



20
25

ANNUAL REPORT



WWW.BETHESDA1919.ORG



A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Bethesda Lutheran Services Climb for a Cause: Reaching New Heights for Young Mothers

Typically, my report to you highlights a series of accomplishments from across the agency. This year, however, I would like to share a very different kind of achievement and the motivation that inspired it.

At Bethesda Lutheran Services, our mission has always been to uplift children, youth and families. This year, that commitment reached new heights – literally.

For a few years, I had been asked about climbing Kilimanjaro, and I had always laughingly put it off, saying we would do it in 2025. As the calendar turned to 2025, I was reminded of my promise. After talking with my fellow would-be climbers, they agreed to do it, but not for bragging rights. We would do it for a very special reason. So, I, our agency COO, Jerrad Rimel, and our agency attorney, Gery Nietupski, successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to raise funds to remodel our Right Start for Young Mothers' house. This journey was more than a physical challenge: it was a powerful reminder of gratitude, generosity, and the importance of safe, supportive housing for young mothers and their children.

A Journey of Perspective and Gratitude

Witnessing the living conditions in Tanzania renewed my appreciation for the opportunities and resources we often take for granted. Throughout the expedition, we were supported by 13 porters and 2 guides, 15 remarkable individuals whose kindness, professionalism, and tireless work made the climb possible.

Each day began at 6:30 a.m. and concluded between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. Upon reaching camp, the team was welcomed with a simple "happy hour" of popcorn and hot tea or coffee, followed by dinner before settling in for the night. Despite exhaustion and sleep deprivation, sleep often proved elusive due to the high altitude.

Learning that the porters earned just \$10 per day for their demanding work was deeply humbling. These individuals ensured that every camp was fully set up and broken down, allowing the team to focus on the climb ahead.

The Final Push to the Summit

The final ascent began after a challenging five-hour hike to base camp. After a brief and largely unsuccessful attempt to rest in hot tents amid a bustling camp of more than 100 climbers, our team prepared for the summit push.

At 10:00 p.m., bundled in our warmest gear and wearing headlamps, we began the grueling eight-hour climb up steep switchbacks in the darkness. Looking up to see a trail of headlamps stretching endlessly above us was both daunting and motivating.

Climbing a mountain is no small feat, but thinking about the kids we work with made the challenge feel familiar. Every day, they face their own mountains: obstacles that test their strength and courage. Some days are tougher than others, yet they never give up. Seeing their determination inspired us to push ourselves further, to train harder, and to rise to the challenge no matter how steep the climb.

