

# BETHANY'S BLESSINGS

MERISMOS MINISTRIES/BETHANY PLACE  
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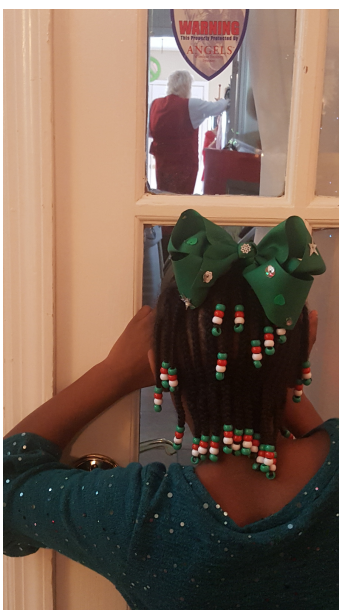
Photographer **Chrystal Toussaint** donated her time to photograph the residents with the "real" Santa Claus who has been visiting Bethany Place for 20 years. Some residents are not pictured due to the sensitivity of their current circumstances.



## CHRISTMAS AT BETHANY PLACE

The Christmas season at Bethany Place is a very special time. The whole building is decorated from inside out. Equipped with 7 fully decorated Christmas trees and a village that spans throughout the facility, the decorations give the women and children the feeling of having a home at Christmastime. Thanksgiving and Christmas is the time of year when Bethany Place is the most occupied with residents. Many of those residents don't know what its like to have a family or be happy around Christmastime. Some of them have never had a real Christmas. It is Bethany Place's goal to make sure that this time of year is special and enjoyable for every person at Bethany Place. We

are extremely grateful for "Santa" and his "elves" who helped make this Christmas Bethany Place's BEST one yet.



Above is one of the children at Bethany Place who admires Santa as she anticipates his visit.



## What is Bethany Place?

Bethany Place is a nonprofit ministry that strives to lead women and children to a blessed life with Jesus Christ. This safe haven has touched the community over the past 30 years. As a 2-year program, Bethany Place focuses on teaching women who they are in Jesus, how to be good mothers and help them become the person God has created them to be.

Executive Director and Founder of Bethany Place, Sandy Reed along with the Assistant Director, Nivia Reed manage all aspects of the ministry on their own. The workload for two people is of course possible with God, but could be made easier with help from the community. Their need for diligent volunteers is very great.

# Trying to Feed the Masses

Once a month, Bethany Place receives 30-35 food boxes from **Hickory Flat Church of God** delivered by **David Cain**, one of the many faithful supporters that help to keep our food pantry stocked. Our pantry feeds not only the families that reside within Bethany Place, but also serves as an emergency food pantry for the surrounding community. People refer families to Bethany Place and we are able to give out several boxes of food at a time. Our desire is to one day be a Food Bank that serves Cherokee County. Walk in freezers were donated by one of our supporters and are in the process of being up and running. Food donations are always welcomed. A full list of our pantry needs can be found on our website.



## YEAR END GIVING

Enclosed with this newsletter is a year-end giving card. The end of the year is upon us. Being \$35,000 short of last year we have high hopes of meeting this goal by end of year. We also ask that you help us have a strong start to 2019. After the toll of the Holidays take it's course, January ends up being one of our lowest months of incoming support. We would like to break this cycle and start off our New Year strong with out the stress of financial worries. Our main thrust as a Ministry is helping women heal from the inside out. Having operational expenses and high-risk insurance are just two of the reasons Bethany Place is always in need of monetary donations and also sometimes distracts us from our main focus. We are so grateful for our current faithful supporters but would like that number to increase as well.

## PROJECTS & REPAIRS

Bethany Place is in dyer need of help picking up food donations for the Ministry. We have consistent food pick-ups and right now have two volunteers who help whenever they are able to. However, We are in need of someone who can be available (possibly with a truck!) to assist us when we have added food pick-ups or occasionally furniture pick-ups.

As always, Bethany Place is in need of volunteers to help with different projects and repairs throughout the facility. Without consistent help, the staff at Bethany Place is comprised of 3 people who do not have much experience with handiwork. Bethany Place has construction, electrical, plumbing, lawn maintenance and many other needs on a regular basis. If you are interested in helping, contact Sandy or Nivia Reed (contact info found on back of newsletter).



