



Winter 2024

# NEWSLETTER



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Executive Director David Bethuram and Program Director Natalie Watson reflect on the ministry of love.

## UPDATES

Stories of how Becky's Place continues to change lives.

## RUN FOR HOPE

Join us for our annual Shelterbration!

# Dear Friends of Becky's Place,

We take immense pride in being a part of Becky's Place and contributing to our vital role as the social service arm of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Together, we dedicate ourselves to serving the vulnerable population in Bedford, addressing pressing community issues, and actively seeking solutions to eliminate poverty. Our commitment is rooted in putting our faith into action and tackling the challenges of today with unwavering determination.

The remarkable staff at Becky's Place consistently demonstrates ingenuity, compassion, resilience, courage, and integrity in rising to the challenges within our community. We are reminded daily to trust that God is at work in our lives.

As we embark on 2024, we are thankful for your generous spirit and heart. It reinforces the belief that we are stronger together, urging us to stand shoulder to shoulder in the face of adversity, knowing that with God, all things are possible. Our prayer is that, in all aspects, we commit to kindness towards ourselves and others, forgiveness for mistakes and offenses, the building of trust, and collaborative efforts.

At Becky's Place, we strive to be experts in resources and networks, conducting comprehensive assessments to better understand people's needs. We assist our clients in navigating the complexities of social systems, provide compassionate and caring services, and instill a plan—a beacon of hope for the future.

Our vision is to continue leading a team that embraces challenges and is willing to tackle significant ideas in service to others. We aspire to pray daily for the wisdom to make sound choices and the grace to navigate every situation. Our mission and vision are paramount as we endeavor to ensure that homeless women and children in Bedford have access to the services necessary for their happiness, health, and the realization of their full potential.

Sincerely,



*David J. Bethuram*

**David J. Bethuram**  
Executive Director  
Secretariat for Catholic Charities



*Natalie Watson*

**Natalie Watson**  
Program Director  
Becky's Place

# RESIDENT SHARES HOW BECKY'S PLACE HELPED HER MAKE A FRESH START

Chelsea came to Becky's Place fleeing from a domestic violence situation. She didn't have any family or friends to stay with and needed a safe place to go. We were also able to place her in a family room and her precious baby girl came to live with us as well.

Chelsea hit the ground running. She worked the program and was extremely motivated and completed every goal given to her.



She engaged in parenting classes, attended therapy, and improved her communication, coping, and self-advocacy skills. She continued to work on her sobriety and was a wonderful example for the other ladies in the house. She was able to take time to take care of herself and obtain medical and dental care she had been putting off. Chelsea worked two jobs and both employers praised her hard work and dedication. She was always smiling, and all the staff and residents adored her sweet family.

Chelsea was able to secure a rental house and recently moved out of the shelter. Since then, she was able to gain custody of her son and is looking forward to continuing to move forward with her life. Chelsea is enrolled in our aftercare program and continues to engage in case management services. She shares this about her experience at Becky's place.

"My time at Becky's Place has been truly amazing. It was rough adjusting to everything at first, but the staff and other residents were amazing from the start. They are always there to encourage and cheer you on. They welcomed me and my children with open arms. To see such kindness from people who don't even know you is just absolutely astonishing. They have helped me in so many ways. They have fought for and with me every step of the way. I honestly don't know if I could have made it to where I am today without them. They have helped build my confidence in myself, taught me how to be more independent and to never take less than what I deserve.

I've grown tremendously since being at Becky's Place. I honestly couldn't have asked for better people and a place to help me and my children have a fresh start. They will always be in my heart."

# RESIDENT UPDATE

We currently have 10 women and 10 children we are serving. 5 women are employed, 2 receive disability benefits, and the other 3 are job searching. We have 3 women who are ready to move out and actively searching for a safe home. One resident has obtained a car and is now able to reunite with her family in another state. Becky's Place continues to serve as an unofficial call center for our community, answering 2-3 calls every day from women-and men-seeking resources for a myriad of challenges.

## RUN FOR HOPE 5K ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS

The 2023 Becky's Place Run for Hope 5K was another great success. Over 130 people participated in the Thanksgiving morning run.

We are so grateful to all who supported and participated in this event. You raised nearly \$20,000 to support homeless women and children in our community. We hope you will join us for the 2024 run on November 28.



