Bethesda
FOUNDATION
FOR CHILDREN

Bethesda Foundation for Children *was established in 1994 for the purpose of raising and managing funds to support the services and programs offered by Bethesda Lutheran Services.*

Since 1919, Bethesda Lutheran Services has evolved from its humble beginnings as an orphanage into a trusted ministry serving children, youth, and families. Today, ***more than 9,000 individuals*** *across Western Pennsylvania are supported each year through Bethesda's behavioral health care, foster care, residential treatment, family support, and educational programs. By creating safe environments, strengthening resilience, and providing compassionate, trauma-informed care,* ***Bethesda empowers young people and families to build promising futures.***

MISSION: We provide promising futures for children, youth and families through individualized mental and behavioral health services provided in a residential, school or community setting.

VISION: To provide quality services that fulfill the social, emotional, and spiritual needs of children and youth by providing an effective and efficient continuum of care in a quality-focused environment.

INTENT: The intent of Bethesda Lutheran Services is to be recognized as a leader in providing quality managed services with measurable, relevant outcomes.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN SERVICES

bethesda1919.org ; (814) - 724 - 7510

Locations in
Meadville & Erie, Pennsylvania



Bethesda is accredited by the Joint Commission, certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), and licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

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CHRISTMAS ELVES NEEDED!

Christmas shopping can become something especially meaningful when you're shopping for a child who needs to know someone cares.

This holiday season, ***Bethesda is looking for Christmas elves to sponsor gifts for children and youth in our care.*** *By shopping from a child's wish list, you can help make their Christmas special and give them something to look forward to.*

Individuals and families are welcome to participate. A congregation, Sunday school class, or church ministry can also come together to sponsor a child.

Whether you shop on your own or make it a group effort, ***each gift carries a simple message: you are remembered, and you matter.***

COULD YOU OR YOUR CONGREGATION BE A BETHESDA CHRISTMAS ELF THIS YEAR?

TURN A WISH LIST INTO CHRISTMAS JOY

Sponsoring a child's Christmas list is a personal way to share the love of the season.

Your congregation might divide the shopping among several members or have a ministry group take on a list together. It can be a meaningful opportunity to put faith into action while helping a young person feel the care of the community around them.

GETTING STARTED IS SIMPLE!

Contact Bethesda's Development Office to request a child's wish list and learn more about the shopping and delivery details. Our staff can help you find a way to participate that works for you or your group.

If shopping isn't possible, you can also ask about making a monetary contribution toward holiday needs.

Gifts should be ready for pick-up or delivered to Bethesda by
Monday, December 14.

To sponsor a child, contact:
814-724-7510, ext. 228 or
development@bethesda1919.org

Thank you for helping make Christmas brighter for Bethesda's children and youth!

SUMMER CAN CHANGE A FUTURE

Falling behind in school doesn't have to mean staying behind.

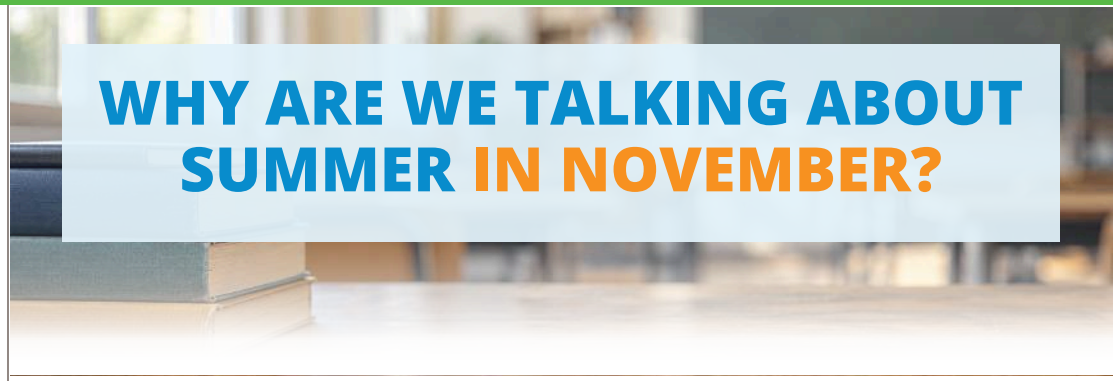
For young people who need additional academic support, summer can offer valuable time to keep learning and make progress toward graduation.

Bethesda's Summer Learning Program serves students in grades 6–12 through nearly 10 weeks of structured learning and individualized support. Teachers and Behavior Support Staff work with students to help them move forward. ***For the approximately 45–50 young people who will participate in the 2027 program, that support matters****.*

But reduced funding has created a personnel shortfall. Bethesda is seeking ***$50,000 through our Summer Learning Fund drive*** *to help support the staff who make this program possible.*

Your gift can help put that support within reach.





WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT SUMMER IN NOVEMBER?

100% **OF STUDENTS IN 2025–26 EARNED CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION OR MADE ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

Help us build on that success in 2027. Planning for next summer starts now.

Bethesda is working now to address the funding gap for the 2027 Summer Learning Program. Donations will help support teachers and Behavior Support Staff, the people who provide instruction and help students stay engaged in learning.

