



Inside...

- ❖ Don't Miss the 2026 Annual Gala
- ❖ Meet Our Gala Honorees
- ❖ Kids' Club Volunteer Spotlight

newsletter

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Across Massachusetts, the systems that support families facing housing instability are changing rapidly. Now in our 32nd year, Bethany Hill Place continues to meet the moment, despite the shifting environment for our residents, and increasing pressure on housing and social services providers.

A Changing Shelter Landscape

In late 2023, for the first time in the four-decade history of the emergency shelter system, the Commonwealth instituted a cap on the number of families that could enter into the shelter system. In 2024, a 9-month length-of-stay limit was enacted, followed by an even tighter limit of 6 months in early 2025. For the roughly one-third of our community who are at Bethany Hill Place because they have nowhere else to live, these constant changes, and the accompanying increase in stress and pressure, were highly disruptive.

Rising Costs and Shrinking Supports

For other households in the Bethany Hill Place community, rising costs, a severe shortage of affordable housing, and a shrinking social safety net have created additional headwinds. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits have declined even as grocery prices rise, and maintaining eligibility often requires navigating complex and time-consuming applications. At the very moment families are worrying about how they will afford food, housing, and basic safety, they are also asked to manage an increasingly heavy administrative burden just to access the support meant to sustain them. (Continued on page 4)

Annual Gala: New Setting. Same Powerful Mission

Each year, the Bethany Hill Place Gala brings together a community of people who believe that stable housing creates the foundation from which everything else grows. This year on April 30th, **Light Up the Night** takes on an exciting new look and feel as we gather in a new location — the **Boston Marriott Newton**.

The evening is designed to engage and inspire from the moment you arrive. During the reception, guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dinner from a chef-attended pasta station before gathering at their tables as the room transitions into the evening's program. Through powerful resident storytelling, guests will hear firsthand how stable housing, education, and community support create the conditions for individuals and families to rebuild, grow, and move forward with confidence.

Of course, the Gala is also known for its spirit of generosity and celebration. Throughout the evening, guests will have the chance to participate in raffles and our much-anticipated **Mystery Envelopes** – a favorite tradition that brings a sense of fun and discovery while supporting the programs that make our work possible. (Continued on page 2)

Congratulations to Ivelisse, a member of the BHP community, (pictured here with her professor) on earning her certification from MassBay Community College — an exciting step toward employment!



APRIL 30
2026
7:00 PM

BOSTON
MARRIOTT
NEWTON

OUR PREMIERE SPONSOR
TJX

Light Up THE NIGHT

BETHANY HILL PLACE 2026 ANNUAL GALA

Annual Gala, con't.

Adding to the excitement this year are two opportunities to win a **\$1,000 TJX gift card**, generously provided by **Premiere Sponsor TJX**. These grand prizes will give guests the chance to take home something special while helping advance the mission of Bethany Hill Place.

A meaningful highlight of the evening will be recognizing two remarkable honorees whose commitment to community reflect the values at the heart of Bethany Hill Place.

This year, we are proud to present the **Legacy of Justice Award to the Gallo Family**. Established in 2021, the award honors individuals and organizations whose dedication and leadership drive meaningful social change and strengthen communities. For more than two decades, Donna Gallo, Rebecca Gallo, and the entire Gallo family have supported Bethany Hill Place through board service, thoughtful partnership, and generous philanthropy. Their enduring commitment has helped strengthen the organization and expand opportunities for the residents and families we serve.

We are also honored to present the **Changemaker Award to Medfield Village Cleaners** and its dedicated team led by Peter and Jana Anastasopoulos. Established in 2023, the Changemaker Award recognizes individuals and organizations whose initiative, compassion, and consistent service make a lasting difference in the lives of Bethany Hill Place residents. For years, Medfield Village Cleaners and its customers have rallied around our community by collecting, laundering, and distributing donated coats and winter clothing, ensuring that families receive warm garments that are clean, dignified, and ready when they need them most. Their generosity and hands-on commitment exemplify the spirit of service this award celebrates.

We look forward to welcoming you for an unforgettable evening where every conversation, story, and act of generosity strengthens the work of Bethany Hill Place and the families we serve. ❀



*Pictured: Boston Marriott Newton;
Donna & Rebecca Gallo, members
of the Gallo Family;
Peter & Jana Anastasopoulos,
of Medfield Village Cleaners.*



Reserve your seat!

