

# Bethel House, Inc. 2007 Annual Report

Bethel House, Inc  
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[www.bethelhousei.org](http://www.bethelhousei.org)

## **Board of Directors**

Diann James, President

Ellen Flowers-Fields, Vice President

Sharrell Butler, Secretary

Vikki Torrence, Treasurer

Kimberly Armstrong

Paulette Blake

Kenneth Brown, Esq.

Alice A.H. Horner

George London

Michelle Lyons

Danita Matthews

Dale O'Neal



## **Message from the President of the Board of Directors**

It is my distinct honor and privilege to serve as your President of the Board for 2008. Col. (Ret.) George London did an outstanding job in his interim appointment in 2007, and I will try to keep the momentum and spirit of program development, refinement, and goal achievement going for this great non-profit corporation of the state of Maryland.

I am in the good company of very qualified executive officers, Vice President, Ellen Flowers-Fields, Treasurer, Vikki Torrence, Secretary, Sharrell Butler, and a very competent and dedicated Executive Director, Rev. Sherita Moon-Seawright. I am confident that we will work together successfully as a leadership team along with the Board of Directors to promote the mission and vision of Bethel House, Inc. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all new Board members. I look forward to working with you and to your contributions to the Board.

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of the Bethel House, Inc. Board of Directors and staff, in 2007 we continued to provide for County and District residents much needed financial assistance and services. In 2008, Bethel House positions itself to provide an even greater level of support to continue our vision of providing holistic services to individuals and families by addressing the spiritual, physical, and mental health needs of those who seek assistance. On behalf of Bethel House, Inc., I thank each of you for your generous investment of time, talent, and treasure in supporting the vision. Bethel House has truly become known as a place of refuge, restoration, renewal, reward, and regeneration to local residents and our community business partners.

Looking ahead in 2008, the need to increase funding is high on our agenda of items to accomplish. There are several proposed initiatives for achieving this goal that will be implemented and/or researched for feasibility of implementation in the first quarter. We are also looking forward to the revitalization of all programs requiring training and welcome our new Training Coordinator. Finally, in 2008 we will be looking at Special Activities supplemental to our programs as enhancements for growth and positive change. I ask that each of you sign up for a committee and be involved.

I wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year, and thank you for your commitment.

Sincerely,

Diann B. James  
President of the Board of Directors  
Bethel House, Inc.

## Message from the Executive Director

Another year has passed. The good news is that serving as Executive Director of Bethel House, Inc. is an extremely rewarding experience. The not-so-good news is that, because of the community's needs, we received an overwhelming number of requests for assistance.

I am grateful to a group of people who make my work easier. The Bethel House Board of Directors, led by President Diann B. James, gives its best support. Through regular meetings, changes in the structure of the Board, a successful fundraiser, and a willingness to serve, Board members weathered the agency's challenges. Ms. Lakea Shirriel, our former student Admin Assistant, is doing a tremendous job as our Accountant. Rev. James Parson, a former Board member, continues to serve as the liaison of Love in Action. He spends most of his time doing intake and processing requests. Mr. Matthew Seawright, a student at Prince George's Community College, serves as our part-time Admin Assistant. The Reverend Michelle L. Agnew leads our *Youth for a Positive Future* program. She has the gifts and graces necessary to relate to youth. Due to her moving from this area, The Reverend Alice A. H. Horner is no longer a part of our staff. We sincerely miss her presence and service. Although he is not a part of the Bethel House staff, Mr. John Kemp works diligently to meet our technical support needs.

Bethel House, Inc. was founded by Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Brandywine. Under the leadership of The Reverend Dr. Harry L. Seawright, the church provides office space, financial support and equipment donations. Thank you, Union Bethel.

For those who contribute money to our agency, please accept my most sincere thanks. This year's administrative expenses were 11%. This demonstrates that, at Bethel House, *programs* are our priority. Although you receive personal financial statements for your donations, this is just another opportunity to let you know how much your donations mean to Bethel House. Whether you gave through direct donations, federated giving programs, employee matching grants, businesses, foundations or civic groups, I understand that you have choices in where you send your money. I am glad you chose this agency. One of my goals is to make you proud of having shared with us.

