



November 2020

Volume 4 Issue 1

BETHANY HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

Offers housing and support services to young immigrant women as they journey to independence

Since October, 2017 Bethany House of Hospitality has housed more than 49 women and 9 children from Central America, Africa and the Middle East. The average length of stay has been 6 months.

A Story of Gratitude

We can't always share details of our residents' stories out of respect for their privacy and safety. But one resident who spent about 6 months with us this year gave us permission to share her story of gratitude.



Sandra was 17 years old and mother to a 4-month old daughter. With her husband and baby, she had walked to the U.S. southern border from Brazil. Now she was in the child detention system of U.S. Immigration. Her husband was in a separate facility, but she was grateful to have her baby with her. As her 18th birthday approached, she would age out of the children's detention. What would happen to her and her baby? Where would they go...or where would they be sent—together or apart?

Sandra has an uncle in New Jersey. Arrangements were being made for her and the baby to go and stay with the uncle on her 18th birthday. Just three days before her birthday, however, a lawyer who was in communication with the uncle came to tell Sandra that the plan had collapsed. The uncle could not take them because he didn't want to attract ICE attention to the family (with other undocumented family members in the home).

Sandra spent a sleepless and tearful night fearing she would be separated from her child if she was sent to adult detention (housed in a local county jail). The next day the lawyer said she had called Bethany House and they would take Sandra and her baby. Sandra was thrilled to have a safe place to stay for herself and her child—together.

They joined three mothers with children (ages 5 months, 20 months and 2 years) as well as ten other young women at Bethany House. Her husband was deported shortly after her arrival at Bethany House. The baby was 10 months old—almost ready to take her first steps—when Sandra chose voluntary departure and returned to Brazil to join her husband. She said she would be forever grateful to Bethany House for offering a welcoming home to her and her child.

Giving Thanks and Giving Tuesday

At this time of Thanksgiving, all of us at Bethany House—staff and residents—want to express our deep gratitude to you, our generous benefactors and partners in this ministry of providing a safe home to young immigrant women and their children. Your generosity makes it possible to continue our gospel-mandate to share what we have with some of the most vulnerable members of our society so that they may live with dignity and grow into all they can be.

On Giving Tuesday, December 1, we invite you to continue your partnership with us through a donation to Bethany House of Hospitality.

- **Monetary donations** can be mailed to:
[Bethany House of Hospitality](#)
[c/o Patricia Crowley OSB,](#)
[7430 N Ridge Blvd.](#)
[Chicago, IL 60645](#)
- You can also **donate online** through PayPal:
[PayPal - Bethany House of Hospitality](#)
- **Gift cards are always welcome** for groceries or the women's personal needs. (We frequently shop at Local Market Foods, Costco, Jewel, Target.)
- The [Bethany House Wish List](#) on Amazon includes personal and household items we regularly use.
- Learn more on our website:
bethanyhouseofhospitality.com
- **Contact:** Darlene Gramigna at
darleneg@bethanyhouseofhospitality.com

In Case You Missed It

Bethany House, together with Viator House, hosted a virtual evening of sharing stories to build awareness. The following videos offered context on the immigrant experience.

- [Home](#) – A poem narrated by its immigrant author (4 min.)
- [Desperate Journey](#) – PBS news clip on immigrants' passage through the Darién Gap (10 min.)
- [Desperate Journey 2](#) – U.S. Immigration policy awaits those who cross the Darién Gap (12 min.)