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities,
visit givebutter.com/2026AnnualGala
or contact jboulet@bethanyhillplace.org

We look forward to celebrating with you!



Get to Know... Our Kids' Club Volunteers

Kids' Club offers Bethany Hill Place's younger residents a consistent space for learning, connection, and support. With the help of dedicated volunteers, the program blends homework help, creative activities, and peer mentoring to encourage confidence, curiosity, and positive relationships.

Jamie D. ❖

Town: Framingham, MA

High School: Framingham High School

How long have you volunteered at Bethany Hill Place?
About 6 months.

What are your aspirations after high school?

I hope to attend a four-year college and eventually work in health sciences or health administration.

What has your experience been like volunteering at Bethany Hill Place?

I've had an amazing experience at Bethany Hill Place. I've made meaningful connections with both my fellow volunteers and the Kids' Club children who I'm lucky to see each week.

Stephanie S. ❖

Town: Wayland, MA

High School: Wayland High School

How long have you volunteered at Bethany Hill Place?
Two years.

What are your aspirations after high school?

I plan to attend college and major in finance.

What has your experience been like volunteering at Bethany Hill Place?

Volunteering at Bethany Hill Place has been a wonderful experience. I've met and worked with many open-minded, energetic, and welcoming people.

Madelyn D. ❖

Town: Natick, MA

High School: Natick High School

How long have you volunteered at Bethany Hill Place?
I'm a newer volunteer and began helping with Kids' Club in January 2026.

What are your aspirations after high school?

I hope to attend college and major in international relations, either through business or political science, and may eventually pursue law school.

What has your experience been like volunteering at Bethany Hill Place?

Kids' Club has opened my eyes to situations that are often known about but still overlooked. It's shown me how important it is to listen, show up, and support others. I admire how authentic the kids are and how the program helps build their confidence, creativity, and kindness toward one another.



**“Small moments of
connection create
meaningful impact”**

Responding In Real Time

As a nimble, responsive organization, committed to working holistically with our residents and striving to meet emergent needs, this has required us to adjust our course a bit, as we continue standing alongside neighbors in need and working to disrupt the cycle of generational poverty.

For example:

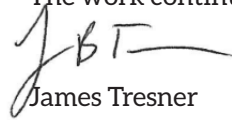
- ❖ When SNAP was temporarily paused in November 2025, we had already been developing a partnership with **A Place To Turn** in Natick, enabling residents to receive monthly grocery deliveries based on household preferences. Deliveries began the same week SNAP was shut down.
- ❖ When SNAP resumed but at reduced levels, funding from the MetroWest Health Foundation and partnerships with Daniel's Table and Spoonfuls helped ensure residents had continued access to fresh produce, meals, and groceries.
- ❖ As residents of BHP's shelter units face incredible pressure to secure their next step due to the 6-month stay limit, our case management and supportive coaching model has increasingly centered on stabilization, rapid upskilling, onsite English as a Second Language instruction, and rehousing support. Longer-term residents continue to work toward goals in education, health, parenting, and more.

- ❖ With an increase in residents under the age of five, over the fall and winter, one of our afterschool clubs became a "toddler club," providing a safe space for our youngest residents to play, grow, and connect with each other and high school National Honor Society volunteers.

Looking Ahead

While we do not know what the next wave of changes might be, I can promise that Bethany Hill Place will remain an innovative, responsive organization, ready to adapt our model to meet the needs of tomorrow's residents. I remain profoundly grateful to our network of champions and supporters for believing in the potential of our residents and investing in their success. In today's tumultuous environment, each gift means more than ever.

The work continues,



James Tresner
Executive Director

2023
SYSTEM CAP
INTRODUCED

For the first time in four decades, Massachusetts placed a cap on the number of families allowed to enter the emergency shelter system.

2024
LENGTH OF
STAY LIMIT
9 months

New policy limited how long families could remain in shelter before needing to secure their next housing step.

2025
LIMIT
REDUCED TO
6 months

The window for families to stabilize and move forward became even shorter.

Meeting the Moment

As policies changed, Bethany Hill Place responded — keeping families supported, stable, and moving forward.



Bethany Hill Place

89 Bethany Road • Ste 001
Framingham, MA 01702
Tel: 508.875.1117
www.bethanyhillplace.org

Bethany Hill Place is an independent 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of IRS regulations. Nonprofit Tax ID #04-2493492

Bethany Hill Place is a Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.