When I realize how, even with limited resources, we did so much to help people who otherwise might not have been helped, I am reminded that Bethel House plays an important role. With this in mind, I am looking forward to doing more in the future.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright

# **About Bethel House, Inc.**

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Bethel House, Inc. is to provide holistic care and services to individuals and families by addressing the spiritual, physical and mental health needs of those who seek assistance.

## **Vision Statement**

Bethel House's vision is to become a place of help and healing for residents of southern Prince George's County and northern Charles County by providing an array of services through an effective and uplifting community outreach center that will nurture each individual's potential for growth.

## **Brief History**

Bethel House, Inc. began as a community outreach ministry within Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Brandywine, Maryland. The Community Outreach Ministry was comprised of persons in the church who saw the need to provide food, clothing, and rental assistance for people in the community. The SHARE food distribution program and a clothing ministry were started. These ministries sustained themselves with financial assistance from Union Bethel, community organizations, and private donations.

In July 1993, the Community Outreach Ministry's needs expanded to the degree that incorporation as a 501(c)(3) agency was necessary, and Bethel House was created. In June 1997 Bethel House, Inc. was awarded a grant from the State of Maryland to renovate the old chapel of Union Bethel A.M.E. Church into a community service outreach center. Renovations resulted in modern office spaces, classrooms, and a computer lab. Since October 1998 Bethel House, Inc. has operated as a full time community agency.

## **Staff**

Sherita Moon Seawright, Executive Director  
Lakea C. Shirriel, Accountant  
James Parson, Program Coordinator  
Matthew Seawright, Administrative Assistant  
Ad Hoc Facilitators and Volunteers

## **Diversity Statement**

All Bethel House, Inc. services, programs and employment opportunities are provided or offered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation or age.

## Programs

- ***Helping Hands*** is our employment skills program for persons who are unemployed as well as those who want to improve their skills.
- ***Love in Action*** provides food and assistance with medicine, housing, and utilities.
- ***Families in Healing*** offers mental health and peer counseling for victims and families of domestic violence and child abuse.
- ***Youth for a Positive Future*** focuses on mentoring, self-esteem building, sexual abstinence and positive life skills for children and youth.

## Special Activities

- Selected to participate in the annual United Way and Combined Federal Campaign and Speakers Bureau
- Partnered with Union Bethel AME Church for Bethel House Day major fundraising event
- Selected as a Beneficiary Agency in the 2007 Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon
- Conducted a successful youth *Helping Hands* program
- Led a successful campaign to make Bethel House, Inc. more visible in the community

## Bethel House Grants and Donations

\$ 3,000.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Episcopal District RED Board
\$ 300.00	Adams Funeral Home
\$ 2,133.77	America's Charities
\$ 100.00	Cedell Brooks Funeral Home
\$ 8,645.00	Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
\$22,000.00	Emergency Food and Shelter Program
\$10,000.00	Ganett Foundation
\$ 250.00	Optimum Fitness
\$ 100.00	Paden and Associates
\$16,000.00	Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
\$33,000.00	Prince George's County Government
\$10,000.00	The Spring Creek Foundation
\$ 102.95	United Way of Central Maryland
\$24,985.17	United Way of the National Capital Area

Individuals gave \$66,935.11!!

**The most recent Bethel House, Inc. Internal Revenue Service Form 990 is on the agency's website at [www.bethelhousei.org](http://www.bethelhousei.org).**

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## Stats for 2007

- Helping Hands 91
- Love in Action 839
- Families in Healing 142
- Youth for a Positive Future 633

## Quotes from Program Beneficiaries

“... I never *thought* about wearing a suit, but this [wearing a suit] makes me feel good!”  
– teenager in summer *Helping Hands* program

“Thank you!...Thank you! God answers prayer.” –rental assistance recipient in *Love in Action*

“...I like this new person! What have you done with my child?” – summer *Helping Hands* Parent

“...Why didn't you judge me like everybody else?” –working homeless man who had a car and a job (*Love in Action*)

“You gave me hope.” –mother from *Families in Healing*

“Nobody ever cared about me before.” –homeless man in *Love in Action*

“This is *fun!*” – *Youth for a Positive Future* participant

“You made my mommy smile again.” – daughter of abused mother in *Families in Healing*