



OUR HOUSE

For volunteers & supporters of the homeless and our neighbors in need.

From Homelessness to Hope - Meet Some of the People You are Helping Each Day



Angela, a young mother, knows all too well what it is to be homeless from her own childhood spent in and out of shelters. Now, 22 and mother to her young son, Jayden, Angela was able to spare her child the same experience through Project Gatekeeper's rapid rehousing program. First she entered emergency shelter which meant a stay in a motel. Angela was then able to get full-time work at a Jersey City hospital. While in our program, she managed to save more than \$5,000. Fortunately, Angela found affordable housing and was able to move out of the shelter, purchase a car to help her get to work, and is now exploring the possibility of an apprenticeship in carpentry. Homelessness in the young is particularly devastating to their future selves and well-being. Often, a cycle is started that is very difficult to break out of in the long run. Angela is determined to make a stable home for Jayden and keep him from the heartache of homelessness. Your support is helping to make that happen.

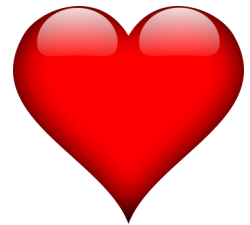


Brian went through the Operation Warm Heart winter shelter program last year but struggled to maintain housing for himself on his own. It is not uncommon for the chronically homeless to deal with on-again, off-again housing, but Brian also faces challenges as someone with developmental disabilities. He really wanted to reconnect with his family that was living far away in Virginia. We began by helping Brian find a temporary shelter situation in Virginia closer to his family—which, in turn, led to Brian completing a job preparedness program. Though he had so much to overcome, Brian is now back in touch with his family and is the proud owner of a home of his own. A thriving member of his new community in Virginia, Brian's success comes from the efforts of many partners—other agencies, neighbors, volunteers, supporters, and family.

Much Needed Items

- ♦ *Spring cleaning laundry baskets with cleaning and household supplies for our Hospitality Houses program. These baskets help struggling families move into our housing or out on their own.*
- ♦ *Gift card collections of ShopRite/Walgreens/CVS/ Subway/StopNShop/Visa/Mastercard/Walmart/Target cards*

*Call for details:
908-355-2060 ext. 202*



When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless.

Bookmark the link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2305176> and support us every time you shop. We thank you!



Family Fun Day



And the winner is....Not only was it her birthday, she guessed the amount of candy in the jar and took it home as her prize. Not much of a candy-eater herself, she shared the goodies with her brothers.



Get ready! Get set! Go!! Potato sack races on Family Fun Day.

Hospitality Houses



The Cape May Marianists welcomed our families for a special retreat by the shore. Going on retreat provides families a much needed break from daily stresses and an opportunity to grow in closeness to, and in knowledge of, one another. It is also a whole lot of fun for everyone. Special thanks to the Sisters of Charity for sponsoring the transportation.



Operation Warm Heart

Operation Warm Heart guests enjoy a meal prepared and served by volunteers from Elizabeth Public High School (at left).



Bernice's Place



Our new school bus arrived in March through the generosity of EJ Grassmann Trust and the children can't wait to ride the big yellow school bus!

For Read Across America, the children were visited by many special guests, including Elizabeth Mayor Bollwage (below) who read a story from Dr. Seuss!

We specialize in impossible situations.
Thanks To You, So Many Were Helped Last Year



11 hard working families with children saved money by living in our supportive housing – many are back to self-sufficiency



75 children played, learned and ate a hearty snack in our year-round program that includes summer camp



961 people were spared the trauma of homelessness - many were households with children

67 chronic homeless were rescued from the streets by our Operation Warm Heart Program – they were fed, clothed, sheltered and so much more

230 adults learned new life skills in our Community Education and ESL classes

We answered **5,386** cries for help from households needing shelter, food and emergency aid



Over **5,000** hours of volunteer time were donated so we could do more

But there is still so much to do. Donate Today.

Friends of the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Our special thanks go out to the foundations and organizations whose support we have received in recent months. Without their generosity we would not be able to reach out to prevent homelessness for individuals and families struggling to keep or attain housing.

- ♦ Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation
- ♦ St. Helen's Parishioners
- ♦ E.J. Grassmann Trust
- ♦ Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey
- ♦ Standish Foundation
- ♦ Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth
- ♦ Kiewitt-Weeks-Massman
- ♦ Infineum USA, L.P.
- ♦ Turrell Fund
- ♦ Wyoming Presbyterian Church
- ♦ Beach Electric Company
- ♦ RCC Fabricators
- ♦ EXPORT-IMPORT Services, Inc.
- ♦ Horizon BCBSNJ
- ♦ Verizon-NJ Shares
- ♦ Teva Pharmaceuticals
- ♦ Wakefern Food Corporation
- ♦ MPA Painters
- ♦ Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth



Teva staff members share their giving spirit with the Elizabeth Coalition

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need
~ Khalil Gibran



Kathy Konops (at left), of Teva Pharmaceuticals, presents Linda Flores-Tober with their donation collected during fundraising at Teva's Black History Month Celebration Lunch in February

Yes, I Want to Help the Homeless!