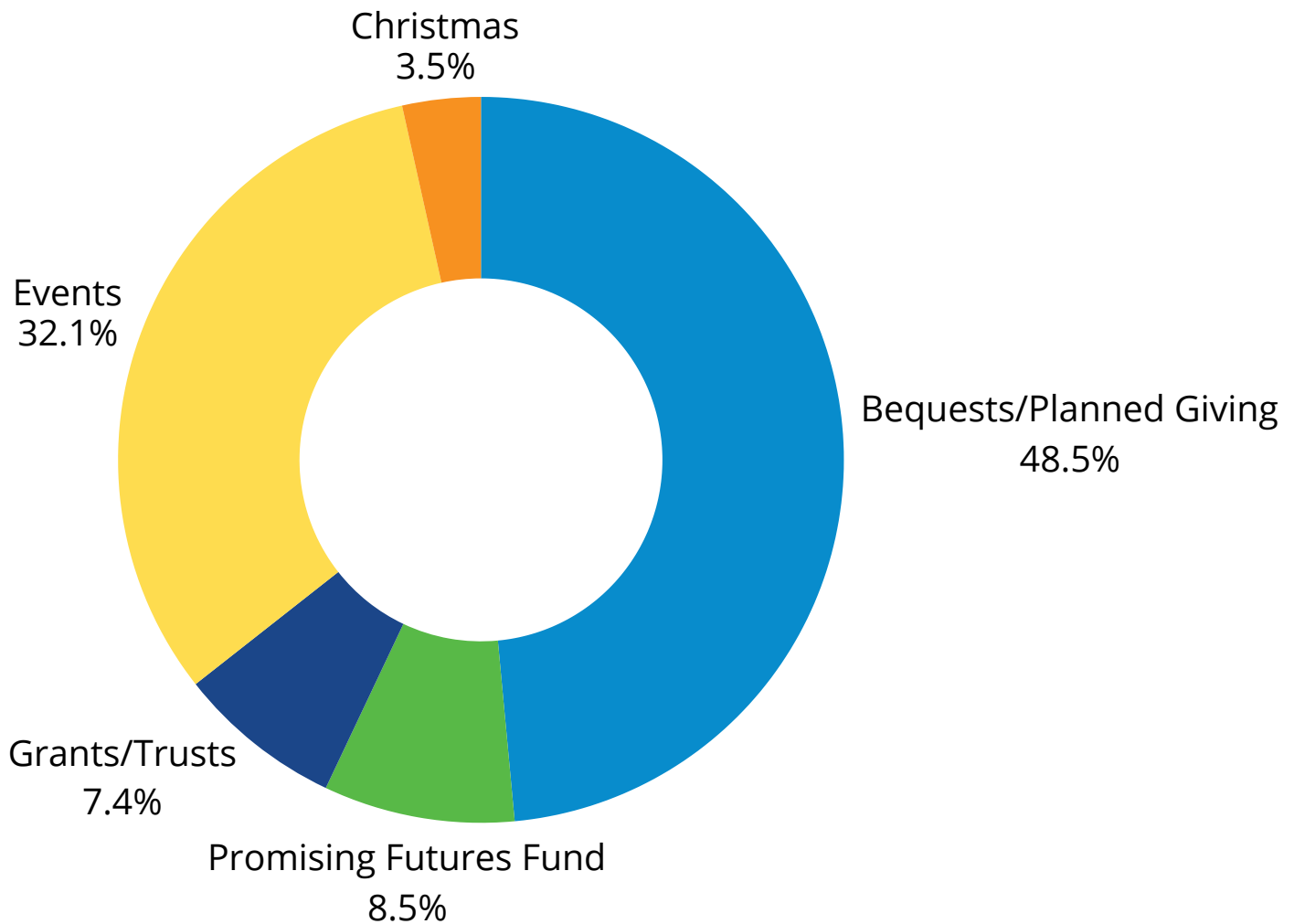
George R Trauner

George R. Trauner, Chief Executive Officer



NUMBERS & STATISTICS

CALENDAR YEAR 2025



Bequests & Planned Giving | \$405,710.71

Promising Futures Fund | \$71,206.94

Grants & Trusts | \$61,602.65

Events | \$268,515.00

Christmas Appeal | \$29,186.52

TOTAL FUNDRAISING | \$836,221.82

HOW CAN I HELP?

Donate to our **Promising Futures Fund** via Cash, Check, or Online Donation

Remember Bethesda in your **Estate Plans** Free Professional Estate Planning Available

Buy a Brick
Honor your loved ones and their legacy will become a part of our history

Sign up for **Pillars of Promise**, Bethesda's recurring gift program

Learn about our **Christmas Adopt a Child** and our **School Supply drives** on our website

LEARN MORE AT WWW.BETHESDA1919.ORG/DONATE



FRIENDS OF BETHESDA | INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Alizeo, Gary & Kinta
 Anderson, Charles & Wendy
 Andryc, Kenton
 Angelini, David & Marie
 Armant, Deborah & David
 Arter, James
 Attardo, Paul
 Baldwin, Valinda
 Ball, Chad & Andrea
 Barnett, LaTicra
 Bartzen, Emily
 Bean, Irma
 Belcher, Brad & Brittany
 Bennett, Matthew & Kathryn
 Benson, Alan
 Bloomstine, John & Christine
 Boyer, Erin
 Bracken, Timothy & Mary
 Bradshaw, Jeff
 Brinker, Lisa
 Buchko, Devin
 Buckman, Alexis
 Burek, Greg
 Burge, Troy & Deana
 Burke, Michael
 Byrum, Deborah
 Cancilla, Kathy
 Cap, Andy & Jane
 Cares, Benjamin
 Carney, Preston
 Carpenedo, Maria
 Carter, Mark & Tina
 Cavanaugh, Terrance & Nancy
 Chalupka, Michael & Linda
 Chisholm, Tracy
 Claycomb, Brandy
 Clickett, Evalyn
 Cole, Karen
 Coulter, Tyler
 Coward, Marci
 Cressman, Tye
 Cronin, Edward & Suann
 Culmer, Rosemarie
 Cunningham, Don
 Curtze, Michelle
 Dalmaso, Alice
 Danko, Steve & Lisa
 Deane, Brian
 Deane, Kenneth
 DeCrapio, Roberta
 Dexter, Robert & Marlene
 Dickson, Chad & Amanda
 Dickson, Elizabeth
 Dickson, Marci

