



June 2024

NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Executive Director David Bethuram and Program Director Natalie Watson illustrate the way our lives touch one another.

UPDATES

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

RUN FOR HOPE

Join us for our annual Run For Hope 5K and 1 mile family walk on Thanksgiving!

Dear Friends of Becky's Place,

Are we each on our own journey or are we journeying with others? Our years at Becky's Place have taught us that it is both. Individually, God calls us to those things for which He has equipped us with-special skills, insights, likes, dislikes, and talents. There are many difficulties we all need to overcome and countless blessings that can sustain us. But for as unique as each of our lives are, we all share our time together on this earth.

While we navigate our individual journeys, God has placed us in those places where we can touch the lives of others. We can choose to use our skills, talents, and life experiences to enrich the lives of those around us. Or we can give in to our fears that can come alive during our own difficult times and choose to hold on to the gifts God gave us, benefiting no one.

At Becky's Place, we want to help those in need overcome their fears and encourage connectedness. Daily we encounter many women and children who are looking for solutions to their anxieties and significant challenges. Often their trials are so complex that it feels as though one solution to their most pressing problem is not nearly enough. For many, their difficulties can be so overwhelming that it can be hard for them to see what skills, talents, and insights they can bring to their own solutions.

We also encounter those who are eager to share their joys, skills, talents, and resources with us to help those whose trials left them feeling lost. These two realities are what have set us on our strategic journey - a comprehensive service model - that responds to the individuals and families we serve holistically - a model in which we approach the people we serve with the assumption that their struggles and joys result from the complex interplay of many different factors.

Becky's Place staff provides our residents with a thorough assessment followed by comprehensive, individualized services to enhance their stability and help them find access to safe, reliable, and affordable housing. Whether you are reading this as a donor, community partner or volunteer, know that you are an important part of this journey.

Sincerely,



David J. Bethuram

David J. Bethuram
Executive Director
Secretariat for Catholic Charities



Natalie Watson

Natalie Watson
Program Director
Becky's Place

NATALIE WATSON NAMED NEW DIRECTOR

We are excited to share that Natalie Watson has been appointed the Program Director for Becky's Place. She has served Becky's Place since 2012 and is excited to take on this new role. Natalie will work closely with all aspects of agency operation, including financial and communications oversight, while leading the dedicated Becky's Place staff.



We look forward to this new chapter for Becky's Place while remaining dedicated to our mission of providing help and hope for homeless women and children.

RESIDENT UPDATE

We currently have **14 residents** and **7 children**. **10 of the 14 are employed, 3 are receiving Social Security, and 1 is currently seeking employment. One resident is attending High School Equivalency classes for her diploma.**

Becky's Place continues to serve as an unofficial call center for our community, **answering 2-3 calls every day** from women and families seeking resources for a myriad of challenges.



14 Residents
and seven children are at
Becky's Place



2 Families
have moved into
permanent housing



2-3 Calls
every day are fielded by
our team at Becky's Place

SHELTERBRATION ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to all those who joined us for our annual Mardi Gras Shelterbration on Saturday, March 2 at our new location, the Lawrence County Fairgrounds Expo Center. It was a wonderful evening and fun was had by all. It was great to be able to honor Rick Ferguson, Stephane Kluesner, and the late Sister Becky Ryan for their dedication to our shelter.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and attendees, we were able to raise over \$39,000 in support of the homeless women and children that rely on Becky's Place. For sponsorship information, contact Cheri Bush at cbush@archindy.org or 317-236-1411.

NEW HOME, NEW COMMUNITY, AND NEW LIFE FOR AMY

Amy* came to Becky's Place when her new husband became violent after only a month of marriage. She didn't realize that she was fleeing domestic violence. She had to leave everything behind and create a new life for herself.

Amy was often scared when she heard loud trucks or the doorbell, worried that it would be her husband. She started talking to staff about being scared and what she went through. Staff helped her find resources, counseling, and provided education about domestic violence.

Amy shared that she wanted to attend church. Her case manager found the perfect church for her, and she attended weekly. She started participating in Bible Study groups and self-help meetings. Staff started seeing her feel confident and strong. Amy found her voice. She swore to never return and to help others who are experiencing domestic violence.

She found employment near Becky's Place and worked as much as possible. She saved enough money to get a car and secure housing. She started giving others advice on how to leave unsafe situations and told them how she was a living example that it could be done.

Amy has moved to a neighboring county and is thriving. She has a protective order and support at her new home. She is grateful to Becky's Place for helping her through a difficult time and giving her the support she needed.

**Name changed for privacy*

AROUND THE SHELTER:



- A volunteer wrote a proposal to Lowes to help update the garden area at the shelter. The proposal was approved and Lowes has supplied us materials to start another small garden in the back area.
- We are working with Lawrence County Probation Department on assisting more domestic violence victims. They are going to provide funding for security updates, training, and additional staff to help meet the needs of these residents.
- Over 40 members from SERV come and helped paint rooms at the shelter on April 8. SERV is an organization that looks to create meaningful opportunities that connect RVers to each other and nonprofit organizations through purpose-driven volunteerism that will help change communities.
- Volunteers are contributing to successes of our residents by providing homeopathic remedies, transportation, budgeting help, assistance with grant writing, sorting donations, and much more. We are looking forward to starting yoga classes, equine therapy, and gardening in the summer months.
- Our residents have begun conducting their own self-help meetings. These are chaired by residents or former residents and include substance use meetings and support groups.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING 5K

RUN FOR HOPE



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL RUN FOR HOPE 5K
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 28, 2024
Downtown Bedford- The Depot





Join us for the annual Becky's Place Run for Hope 5K. All ages and fitness levels are welcome! The race will start in Downtown Bedford at the Downtown Depot. ABTiming will time the race this year. This year's race is part of the ABTiming race series.

Enjoy a festive atmosphere with music, friends, family, and snacks before and after the race during your time on the course. Race time is limited to 1 1/2 hours. This is a chance to test your fitness, enjoy a race experience and help to support Becky's Place.

More information about race registration will be available in the coming months.

Check www.beckysplacebedford.org for more information.



Facebook: Becky's Place Bedford
www.BeckysPlaceBedford.org



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

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Working to Reduce Poverty in America



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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 Catholic Charities can impact lives for years to come? Including Catholic Charities Bloomington 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.

Donate Online

Did you know you can contribute to Becky's Place online? It's easy and secure. Visit beckysplacebedford.org. Donations can be set up as a monthly or one-time gift.