Northern Virginia (BHNV)¹ to build a needed addition that would enlarge the existing kitchen to accommodate additional families and add three bedrooms and two bathrooms, including a handicap-accessible bedroom and bathroom.

Bethany House Services

BHNV provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.

BHNV operates two emergency shelters with the capacity to house 25 women and children for a period of 4-6 months (or longer depending upon individual need). In contrast, most other shelter programs limit a client stay to 30-45 days. Clients residing in BHNV's shelters receive intensive case management, counseling and supportive services throughout their stay.

BHNV is different than other domestic abuse shelters for several reasons:

- It is faith based. (However, clients are not required to meet any religious requirement.)
- It gives women and children the time needed to recover from the trauma of abuse and become independent. Abuse is accompanied by the destruction of sense of self. It takes time and concerted effort to help victims gain a sense of self-worth and the belief that they can provide for their families.
- The program provides comprehensive and intense case management, helping clients in the following areas: trauma recovery, affordable housing, childcare, employment, and transportation.
- Bethany House continues to assist clients who need additional help with a two-year Aftercare Program. As clients move out on their own, there are times they may need someone to listen and to help with short-term emergency financial aid to help pay expenses, such as rent or utilities. Bethany house has a basic needs pantry at its office and distributes school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets, and holds an annual Christmas Store for both mothers and children.

¹ Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc. (Bethany House) is a private, 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Bethany House is sponsored by grants and tax-deductible donations from individuals, various congregations, community organizations, clubs and businesses. It has been an established community partner since 1979. Bethany House is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the 501(c)3 guidelines of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

In 2015, BHNV accomplished the following:

- Emergency and crisis intervention services provided to 1,044 individuals through its Helpline
- Housed 46 women and 63 children in its two emergency shelters
- 70 clients participated in BHNV's Aftercare Program

Need for the Addition to Current BHNV Shelter

According to the [Fairfax-Falls Church 2014 Point-In-Time Survey](#), 33% percent of homeless individuals within families were homeless due to domestic violence. Additionally, 42% identified themselves as domestic violence victims or reported a prior history of domestic violence, up from 37% in 2013.

According to Sandy Bromley, Fairfax County-Wide Domestic Violence Coordinator, "The demand for emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence remains high and our jurisdiction lingers behind on national standards for an adequate number of domestic violence shelter beds for a community this size. The National Network to End Domestic Violence recommends a ratio of 14 domestic violence shelter beds for every 100,000 population." She points out that using this standard, with a population of 1.14 million people, Fairfax County alone should have 160 beds to service victims of abuse.

Fairfax County's 24-Hour domestic violence shelter, Artemis House (run by non-profit Shelter House, Inc.) has 42 beds. BHNV currently has 25 beds and serves the entire metropolitan DC area. Even if 10 of those 25 beds were filled by Fairfax County residents, there would be just 52 of the 160 recommended bed number—*only one-third of the national standard*.

Because of this shortage of emergency shelter beds, in FY 2015, 228 eligible households were turned away from Artemis House and an additional 400 households turned away from Bethany House.

According to Brad Womble, Development Manager for Bethany house: "The need for additional rooms is truly a life and death matter. When we have to say no to a family, they are faced many times to choose between becoming homeless or the danger of returning to the abuser."

The gift from Marie Pinho, who was deeply interested in women's rights, would allow construction of the shelter addition to begin quickly instead of requiring more years of fund-raising.

Link to NOVA's Mission

The beginning of a prayer the NOVA Community has posted on its website before its list of Peace and Social Justice list of projects is: "Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor...." Clearly, this building project would be tangible proof of the community's commitment to care for the clients of Bethany House: helping women and children who have suffered abuse and have fled their homes because they are in danger of further abuse.

Measure of Success

With the additional bedrooms, BHNV will be able to provide a four-month stay to 9 extra families per year (as well as follow-up assistance for two years). This could make a lifesaving difference to a mother and her children who are fleeing for their lives.

Funding

Home Aid (<http://www.homeaidnova.org/>) has provided a guaranteed discount of \$150,000 discount through their program (\$500,000 - 150,000 = \$350,000). Bethany House has been in the process of raising funds for the addition to its smaller shelter for more than five years. To date, BHNV has raised \$216,068.96 of the \$350,000 needed for the renovation. *An attached budget provides a breakdown of the \$500,000 total cost*

The additional \$135,000 from Marie's Gift funds would enable BHNV to start construction of the addition without further delay and make major difference to the critical work BHNV does for victims of domestic abuse in our area.

Project Administration

Home Aid will assign a professional home builder to be the captain of the project. Through the Home Aid program, local builders take on a project and become the building captains. They arrange for donated labor and materials, bringing the cost of renovation/building down considerably.

BHNV staff and board members involved in administering the building addition project are:

Gayan Peart, Executive Director

Brad Womble, Development Manager

Ken Fisher, board member and owner of The Fisher Group (a local building/remodeling company)

My Involvement (Judy Christofferson)

Although my involvement with Bethany House has been recent, Dean Houck, a deceased member of the NOVA Community, was a supporter and liaison from our community with Bethany House, for which the community provided a monthly financial donation for several years. The NOVA Community is currently providing an annual donation of \$1,000 to Bethany House as one of its Peace and Social Justice projects.

My link to the proposed project is through Brad Womble, Development Manager for Bethany House, with whom I've had several conversations. I have been helping BHNV raise funds to provide their ongoing services. In addition, I plan to volunteer at their Christmas Store for clients and their children this year and will continue to volunteer in ways I can be of service to this wonderful organization.

ATTACHMENT

Story of the Arrival of One Family at Bethany House

The Arrival of One Family at Bethany House

The following was observed by staff on the day of arrival of a mother and her two children at our shelter. The mom was trying to get her children back in the car to go to Target. They had arrived with nothing and we had given them Target cards for their immediate needs. The little three-year-old girl had locked her legs and was refusing to get in the vehicle. The mom tried everything until she finally realized what was going on. She got down in front of the beautiful little girl and said, "Sweetie, you don't have to sleep in the car tonight, we are home!"

They had left Colorado driving east in hope of finding a shelter. They did not find a place in a shelter until they got to Bethany House. They had slept in the car in order to have money for fuel. Once the little girl understood that she did not have to sleep in the car again that night, she gladly got in for the trip to Target.

That is what we are about here at Bethany House. We are home to victims of domestic violence. We are a safe place to recover.

Applicant: Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc.
Project Budget

Raise the Roof! Capital Campaign

Estimated Cost of Expansion and Renovation	\$ 500,000
Home Aid Estimated Discount to Bethany House	\$ 150,000
Estimated Cost of Expansion and Renovation for Bethany House	\$ 350,000

Hard Costs:

Foundation/Framing/Drywall/Flooring/Roofing	\$ 194,000
Plumbing	\$ 29,000
Electrical	\$ 28,000
Fixtures/Furnishings/Equipment	\$ 10,000
Mechanical/HVAC/Sprinkler System	\$ 40,000
Landscaping	\$ 500
Site Work	\$ 10,500
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$ 312,000</u>

Land Acquisition: \$ -

Soft Costs:

Architects and Engineers	\$ 10,000
Fees/Permits	\$ 18,375
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$ 28,375</u>

Contingency \$ 9,625

Total Expenses \$ 350,000