DiMatteo, Michael & Mary Ellen
 Diplacido, Lynn
 Dobring, Lorraine
 Donovan, Dom & Michelle
 Dudenhoefer, John & Carrie
 Dulovich, Chris & Michelle
 Dunn, Steven & Carolyn
 Earley, Patricia
 Easley, Edward
 Ebner, Ryan & Amy
 Eglinton, Dick
 Eidbo, Joel
 Elder, Thomas
 Elliott, Wade
 Euliano, William
 Ewing, Victor
 Fancil, Pamela
 Faulds, Taylor
 Ferris, Randy
 Filippi, Matthew
 Fortin, Thomas & Lana
 Frampton, Dennis
 Frank, Sally
 Fritz, Larry & Rachelle
 Furer, Gregory & Amanda
 Gibson, Edna
 Givens, Stanley & Glenda
 Goodrum, Harold
 Gordon, David & Karen
 Gordon, Marci
 Gray, Christopher
 Gray, David
 Groenendaal, Gene & Julie
 Guenther, John & Linda
 Hackett, Melissa Marie
 Harr, Thomas
 Helmer, Amy
 Hickernell, James & Maureen
 Hiener, Louis & Michele III
 Higham, Matthew & Michelle
 Hodgson, Rob & Shanna
 Holder, Donna
 Holland, Sarah
 Hollinsworth, Karen
 Homchosky, Teresa
 Howell, Mark
 Howick, Chad & Erica
 Hunter, Bill
 Irons, Susan
 Jamison, Paul & Jeanne
 Jelinek, Joe & Lindsay

Johnston, Kirk & Barbara
 Jones, Kenneth
 Jones, Mike
 Joseph, George & Tina
 Joy, Rande & Christine
 Jump, Sandra & Daniel
 Kaszowski, Ronald & Judith
 Keefer, Edward
 Kilburn, Mark & Jodi
 Kingston, Kelly Lynne
 Kokovich, Nancy
 Kopko, Joseph
 Kosa, Julie
 Kraut, Dianne
 Kriner, Trevor
 Krueger, Don
 Kubiak, Dana
 Kwiatkowski, Victor & Joyce
 Lane, Brian Kenneth
 Lardi, Joshua
 Larson, Matthew
 Laube, Harry
 Lenigan, Pamela
 Lewis, Rob & Tina
 Ley, Jeffrey
 Lucas, Andrew
 Luckock, Dorothy
 Lugin, Diane & Mark
 Lundy, Christa
 Macdonald, Christopher & Michelle
 MacKinnon, Kathy
 Mahoney, Brian & Mandy
 Majchrowicz, Danuta
 Majewski, Linda
 Malliard, Ryan
 Malone, Julie
 Marburger, Randall
 Markham, Jeremy & Cheri
 Marshall, Lea
 Martin, Jim & Cheryl
 Massey, Doug
 McGinnis, Charles & Deborah
 McIntosh, Sherrie
 McMillin, Jean
 Mears, Dennis & Brittany
 Meighen, Pat
 Melaragno, Alberico & Linda
 Mencotti, Melissa
 Mennen, Pamela
 Mershon, Clemence
 Miale, Jim & Cari

FRIENDS OF BETHESDA | INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Michael, Fred
 Mitchell, Signe
 Mizner, David
 Morphy, David
 Musone, Mark
 Nageotte, Alton
 Nageotte, Brian & Lori
 Neal, James & Susan
 Neidermeyer, Corry & Angie
 Niedermeyer, Joshua
 Noe, James & Dianna
 Nuss, Donald
 Oas, Dennis
 Ogello, Dan & Darla
 O'Neill, Nancy
 O'Shea, Robert
 O'Shurak, Carrie
 Palmer, Diane
 Paris, Joshua & Kim
 Paris, Michael & Barbara
 Pepicelli, Alan & Mary
 Perrine, John & Nancy
 Petruso, John & Lori
 Pogue, David
 Pompa, Dennis & Susan
 Powell, John
 Prenatt, Adam & Stephanie
 Rachocki, Dennis
 Rachocki, Matthew & Anna
 Ransom, Rhoda
 Rauscher, Leah
 Readell, Ralph & Judy
 Reagle, Jim
 Reynolds, Rolfe
 Richter, Dennis & Nancy
 Riess, Barbara
 Right, Francis & Stephanie
 Riley, Burke
 Rimel, Jerrad & Lacey