Please consider an individual gift or a special collection through your congregation to support the Summer Learning Fund. Together, we can give students another opportunity to make academic progress.

Help close the $50,000 funding gap.

To learn more or make a gift designated for the Summer Learning Fund, contact Bethesda's Development Office:

Or scan the QR code!

814-724-7510, ext. 228 or
development@bethesda1919.org

1 IN 2

WHEN 1 IN 2 STRUGGLE - WE PROVIDE STRENGTH!

Bethesda FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

WHEN 1 IN 2 STRUGGLE, WE PROVIDE STRENGTH

Every young person deserves someone to turn to when life becomes difficult.

Bethesda's 1 in 2 campaign brings attention to the challenges children and youth face, including trauma, mental health needs, and family instability. It also invites our community to help.

Through compassionate, trauma-informed care, Bethesda supports young people as they heal and work toward promising futures.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES THIS WORK POSSIBLE

Gifts to Bethesda Foundation for Children support residential care, educational programs, community outreach, and mentoring. They also help provide spiritual care, assistance for young mothers and their children, and scholarships for further education and vocational training.

A personal donation or an offering through your congregation can help sustain this ministry and the care children and families depend on.

Please consider a gift at www.bethesda1919.org/donate. You can also scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin!

Thank you for helping Bethesda be there when young people need support.



BE A CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN

Would you like to help your congregation stay connected with Bethesda throughout the year?

Bethesda Foundation for Children is seeking individuals to serve as ***Champions for Children*** *within their churches.*

Champions share Bethesda's mission with fellow church members and help them learn about opportunities to get involved. They promote events and fundraising efforts, help connect interested groups with campus tours, and participate in annual training to learn more about Bethesda's services.

You might share a Christmas wish list with your church, introduce the Summer Learning Fund drive, or help someone learn more about our programs.

Being a Champion is a meaningful way to put your faith into action while strengthening the connection between your congregation and Bethesda.

Interested in becoming a Champion for Children?

Contact Bethesda's Development Office:
814-724-7510, ext. 228 or development@bethesda1919.org

MAKE THEIR SUMMER COUNT.

A summer of learning can move a student closer to graduation.

Bethesda's Summer Learning Program gives youth in grades 6–12 nearly 10 weeks of structured instruction and individualized support. For students who have fallen behind, that time offers another opportunity to make progress.

THE RESULTS SHOW WHAT'S POSSIBLE

100% — *Of students in 2025–26 earned credits toward graduation or made academic progress.*

85% — *Of students assessed in reading maintained or improved their grade-equivalent reading level.*

Up to 2.5 credits — *Can be earned by high school students during one summer in core subjects.*

Each credit earned and each improvement in reading represents a step forward for a young person.

Your support can help Bethesda continue providing this opportunity in 2027.

HELP KEEP THAT PROGRESS GOING!

Behind these results are teachers and Behavior Support Staff who work with students throughout the summer.

They provide the instruction and support young people need to stay engaged and keep learning.

*Reduced funding has created a **$50,000 personnel funding gap for Bethesda's 2027 Summer Learning Program,** which will serve approximately 45–50 young people.*

*Gifts to the **Summer Learning Fund** help support the staff who make this program possible.*

As we give thanks this week, please consider helping a student take the next step in their education. You can make an individual contribution or join with others in your congregation to support the program.

A gift today can help make next summer count.

To contribute to the Summer Learning Fund or discuss a congregational gift, contact:

Bethesda Development Office
814-724-7510, ext. 228 ;
development@bethesda1919.org

Or scan the QR code!

Bethesda FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN



GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS BEYOND THE HOLIDAYS

As Advent begins, we invite you to remember the children and youth spending this Christmas in Bethesda's care.

The holidays are an opportunity to remind them that they are loved and that people in their community are thinking of them.

*A monetary contribution to **Bethesda's Christmas Appeal** helps meet holiday needs and make the season special. If shopping from a child's wish list isn't the right fit for you, a financial gift is another meaningful way to participate.*

Your congregation could collect a Christmas offering, or a ministry group could combine its gifts. Individuals and businesses are also welcome to contribute.

Whatever the amount, your generosity helps make Christmas brighter for the young people we serve!

To learn more or arrange a Christmas gift, contact:

814-724-7510, ext. 228
development@bethesda1919.org

BECOME A PILLAR OF PROMISE!

The care young people need continues long after the Christmas decorations come down.

*Through **Pillars of Promise,** Bethesda's monthly giving program, you can provide dependable support for our work with children, youth, and families throughout the year.*

*Monthly gifts start at just **$10**,*
so you can choose an amount that fits your budget while making an ongoing commitment to Bethesda's mission.

***We invite you to become a Founding Member of this new giving community.** Your recurring gift helps provide steady funding for the programs and services children and families rely on.*

As you consider your Christmas and year-end giving, please consider whether monthly support could be part of your generosity in the year ahead.

To learn more about Pillars of Promise or become a Founding Member, contact:

Bethesda Development Office

814-724-7510, ext. 228 or development@bethesda1919.org

Thank you!