## 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

In case you missed it, be sure to review our full 2022-2023 Annual Report to see the impact we had on helping homeless women and children in our community.



50%  
of families found  
permanent housing



138  
Average length of days  
stayed



58%  
of residents have no  
income source upon arrival



40  
Average age of adult  
women served



70  
former residents participated  
in aftercare programming



105  
Women and children served



Scan the QR code or visit [BeckysPlaceBedford.org](https://BeckysPlaceBedford.org) to read the full report.



# Shelterbration

Saturday, March 2, 2024 @ 6:00 pm | Lawrence County Expo Center  
11265 US-50, Bedford, IN 47421



Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or sponsor the event.



Each year, Becky's Place provides services to more than 100 homeless women and children designed to move them into sustainable living situations. Becky's Place is committed to providing shelter and creating hope for all in need.

For more information visit [BeckysPlaceBedford.org](http://BeckysPlaceBedford.org)

## Join us for our Shelterbration featuring:

- Residents' success stories
- Online AND Live Auctions
- 50/50 Raffle
- Becky's Place awards
- Music from My Yellow Rickshaw
- Food by Carla's Catering

## Thank you to our first sponsors!



Lawrence County  
Fairgrounds  
Expo Center



**RAINBOW**  
PRINTING LLC

- Scott Callahan, Attorney At Law
- The Girgis Family
- Indiana Steel & Engineering Corp.
- WBIW/WQRK/102.5 lite fm

To sponsor or donate an auction item, contact Development Director Cheri Bush at [cbush@archindy.org](mailto:cbush@archindy.org) or 317-236-1411

# SUMMER COOKING PROGRAM HELPS RESIDENTS LEARN LIFE SKILLS

Becky's Place hosted "Cooking with JJ" during the 2023 summer. This program was provided by Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program. J.J. Goldsberry came to the shelter weekly to teach residents about nutrition and preparing food that is both healthy and quick to prepare. Residents also learned a lot of practical information like planning menus, using what is in our cupboards, and how coupons can help save money. These are all important life lessons that residents can use after they leave Becky's Place.



# BECKY'S PLACE OFFERS ONSITE SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM

Becky's Place was fortunate to be able to offer a smoking cessation program on site this fall thanks to IU Health and nurse, Melissa Moffatt. Due to the fluctuating schedules many of our residents have, it is often challenging for them to attend.

Enter Melissa, who worked with our schedule to provide this program. Despite some scheduling challenges Melissa was able to complete the 6-week program with our participants. We are grateful to Melissa and IU Health for making this program possible.



# Thank you, Becky's Place Volunteers

Becky's Place volunteers made a huge impact in the lives of our residents in 2023. Over 300 volunteers helped to provide transportation assistance, office help, donation sorting, childcare, moving assistance and so much more.

The value of these volunteer hours was over \$8,500. We could not provide the quality care and service that we do without this vital support from our volunteers. The generosity of the community will always be appreciated by both Becky's Place staff and residents. If you would like to learn more about volunteering at Becky's Place, please call the shelter at (812) 275-5773.

## TAKE A SLICE OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

\$1 from every slice goes to help homeless women and children at Becky's Place

### WHAT'S YOUR SLICE?

**Where:** Mamma's & Pappa's, 2615 Mitchell Rd, Bedford, 47421

**What:** \$1.00 from every slice of pie goes to help the homeless

**When:** Every Tuesday





**Becky's Place**  
1108 5th St. • Bedford, IN 47421

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 86  
Terre Haute, IN



Community Partner



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America*



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS  
*The Church in Central and Southern Indiana*

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## **Becky's Place Monthly Volunteer Meeting**

If you would like more information about volunteer opportunities, please call the shelter at (812) 275-5773.

## **Leave a Legacy**

Have you considered how a planned gift to Becky's Place can impact lives for years to come? Including us in your will continues your ability to serve our mission of providing help and creating hope to those in need. To learn more about how you can plan a lasting gift through legacy planning, contact Jim Maslar at 317-236-1588 or [jmaslar@archindy.org](mailto:jmaslar@archindy.org).

## **Donate Online**

Did you know you can contribute to Becky's Place online? It's easy and secure. Visit [BeckysPlaceBedford.org](http://BeckysPlaceBedford.org). Donations can be set up as a monthly or one-time gift. Contact Cheri Bush for more information at [cbush@archindy.org](mailto:cbush@archindy.org) or 317-236-1411.