Ring, Zack
 Ritchey, John
 Roach, Steven
 Roberts, Timothy & Pamela
 Robinson, Chelby
 Rock, Austin
 Rose, Brad
 Rose, Paul
 Roth, Martin & Sarah
 Ruter, Karen
 Ruter, Ryan
 Ruter, Stacy
 Sampsel, Miles & Joyce
 Saxton, Jeremiah
 Scherr, Philip
 Schlosser, Matthew
 Schmalzried, Laura
 Schubert, Kathleen
 Schutz, Gary
 Sellman, Carol
 Shields, Amanda
 Slezak, Dorothy
 Slomski, Lisa
 Smith, Charles & Deborah
 Smith, Christopher
 Smith, Jennie
 Smith, Julia
 Smith II, Mark & Nicole
 Smith, Saundy
 Snow, Kyle
 Spadafore, Elizabeth
 Sprage, Brian & Minnie
 Squeglia, Stephen
 Stansfield, John & Rebecca
 Stinson, Matt
 Stone, Joel & Michelle

Sturtevant, Carolyn
 Suhr, Beverly
 Susick, Timothy
 Tannenbaum, Mark
 Thelin, Stephen
 Thomas, Adam & Kristi Prince
 Thompson, Esther
 Trauner, Allie
 Trauner, George & Holly
 Trauner, George & Loretta
 Trauner, Olivia
 Travis, Ben & Samantha
 Turk, Matthew
 Turner, John
 Verdecchia, Christine
 Vogt, Ronald & Linda
 Wadding, John & Jessica
 Walker, Andrew
 Watt, Jason
 Weiers, Joyce Dix & Tom
 Weigle, Gina
 Wetzel, Dan
 White, Mary
 Whitling, John & Mary
 Will, Chuck & Debbie
 Willis, Cliff
 Wolfe, Richard & Patricia
 Yapple, Tim & Kathy
 Young, Patricia
 Zappitelli, Francis
 Zeman, Frank
 Zerbe, Christopher & Kathryn
 Zewe, Matthew
 Zielinski, Mark & Megan
 Zook, Ronald

FRIENDS OF BETHESDA | CHURCHES

Bethany Lutheran Church - Sheffield
 Bethel Lutheran Church Sunday School - Ford City
 Bethesda Lutheran Church - Lower Burrell
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Bremen, KS
 Christ Lutheran Church - Sharon
 Christ Lutheran Church - Shelocta
 Christ Lutheran Church - Duquesne
 Christ Rupp Lutheran Church - Kittanning
 Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church - Erie
 Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Export
 Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Pittsburgh

First Evangelical Lutheran Church - Leechburg
 First Lutheran Church - Warren
 Good Hope Lutheran Church - Oil City
 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Monongahela
 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Manorville
 Holy Nativity Lutheran Church - Halethrope, MD
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Hermitage
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Shippenville
 Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Homer City
 Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Cranberry Twp.
 Hope Memorial Lutheran Church - Smithton

FRIENDS OF BETHESDA | CHURCHES

Luther Memorial Church - Erie
 Luther Memorial Church WELCA - Erie
 Mount Calvary Lutheran Church - Erie
 Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church - Pittsburgh
 Nativity Lutheran Church - Allison Park
 Penn-Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Harrison City
 Salem Lutheran Church - Lamartine
 St. John Mark Lutheran Church - Homestead
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - New Castle
 St. John's Lutheran Church - Versailles
 St. Luke's Lutheran Church - Saxonburg
 St. Matthew's Lutheran Church - Hunker

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church - Pittsburgh
 St. Matthias Lutheran Church - Greensburg
 St. Paul's Lutheran - Scottdale
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Corry
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Canonsburg
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Carmichaels
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Bancroft, NE
 St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church - North East
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Evans City
 Trinity Lutheran Church- Meadville
 Twelve Apostles Lutheran Church - Saegertown
 Women of St. Paul's Corry Frances Robb - Corry
 Zion Lutheran Church - Pittsburgh

