

*“to find and care for the abandoned poor and
to **BE FAMILY** with those who have none.”*

- Mission of Bethesda Project

From the CEO



While I am new to the position of CEO, I have been blessed to be part of the Bethesda Project family for over 10 years. I've had the pleasure of working one-on-one with residents, meeting long-time volunteers, training and supervising our dedicated staff, and learning directly about our mission from our founder. In the words of Father Domenic, “Bethesda is in my DNA.” It is because of my experiences here that I'm driven to tell Bethesda Project's story and share

our life-changing work with the community at large.

The reality is that homelessness is a community issue.

And community issues require community responses.

Homelessness affects us all – as citizens who pass by those begging for help, as the City of Brotherly Love hosting visitors, as businesses that depend on inviting sidewalks for customers, as people of faith who see God in those who are most vulnerable.

At Bethesda Project, we are applying best practices to end homelessness for those most in need. We provide quality supportive services tailored to meet individual needs and ensure that everyone receives consistent, compassionate care designed to restore dignity.

We also provide a way for others to make an impact in their community by donating their time, talent, or financial resources. We rely on strategic, and sometimes creative, partnerships to further our mission to be family with those who have none. Our Bethesda Project family has welcomed some exciting new community partners this year, and we continue to value our longstanding partnerships that sustain core programming.

We are grateful to have you in our family, already committed to making a difference in our community. This year, please consider a new way to [**get involved**](#) that may deepen your connection, increase your impact, and change another's life.

Sincerely,

Tina Pagotto
CEO, Bethesda Project

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Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB)

Bethesda Project's YPAB consists of over 20 ambitious young professionals dedicated to the betterment of their community. In just one year, the YPAB has made great strides in advocating for Bethesda Project!

OVER	OVER	OVER
\$9,000	\$1,200	\$10,000
FUNDRAISED	IN-KIND	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS



Abraham

***Prep Cook & Dishwasher at Citizens Bank Park
Bethesda Project Resident at Our Brothers' Place***

Abraham had been homeless for over a year before coming to Bethesda Project's Our Brothers' Place shelter. And while he's been a guest, he has made the most of his opportunities from becoming a leader among his peers to starting a job with the Philadelphia Phillies.

"Living at Our Brothers' Place has been pretty good. The people there help you with everything if you're willing to do the work."

Abraham certainly did the work. After putting his resume together, he learned the Phillies were coming to serve their annual holiday meal and seized the opportunity to give his resume to Phillies General Manager, Matt Klentak, who was present for the day of service.

"It was about 10 minutes before we were getting ready to leave," Matt remembers. "All of the sudden this really impressive young man came over to me and handed me his resume and told me how much he'd like to work for the Phillies. And I *knew* I had to do something for him."

What began as a temporary part-time position is hopefully turning into full-time employment at Citizens Bank Park as the two kitchens in which Abraham works are battling for his talents. "He's fast in the kitchen," says Abraham's supervisor, Chef Dean Dantridge. "He's very hard working. If you give him a task he'll run with it. And he's a lot of fun to be around."

"I was very surprised when I heard Abraham went up to someone with his resume," says Abraham's Engagement Specialist at Our Brothers' Place, Kiriani Mattos. "I thought that was pretty awesome." Kiriani and Abraham are in the process of securing independent housing at Connelly House where Abraham will accomplish his goal of having a place where his 11 year-old son can stay with him for weekend visits.

In the meantime, Abraham continues to take his responsibilities at Our Brothers' Place very seriously where he takes care of resident laundry and acts as an ambassador and floor monitor to his floor mates. In his free time, Abraham enjoys drawing and is trying to launch his own t-shirt company.

Alphonso became homeless after the death of his mother. He said that he just gave up and no longer believed that he deserved anything good in his life. He spent time on the streets of Camden, NJ prior to coming to Philadelphia, where he was also homeless for a long time. Alphonso came to know Bethesda Project through the Church Shelter at St. Mary's.

During his time at St. Mary's Shelter Alphonso battled issues of drug addiction and mental illness. It was extremely difficult for him to focus on his own needs, often believing that the only way he was worthy of any respect was when he was taking care of and providing for others. This meant that Alphonso often went without meeting his basic needs in order to ensure that his friends who were also homeless had what they needed. Alphonso took a risk and began building a relationship with the church shelter staff, who always encouraged him to put himself first. Through working with his case manager, he was linked to mental health counseling and treatment and began to deal with the immense grief he was carrying around about his mother's passing. Alphonso began to transform. He began seeing a medical doctor for regular care, and also started an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program.

Alphonso then moved into Bethesda Project's Safe Haven, My Brother's House, where he became a leader of the community and helped the site win the Golden Broom cleanliness award. Alphonso has since moved into permanent housing with Bethesda Project, but he still visits My Brother's House almost every day and helps them to maintain an extremely clean environment. It is Alphonso's voice featured on the video, [Angels Walk Among Us](#). In talking about the Church Shelter Program and what it did for him, Alphonso reflects on the future:

"It's going to be wonderful."



Alphonso

***Former Bethesda Project Resident
at My Brother's House***



In 2015, Bethesda Project participated in National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week for the second year in a row. We saw great success from our participation in 2015, building brand recognition, fundraising, and increasing awareness about homelessness in Philadelphia. We raised over \$15,000 through events like the Generosity 5K and partnerships with local businesses like neighborhood bar, Local 44 and area food truck, Schmeat It, both of whom ran promotions benefitting Bethesda Project last November. To top it all off Church Shelter guests were treated to makeovers with Kia Caldwell Photo, and we enjoyed a basketball game with the 76ers where we celebrated the students from Malvern Prep with on-court recognition.



2015 National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (NHHAW)

2016 Party & Auction

Bethesda Project's 19th Annual Gala & Auction was once again generously hosted by the Phillies in the Diamond Club at Citizens Bank Park. 350 guests enjoyed palatial views of the ballpark and danced the night away with the Phanatic as they enjoyed drinks, dinner and fun live & silent auctions. We welcomed back Bob Kelly and Karen Hepp of FOX29's "Good Day Philadelphia," SNL alum and auctioneer Joe Piscopo, legendary Flyers goalie Bernie Parent, and Mayor Kenney. Guests took photos with the World Series Trophy as student musicians from The Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush kept the party going all night long!

We raised over \$160,000, which went directly to supporting Bethesda Project's programs and services for homeless and formerly homeless individuals in Philadelphia. Special thanks to our Honorary Chair, Ronald Donatucci, and every single guest, volunteer, sponsor, and auction donor that made our 19th Annual Gala & Auction a success!

SAVE THE DATE

April 20, 2017