Here's what your donation will do

\$500 houses a homeless family for a month so they can work and save for their own permanent home

\$250 transports children to and from our after-school and summer camp programs

\$100 pays for a week's groceries for a family

\$75 pays for entrance fees and tickets for one child to go on summer field trips

\$50 provides essential toiletries to clients starting out in Project Gatekeeper

Name _____

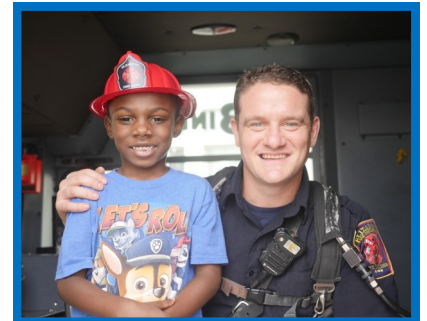
Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please let us know if your company has a matching gift program here: _____

To learn more about remembering us in your will or estate plans, please call 973-723-4584



Or you can donate online at www.theelizabethcoalition.org

Bernice's Place Volunteers Share Their Hearts



Lizabeth Flores is inspired by her faith. She believes we are here, together in community, to help each other and to be a part of others' struggle—to give comfort and encouragement where needed. As a Research Teaching Specialist with Robert Wood Johnson, now Rutgers Medical School, Lizabeth spent 28 years specializing in microscopy and molecular biology focused on the exciting field of DNA synthesis. After retiring, she pursued her next vocation teaching Spanish K-6 as well as teaching Kindergarten. We have known Lizabeth as a volunteer with Bernice's Place for more than 4 years now where she brings her gifts to share with the children. It is her caring spirit, humor, and good graces that are fast at work as she helps the children understand their homework, make friendships, explore their talents and abilities, and just have fun. Her near future plans include spending more time in Pennsylvania with her nephews and their children.



When you meet **Anne Marie Petriano** in her role as volunteer in the Bernice's Place, you are struck by her commitment to the children. She is motivated by her desire to give back and will tell you it is a part of her growth experience to share what she has learned through her 29 years as an elementary school teacher in Westfield. Five years ago, Anne Marie began volunteering with the Elizabeth Coalition and continues to be encouraged by just how much the parents love their children and how dedicated they are to providing any and all available advantages for their children to thrive and to achieve. Her inspiration is from a life of lived values and her compassion is a tribute to the two Michaels in her life, both of whom have gone on to heaven to be her guardian angels. Although Anne Marie traces her beginnings back to Brooklyn, her home has been in Westfield for many years now. A consummate traveler, from the armchair to the actual, she enjoys her time spent reading and attending cultural events and experiences.



As a volunteer of five years, **Trish Starkey** shares her kindness and sense of friendship with the children and fellow volunteers, alike. Motivated by her empathy for working parents trying to provide for their children, Trish's experience as an elementary teacher allows her to connect with the children through not only their studies but through their instinctive desire for FUN! Trish has learned from the children that even through the uncertainty of homelessness they are able to "still be funny, creative, and so joy-filled." She knows from experience that "the after-school hours can be so hectic for families...because everyone is tired, everyone is hungry, and everybody has homework..." Grounded in her faith, Trish reaches out within and beyond her community to be a good neighbor. For her, the families in Elizabeth are neighbors and if they are in need she feels it is important to extend a helping hand. Trish hopes that her volunteering, in some small way, has helped the Elizabeth Coalition community to lighten the parents' burden just a little bit.

It's a Luau!

Support The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and enjoy delicious food from New Jersey's best tiki bar, Lun Wah!

Present this coupon March 29th through March 31st during dinner hours (3PM until closing) and The Elizabeth Coalition will receive 10% of the bill!

Lun Wah Restaurant
587 Raritan Road
Roselle, New Jersey 07203
<http://www.thelunwahrestaurant.com>

"Mahalo!"



Save the Date

Luau is the weekend of 3/29-3/31/2019

Spring Gala is May 22, 2019

There's No Place Like Home

You are Cordially Invited to The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless There's No Place like Home Annual Reception

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

6:00 - Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres

6:30 - Supper Buffet & Charity Appeal

7:00 - Program & Entertainment

The Grand Summit Hotel

570 Springfield Avenue

Summit, NJ 07901

Tickets: \$125 per guest

The evening will feature a silent auction, cocktails, dinner and music! All proceeds go to the Elizabeth Coalition's Children's Program.