# Thanksgiving Donations

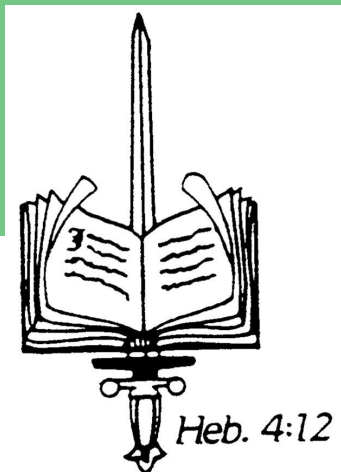
The women at Bethany Place prepare a huge feast for Thanksgiving dinner each year. The menu is large and requires several ingredients. Usually, Bethany Place spends a large amount of money gathering the necessary food for Thanksgiving. But this year, **Roger and Cindy Kent** responded to the food list included in our previous newsletter and purchased the food that was needed to prepare the meal. In addition to Roger and Cindy, Bethany Place received thanksgiving food items from one other group of people. **Angie Mason**, a second grade teacher at Avery Elementary School, along with her girl scout group, made it a goal of theirs to gather all the food needed for the meal. Along with a couple other people purchasing a few of the ingredients, Roger, Cindy, Angie and her girl scouts saved Bethany Place a lot of money this holiday season.

## FELLOWSHIP DINNER

On November 26th, Bethany Place held a fundraising fellowship dinner for their supporters in honor of Ruth Manet, Sandy Reed's mother. Catered by **Provino's** with deserts from **Olive Garden**, **Red Lobster** and **Longhorn**, this dinner gave people in the community a chance to better understand what the ministry does and what their greatest needs are. A few women gave their testimonies, sharing how Bethany Place has changed their lives. There were several special performances, including a special tribute song and a performance from the children at Bethany Place. **Sheriff Frank Reynolds** was the guest speaker, touching many hearts with his testimony of how God has touched his life. We believe he is the best sheriff Cherokee County has ever had. With about 60 guests, this dinner touched many hearts and raised a generous amount of money for Bethany Place. Special thanks to **Nathan Fowler** for donating his time and photographing this event for us. Thank you to everyone who spent this night with us and gave to our cause. What we do would not be possible without our sponsors and supporters.



"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: To visit the widows and orphans in their affliction and to keep thyself unspotted from the world."  
James 1:27



## a word from the director

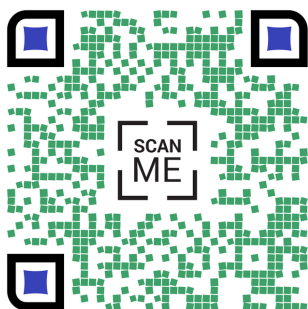
Sandy Reed

2018 has been a year of blessings, joy and seeing a lot of lives transformed. It has also been a year of heartbreak, I lost my 89 year-old mother, but she had a glorious homegoing. There have also been some disappointments but I have prayed "make me like Jesus" and His heart broke often. 2019 will be as glorious year. We are planning to see many more lives transformed and enjoy this beautiful life God has given us. Come, help us fulfill James 1:27.

*Join Us For:*

## CHURCH AND BIBLE STUDY

Sunday mornings @ 11am  
(big lunch provided afterward)  
Thursday evenings @ 6:30pm



[www.bethanyplacehome.org](http://www.bethanyplacehome.org)  
[www.bethanyboutique.org](http://www.bethanyboutique.org)

## How to Get Involved

Contact Us!

Follow us on Facebook:  
@merismosministries  
@BethanyBoutiqueChristian

Follow us on Instagram:  
@bpboutique1

Call: 770.479.9462  
Fax: 770.704.0040

Sandy Reed: 678.296.2456  
bethany-place@comcast.net

Nivia Reed: 404.660.5343  
niviareed@msn.com

Donate!  
(see enclosed envelope)

Volunteer!

Schedule a Visit!

Shop at our Boutique!