FRIENDS OF BETHESDA | ORGANIZATIONS

50 Miles to Empty
 A Caplan Company
 Allegheny College
 Ascend Innovative Mold
 Bayshore Homes
 Beck's Lake Rentals
 Benevity | AOGF Causes
 Beratung Advisor LLC
 Blue Canopy Marketing
 Bright Funds
 Carter Jones Companies | Carter
 Lumber
 Charities Aid Foundation of America
 Community Chevrolet Inc.
 Construction Services of
 Pennsylvania LLC
 Coppola Enterprises, Inc.
 Corry Moose Lodge 98
 Crawford Heritage Foundation
 Creating Healthier Communities
 Dan Douglas Band
 DeSantis Solutions
 Edward V. & Jessie L. Peters
 Charitable Trust
 Elks BPO Lodge #219
 Erie Community Foundation
 Ferguson Financial Services
 Fine Print Commercial Printers, Inc.
 First Choice Settlements of
 Pennsylvania
 First National Bank
 Foulks Flooring America
 Fraternal Order of Eagles 812
 Gery T. Nietupski, Esquire LLC
 Giant Eagle
 Hagan Business Machines
 Happijax | Canadohta Ventures LLC.

Highstreet Insurance & Financial
 Services
 Horton's Safety Training & Consulting
 LLC
 Humes Chrysler Dodge Jeep & Ram
 Janney Montgomery Scott LLC.
 JR & Son Building Supply
 Koldrock Waters, Inc.
 L&D Tree Service
 M J Surgala Trust DTD
 Mahoney Marketing LLC
 Marquette Savings Bank
 Marvin H. & Mildred M. Hesskemp Fund
 MC Borden-Cass
 McCarl's Services, Inc.
 McGill, Power, Bell & Associates
 McLaughlin & Byrum Family Fund
 Meadville Medical Center
 Meadville Plate Glass Company, Inc.
 Meadville-Western Crawford County
 Chamber
 National City Bank of Pennsylvania
 National Fuel Gas Dist. Corp.
 Natixis Funds
 Norix Group, INC.
 Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod
 Northwestern REC
 Nutrition, Inc
 Palmiero Toyota
 PDQ Pest Control
 Pipp Graphics & Design
 Pittsburgh Foundation
 Pymatuning Yacht Club Outfitters
 R. W. Petruso Hearing & Audiology

RE Johnson Electric
 Reeves Plumbing & Heating
 Roger Willis & Christine Norwood
 Fund
 Salt Painting
 Schlosser Physical Therapy LLC
 Smock Plumbing
 Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
 Sugar Grove American Legion 758
 The Community Cup
 The Gildea Group
 Thrivent Choice
 TLC Senior Solutions
 United Way Of Erie County
 United Way Of Southwestern
 Pennsylvania
 United Way of Western Crawford
 County
 UPMC Health Plan
 VNET
 Weber Murphy Fox, Inc.
 Wesbury United Methodist
 Community
 Wilkinson Excavating, INC
 WM G Freeman Charitable Fund
 WNALC of the Mid NE Mission District
 Women of the ELCA



BETHESDA FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MR. DAN BUREK

MR. TERRY DANKO, **TREASURER**

MRS. RACHELLE FRITZ

MR. LARRY FRITZ

MRS. MARLENE JENKINS

MR. BRAD WHITMAN, JR, **VICE CHAIR**

MR. MARK ZIELINSKI

MR. MARK SMITH

MRS. ANNA RACHOCKI

MS. JENN WINCHESTER, **CHAIR**

MR. DOUG MASSEY

MR. KI KIM

MR. JOE JELINEK

DR. CHRIS GRAY

MR. JAMES W. MARTIN

BETHESDA LEADERSHIP TEAM

GEORGE TRAUNER, **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

JERRAD RIMEL, **CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**

CHAD DICKSON, **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

DEANA BURGE, **DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

ROB LEWIS, **DIRECTOR OF FACILITY OPERATIONS**

MARCI DICKSON, **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Upcoming 2026 EVENTS

BETHESDA GALA | MARCH 7TH

CHARITY GOLF OUTING | JUNE 3RD

ERIE & CRAWFORD GIVES | AUGUST

CLAYS FOR KIDS CLAY SHOOT | OCTOBER 2ND

GIVING TUESDAY | DECEMBER 1ST



STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL OF OUR EVENTS AT

WWW.BETHESDA1919.ORG/EVENTS